OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) LANDSCAPE SURVEY SUMMARY

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

The Learning Agenda and Hunleys for Humankind conducted this study. They contacted over **400 program providers** operating in the City of Richmond, of which **98 responded**, to gather information on existing programming and communities served. Additionally, in-depth focus groups were conducted with **30 providers**, **10 parents** and **10 youth** (14-19 years old). These collective inputs provide a representative and reliable view of OST.

WHAT WAS LEARNED?

1. Significant progress has been made in middle school OST programs and there is a **strong desire for program options for high school-aged students**.

Current programming **gaps in career readiness, STEM and life skills** are crucial to this age group and highly sought after by high school-aged students and their parents.

PROGRAMMING BY CATEGORY	MIDDLE	HIGH
Arts/Humanities	42	8
Career/Life Skills	31	4
Leadership/Mentoring	10	13
Sports/Health	71	10
STEM	46	3
Total	200	38

2. Program deserts exist across the city.

East Highland Park/Brookland Park/Barton Heights (23222) has a need for program opportunities for young people across all age ranges. The majority of youth in these neighborhoods have no neighborhood-specific program options.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMPARISONS	MIDDLE	HIGH
Average Richmond Neighborhood	25	4
East Highland Park/Brookland Park/Barton Heights	0	1
The Fan/VCU/Jackson Ward	9	3

3. Program providers self-identified a need for more broad professional development. Two areas of focus requested for staff training are **social emotional learning (SEL)** and **program and data management**. Parent and youth comments reinforce the need to focus on SEL.

4. There are **two key communication issues** in the Richmond OST environment:

   a. Parents want more opportunities to provide input and be heard on programming and care provided to their children. Two related issues that need to be addressed are (a) **transportation** and (b) **a lack of programming for families** with multiple children of different ages.

   b. Youth, parents, community members, and program providers feel that limited communication and language barriers hinder **awareness and access** to OST programming.

5. Providers, parents, youth and community members are **interested in an intermediary such as NextUp,** which serves in the role of an organizer, collaborative hub and communication platform for OST.

THE PATH FORWARD

> **How Richmonders can collectively improve enrichment opportunities for our youth**
>
> Parents often talk about needing a place – a safe place – for their children to be, whether they're engaging in extracurricular activities, academic support, some of them need these organizations for the fact that they have to work and there is nowhere for their children to go."
>
> *- Youth Program Provider*

RECOMMENDED COLLECTIVE ACTIONS

NextUp is committed to providing more opportunities to learn from youth, families and program providers about OST needs and communicating findings and action steps back to youth, families and our community. **We will pursue the following actions to better serve Richmond's youth, particularly those in program deserts and/or high-crime areas:**

1. **Convene cross-sector partnerships** with community members, program providers and government and business leaders to improve OST accessibility to:

   - Address OST transportation barriers
   - Provide more inclusive space for OST activities
   - Connect volunteers to OST programming
   - Increase awareness of youth programs and resources

2. **Provide capacity-building support to OST providers** through professional development, technical assistance and coordinated OST services to maintain and improve program quality over time.

3. **Serve as a cross-communications hub for Richmond OST,** providing:

   - Increased OST marketing to youth and families, increased recruitment and retention efforts for program providers and addressing language barriers
   - An improved youth program locator tool via best practice recommendations
   - Networking opportunities for youth program providers and the community

NextUp will continue to build Greater Richmond's expanded learning system together with the City of Richmond, Richmond Public Schools, OST partners and program providers, youth, families and community leaders. **Together, we can create a blueprint** to increase OST programming and accessibility for youth in middle schools and teens in community settings.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Systemic challenges require community engagement and a collective impact approach.

Please support NextUp in its mission to enrich Richmond's youth:

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Become a provider: **nextuprva.org/providers**

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