MISSION: READINESS
COUNCIL FOR A STRONG AMERICA
WASHINGTON

FACTSHEET

Expanded Learning Opportunities Are Important for Children and National Security

A $2 million investment in Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) will help generate military eligible young adults

Washington policymakers can build the future workforce—including the military—by increasing access to high-quality Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs). A state investment of $2 million in high-quality Expanded Learning Opportunities in the 2019-21 biennium would nearly double the number of youth in high-quality programs by reaching more than 5,250 youth each year.

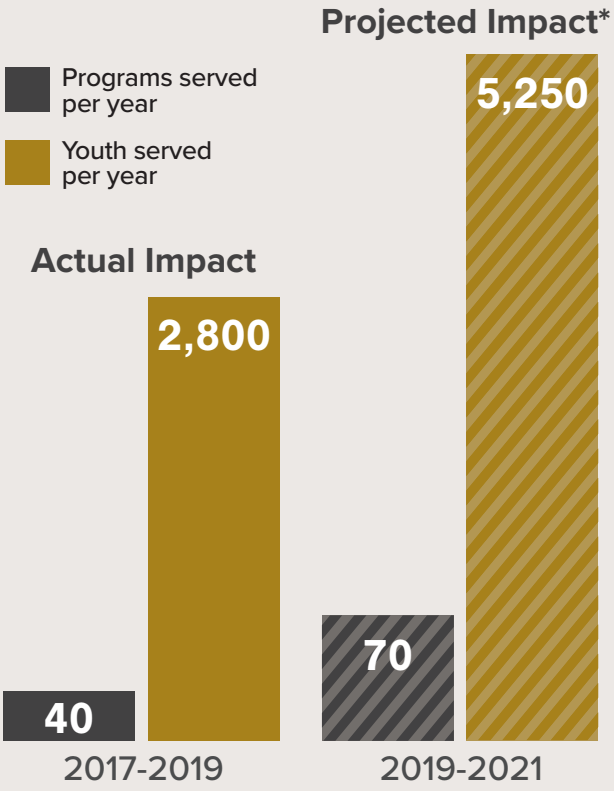
Expanded Learning Opportunities prepare students for the workforce and the military

Seventy percent of young adults in Washington are ineligible for military service due to problems related to education, health, and behavior (substance abuse and crime).[1] The military today very rarely accepts applicants without a high school diploma, yet 20 percent of students do not graduate from high school on time.[2] Even among high school graduates, another 16 percent who tried to join the Army scored too low on the military's entrance exam to qualify.[3]

Disparate access to high-quality Expanded Learning Opportunities in the afterschool hours and over the summer is a large reason why children are falling behind in school. For

Reaching More Youth with High-Quality Programs

A $2 million state investment would drastically increase the quality of Expanded Learning Opportunities.



*State funding leverages private investment to reach more youth and programs.

Source: School's Out Washington

example, summer learning loss accounts for as much as two-thirds of the academic achievement gap between low- and high-income students.[4]

Increasing Expanded Learning Opportunities in Washington

Expanded Learning Opportunities, when they are high quality, improve academic performance and deter youth from crime.[5]

Washington's Expanded Learning Opportunities Initiative is focused on increasing the quality of programs as well as the number of children reached.

A $2 million investment would bring high-quality ELOs to 10,500 more youth by providing quality improvements like tailoring support for programs that serve high-risk populations.[6]

For additional information, contact:

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1 Department of Defense. (2017). Qualified Military Available (QMA). Acquired from the Accession Policy and Joint Advertising, Market Research and Studies teams at DoD in November 2017. http://www.nber.org/papers/w16408.pdf

2 National Center for Education Statistics. (2017). https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/tables/ACGR_RE_and_characteristics_2015-16.asp

3 The Education Trust. (2010). Shut out of the military: today's high school education doesn't mean you're ready for today's army. http://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ASVAB_4.pdf

4 Alexander, K.L., Entwisle, D.R., & Olson, L.S. (2007). Summer learning and its implications: Insights from the beginning of school study. New Directions for Youth Development, 114, 11-32.

5 Heller, S. et al. 2014 and 2015 (evaluations of One Summer Plus and Becoming a Man programs); Gambone et al. 2009 (evaluation of Boys and Girls Clubs); Cook, P. et al. 2015 (evaluation of Match Tutoring program).

6 K. Wiggins, personal communication with David Beard, Policy & Advocacy Director, School's Out Washington, on November 8, 2017.

Mission: Readiness
Retired admirals and generals strengthening national security by ensuring kids stay in school, stay fit, and stay out of trouble.

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