



# 2025 Final Report

The goal of the Out of School Time (OST) Collaborative is to improve the resiliency of vulnerable children and youth through accessible, quality out of school time programs and supports.

## Out of School Time (OST) Summer Grant:

**\$125,000**

awarded to **17** funded groups provided **420** days of summer camp programming to **1528** Children and Youth in summer 2025

“Partners shared that increased funding would allow for expanded programming to new year-round sites, removal of more financial barriers for families, and program enrichment through individualized support, advanced STEM, and paid leadership opportunities for kids.”

In addition to grant and training opportunities offered by the OST Collaborative, these camps were supported by

**210** **dedicated volunteers**

*who provided*

**9757.5** **work hours**

## Joint Use Program

Provided **20** community organizations with access to **36** local school spaces during the summer for **1983** vulnerable children and youth. Joint Use supported **4584.5** hours of programming for a total of **\$302,578** in rental cost savings.

## Out of School Time Conference & Training Summary

**303** OST staff and summer Student attendees

**23** Training sessions targeted to local needs

**63.5** Hours of capacity building and networking opportunities

**\$44,410.34** Total value in cost savings to participating organizations

# Stories of Impact

from OST Summer Grant Recipients and Community



**“Participants showed significant growth** in their math, science, and literacy skills through daily academic activities. Parents reported that their children were more eager to read, solve problems, and explore new subjects, **which set them up for success** when returning to school.”

**-Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton**

Programming as a whole [It] was very **rich and interactive**, we were able to invite external facilitators, diversify classes and guests, thanks to the funding we were able to pay for guests and supply.”

**-Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle Société**

“One memorable moment was when a shy child who rarely spoke started leading a group activity with confidence. It showed how much the program helped build their **self-esteem and sense of belonging.**”

**-Hope For Tomorrow’s Shade Association of Canada**

“My child ha[s] the opportunity to be outside in his community in a safe, re-assuring way.”

**-Parent of child participating in BGC-Bigs McCauley Club summer program**

“The successes of our program were; **\*Increased and positive self-expression.\*** The children felt more prepared, socially connected and confident. **‘For the first time I feel like I have been heard’** said a child from Sudan.”

**-FOCAS Canada**

“Its tough feeding a family these days. **Really appreciate all that you guys have done for us.**”

**-Parent of child participating in Action For Healthy Communities’ summer program”**

“During summer, I can’t always take [my kids] out, but with the program it makes it easier for all of us to do these. It helped me help **bring the things that I wasn’t able to do for them.**”

**-Parent of child participating in Riverbend ROCKS summer program**





“Volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club has taught me that growth isn’t always loud or dramatic. Sometimes it’s in the quiet resilience of a child who keeps trying, the kindness they show each other, or the way they light up when someone believes in them. This place is more than an out of school time program. **It’s a community, a safe haven, and a launchpad for dreams.** And for me, it’s been a source of joy, purpose, and deep connection.”

**-OST Volunteer**

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“One of the most touching moments from this summer was the involvement of a grandmother whose grandchildren had recently immigrated to Canada and were still learning English. She volunteered with the program daily, helping with translation and offering gentle support to other newcomer children who were also adjusting to a new environment. Her presence not only helped bridge language gaps but also created a warm, inter-generational atmosphere that enriched the experience for everyone. **It was a powerful reminder of how community involvement can transform a program into a place of belonging.**”

**-Sihle-Sizwe Vineyard Foundation**

# The Multifaceted Approach of Out of School Time

All 17 OST groups offered targeted academic support to help students maintain and strengthen their learning during the summer break.

Every group offered these evidence-based protective factors that foster positive safety and well-being outcomes for children and youth:

- Learning opportunities for cultural connectedness and identity
- Spaces to foster healthy relationships with peers and positive adult role models
- Activities aimed at supporting and enhancing physical well-being
- Programming to increase leadership and cognitive abilities
- Opportunities for civic engagement and empowerment
- Group activities and community engagement
- Programming that included Social Emotional Learning development activities
- Increasing participants' school connectedness
- Connecting participants with other supports (e.g., food bank, social services)

With support from the OST Summer Grant and additional capacity-building and training opportunities offered through the OST Collaborative, 102 full-time staff and 29 part-time staff provided 420 days of programming to:

1038

children between the ages of  
**5-11 years**

350

children and youth between the ages of  
**12-14 years**

140

youth between the ages of  
**15-24 years**

Of the 146 children and youth who responded to the OST Summer Survey:

79%

said they learned new things

81%

said they had fun

76%

said they made friends

74%

said they visited new places in Edmonton

**Of the 120 parents/guardians who provided feedback about OST Summer Programming:**

More than 1/2 of respondents reported that having their child attend an OST Summer Camp allowed them to increase their opportunities for employment.

More than 2/3 of respondents shared that having their child attend an OST Summer Camp made them feel more connected to their community.



## **The Summer Access Program 2025**

Provided 20 community organizations with access to local schools (15 Catholic, 17 Public, 4 Francophone) through the Joint Use Program and low-cost recreation opportunities through the Group Leisure Access Program. The Summer Access program helped provide 4584.5 hours of programming and capacity building opportunities for 1983 vulnerable children and youth across the city!

## **Summer Access Stories**

“I saw kids who were [originally] in the program coming back as staff and getting employment credits.”

**-Joint Use Partner**

“This [Summer Access] was a great help. Summer Camp would not have been possible without this help.”

**-OST Program Provider**

“We deeply appreciate the opportunity to use the Summer Access space. It enabled us to provide a safe, inclusive, and culturally adapted environment for neurodiverse children. The collaboration with the school community strengthened our program’s impact and we look forward to building on this partnership in the future.”

**-OST Program Provider**





## 2025 Out of School Time Conference

211 OST Staff and Summer Students participated in low-cost capacity building sessions in preparation for leading summer camps and supporting children. Community partner feedback determined which topics would be offered, including the following:

- Behavioural Management Strategies for Neurodiverse Children and Youth
- Strength-Based Approaches to OST Programming
- Games and Activities to Support Self-Regulation
- Gang Prevention from a Lived Experience Perspective

### Conference Participant Feedback

“Super fun and engaging! The games were all varied and I like that they were done mostly in pairs or groups, I think the kids will really like these.”

“I have learned things I can use both in my personal life and at work!”

“The gang prevention strategies was amazing, and the signs will stick with me.”

“I liked that this session made me think about how I interact with youth, even though I didn’t agree with everything.”

“It [The conference] was a new experience, great networking opportunity.”

“I loved the games that we played outside which will be useful for our programs.”

## The Child and Youth Services Map

- An incredible resource for families and community partners with information on various programs city-wide!
- User-friendly format
- Currently available in French and English
- Updated five times/ year

## Other Capacity-Building Opportunities

- Intermediate First Aid Certification
- Gang Prevention Strategies for Newcomer Youth
- Data Management Presentation with Islamic Family Services
- Mental Health Services for Youth with Kickstand

**THANK YOU,  
VOLUNTEERS!**

Our programs could not have succeeded without the **210** dedicated volunteers who gave **9,757.5** hours of their time. Their contributions represent an incredible **\$146,362.50** in cost savings.



# If you didn't have the support of the OST Collaborative, how would your program be **IMPACTED?**

## OST Programs reported the following:

### **1. Reduced Participant Access**

- Fewer registration spots; limited access for newcomer and low-income families
- Reduced OST hours and fewer program locations

### **2. Reduced Activities and Enrichment**

- Fewer field trips due to transportation/admission costs
- Loss of leadership workshops, guest visits, and hands-on learning opportunities

### **3. Reduced Staffing Capacity**

- Fewer paid and full-time staff
- Higher participant-to-staff ratios affecting safety, supervision, and individualized support

### **4. Reduced Resources and Materials**

- Limited educational/STEM kits, craft supplies, and baking/cooking materials
- Fewer operational funds for instructors and resource-intensive activities

### **5. Reduced Food and Nutrition Supports**

- Fewer snacks and take-home food hampers
- Increased food insecurity affecting engagement

### **6. Reduced Accessibility and Inclusion**

- Cuts to transportation, snacks, and free registration options
- Reduced support for children with additional needs

### **7. Lower Program Quality and Impact**

- Reduced academic, social-emotional, and leadership development
- Fewer opportunities for confidence-building and skill development

### **8. Broader Community Impacts**

- Fewer safe, structured spaces for youth
- Potential increase in idleness leading to emotional distress or risk behaviors
- Weaker community cohesion, as families lose access to a trusted hub for support and connection.

# With more support, OST groups reported that they would:

## **Increase Capacity**

Enroll more children, add classes/camp spaces, reduce waitlists, and expand to new sites.

## **Strengthen Staffing**

Hire/train more staff, support youth volunteers, and improve staff-to-participant ratios.

## **Enhanced Programming**

Add enrichment workshops, field trips, STEM/coding, arts, music, leadership, and recreation.

## **Improve Materials**

Invest in advanced STEM kits, craft/creative supplies, interactive tools, and multilingual resources.

## **Boost Accessibility**

Provide transportation, translation, and inclusive supports for children with disabilities or special needs.

## **Extend Program Time**

Offer longer sessions, more weeks, daily programming, and year-round support.

## **Support Families**

Provide meals/snacks, free supplies, subsidies, and reduce financial burden.

## **Increase Community Engagement**

Host events, build partnerships, and reach more underserved communities.

## **Provide Safe Environments**

Offer supervised spaces, social-emotional support, mentorship, and leadership opportunities.

## **Strengthen Sustainability**

Ensure long-term, holistic impact and consistent support for youth development

# 2025 Funding Grant Allocations

Organization Name	Grant Funding Awarded	# of Participants
Sinkunia Community Development Organization	\$10,000	116
Horn Youth Services Foundation (KULAN)	\$10,000	55
Alliance Jeunesse-Famille De L'Alberta Society	\$9,000	73
Rock and Roll Society of Edmonton	\$5,000	23
Alberta Immigrant Women & Children Centre (AIWCC)	\$11,000	196
FOCAS Canada (Foundation for Oromian Culture, Education, and Art Services)	\$8,000	41
Riverbend ROCKS (Reaching Out to Community and Kids Society)	\$8,000	56
Family Futures Resource Network Society	\$5,000	237
Sihle-Sizwe Vineyard Foundation	\$5,000	53
Cultural Youth Initiative - Edmonton	\$5,000	30
Francophonie Canadienne Plurielle Société	\$5,000	81
Urji Women Support Association of Edmonton	\$10,000	34
BGC Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton and Area	\$10,000	73
Action for Healthy Communities Society of Alberta	\$8,000	155
Hope for Tomorrow's Shade Association Canada	\$5,000	80

# 2025 Funding Grant Allocations

Organization Name	Grant Funding Awarded	# of Participants
Rhema Kids Club	\$5,000	165
Skillcity Institute	\$6,000	60

NOTE: OST GROUPS ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE MULTIPLE SOURCES OF FUNDING. ALL GROUPS HAD AT LEAST ONE OTHER FUNDING SOURCE, IF NOT MORE. THE ABOVE NUMBERS REPRESENT THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING EACH GROUP RECEIVED FROM THE OST FUNDING GRANT BUT NOT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING THEY USED FOR THEIR SUMMER PROGRAM.

