

NCEF Out-of-School Time Initiative

Since 2012, NCEF has invested \$29,712,883 into the community.

The Issue

Many children do not have a safe place to go after school, someone to help with homework or access to a healthy nutritious snack each day, during holidays, spring break or over the summer. These children sometimes return to a home where there is either no supervision or poor supervision from older siblings or peers. Often, children without the option of participating in high-quality out-of-school time programs resort to unsafe and unhealthy habits. A cycle of bad behavior and choices leads to poor academic performance, resulting in lower high school graduation rates. Without college or career readiness, children lose access to critical pathways for long-term academic success and economic independence.

NCEF's Out-of-School Time (OST) Initiative was created in 2012 to improve the lives of at-risk and underprivileged children in Immokalee by providing coordinated and collaborative programs and partnerships, setting children up for a lifetime of success. NCEF's Out-of-School Time Initiative is one of our Blueprint Partner programs that brings together multiple nonprofit partners to help solve the problem collectively without duplication and overlap.

Fast Facts*

- **1 in 5 kids** across America are alone and unsupervised after school. The hours of 2:00pm to 6:00pm are the peak time for juvenile crime.
- Research shows that **children who participate in after-school and summertime programs** improve their persistence in school and are more likely to graduate high school and attend college.
- More than **69% of students** participating in after-school programs improved their completion of homework and class participation.
- More than **62% of students** participating in after-school programs improved their behavior, and approximately 50% improved their math and language arts grades.
- **80% of parents** say that after-school programs give them peace of mind about their child's safety and wellbeing, helping them keep their jobs.

**Data from Afterschool Alliance*

Collaborative Successes

- **Over 67,000 children** in Immokalee have participated in out-of-school time programs since the inception of the initiative.

- **55% of all Immokalee elementary school students** participate in OST Initiative programs.
- Through increasing collaboration and communication **between programs and schools**, the OST Initiative creates more alignment in curriculum and capacity to address more student needs.
- By offering free annual professional development opportunities for all after-school staff **program quality** is increased.
- All OST Initiative programs have an increased **focus on social-emotional learning**.
- The OST Initiative expanded **SAT/ACT preparation opportunities** for high school students.
- The OST Initiative expanded **program hours** per day and days per year.
- The Immokalee High School graduation rate improved to **87.4%** in 2023, up from 65% in 2011.

Meet Cesar, Age 21

Like many families in Immokalee, Cesar's moved with the seasons for farm work, leading to frequent school changes that challenged his education. Through the Out-of-School Time Initiative, he gained academic support and valuable experiences, paving the way for dual enrollment at Immokalee Technical College. There, he discovered Florida Gulf Coast University, where he became a first-generation college student and earned a Bachelor of Science in bioengineering. Now, Cesar is a Biomedical Engineering PhD student at the University of South Florida, working as a graduate assistant in ocular neuroscience and neuroengineering.



How your dollars make a difference:

\$50,000 provides 50 children with a year of after-school programs

\$25,000 ensures 90 at-risk high school students the chance to graduate on time

\$10,000 provides 12 children with an 8-weeklong summer program

\$5,000 offers 5 high schoolers a career-focused internship

\$2,500 provides 13 students a weeklong career exploration camp

\$1,000 provides 32 children a hot meal after school



Strategic Initiative Partners

