

A photograph of four diverse children (two boys and two girls) smiling and laughing outdoors. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal filter. The children are of various ethnicities and are dressed in casual summer clothing. They are standing close together, with some having their arms around each other's shoulders.

the  
**forum**  
FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT

# Shaping Summertime Experiences: Aligning Practice to Recommendations

*May 1, 2020*

# Logistics for today's conversation

- Please feel free to submit questions and comments via this webinar application, using the chat feature.
- There are some slides for today's session for background and context. The focus will be on the unscripted conversation.
- Today's session is being recorded and will be made available to you early next week.



## Deborah Moroney

Managing Director at American Institutes for Research (AIR)

methodological expert in implementation science—in the context of both rigorous research and the design of program evaluations



## Chris Smith

President & Executive Director of Boston After School & Beyond

nationally recognized model of a citywide program performance measurement system serving 300 programs and more than 21,000 students

# Statement Of Task

Examine summertime experiences affecting school-age children (rising K-12) across four areas of well-being:

- 1) academic learning and opportunities for enrichment;
- 2) social and emotional development;
- 3) physical and mental health and health-promoting behaviors;
- 4) safety, risk-taking, and anti-and pro-social behavior.





# Overarching Conclusions

1. All children have basic developmental needs that must be met as a critical precondition for summer programs and services.
2. Summertime experiences can affect academic, health, social and emotional, and safety outcomes for children and youth.
3. Those in less advantageous circumstances are at risk for worse outcomes. They face numerous obstacles in having their needs met across the four developmental domains and in accessing positive summer experiences.
4. There are opportunities to implement innovative programming and extend effective practices during the school year into the summer.
5. The assets and priorities of families and communities are key to the development of summer programs and services.
6. Research on the impact of summer outside of the academic domain is scarce.
7. Federal data systems do not adequately capture seasonal differences in four outcome domains.

# Themes of the Recommendations

**Improving Planning, Administration and Coordination**

**Improving Availability, Access and Equity**

Advancing Data Collection and Research

# An Updated View of Summertime

Summer provides a unique window of opportunity during the year to engage families and leverage the strengths and resources of families, communities, and other stakeholders to improve the education, health, safety and well-being of children and youth.

# Approach: Systems Perspective



Spring

SUMMER

Fall





# Improving Planning, Administration, and Coordination

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Many sectors are involved but making decisions around summer independently, with limited or no coordination

# Committee Conclusions

- Intermediaries play an important role in connecting public, private and non-profit entities with shared goals, improving efficiencies within partnerships, and supporting children and youth during the summer.
- In many communities, intermediaries serve as the central organizing, leadership, fundraising, measurement, and support systems for groups of afterschool, summer, and other youth and family-serving organizations.

## EXAMPLES:

Afterschool Alliance

Forum for Youth  
Investment

National Afterschool  
Association

National Summer  
Learning Association

# RECOMMENDATION:

Foundations and other philanthropic organizations **should augment their funding, technology, and in-kind supports to intermediaries** that are creating systems, platforms and communication vehicles for - and promoting promising and effective practices focused on - summertime experiences for children and youth.

# Improving Availability, Access, and Equity

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Example: Average cost of a summer program nationally \$288/week. But family of four living at 100 percent of the poverty level has \$25,100 income or \$483/week.

# RECOMMENDATION:

## Promote Summer Employment

- Increase funding for structured summer employment programs in order to serve more adolescents



# Thanks so much!

- Please stay in touch!  
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