



Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time
FY 2025 | ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from the Executive Director



2025 was a year of momentum for out-of-school time in Virginia.

Across the Commonwealth, families and communities continue to rely on high-quality OST programs to support learning, well-being, and opportunity beyond the school day. As those needs grow, so does the importance of strong connections, shared standards, and coordinated leadership across the field. This year, VPOST focused on strengthening the systems that support OST providers every day. Through initiatives like the Year of Quality Community Practice, the launch of new regional coalitions, and the introduction of the Quality Check tool, we helped educators translate shared standards into meaningful practice—grounded in collaboration and continuous improvement.

We also convened nearly 200 professionals from across Virginia at The Heartbeat of OST, our largest annual conference to date. More than a gathering, it reinforced the relationships and shared learning that power strong programs statewide. Guided by the voices of educators, providers, and partners, VPOST remains committed to advancing quality, expanding access, and elevating the OST field across Virginia. This progress is made possible by the dedication of our board, staff, funders, and advocates who believe every child deserves enriching opportunities beyond the classroom.

Thank you for being part of this work.

With appreciation,
Blaire Denson
Executive Director
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time

**Donate
to VPOST**





ABOUT US

VPOST is a statewide public-private partnership dedicated to developing and expanding academic, social, emotional, and physical supports and services to school-age children and youth across the Commonwealth of Virginia during out-of-school time hours: before-school, afterschool, vacation periods, and summer!

VISION

All Virginia families are thriving in the workplace and community

MISSION

Building a network of out-of-school time providers to improve quality, promote leadership, and ensure access to OST in Virginia

Board of Directors

VPOST's Board of Directors brings together a diverse group of leaders who are passionate about advancing out-of-school time in Virginia. Representing sectors such as education, government, nonprofit, health, philanthropy, and youth services, our Board provides strategic oversight, and thought leadership.

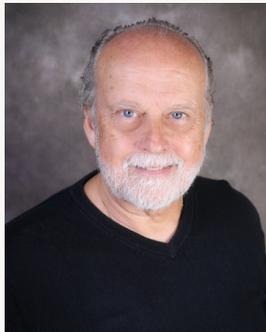
Their collective expertise and commitment help drive VPOST's mission forward - *ensuring that every child in Virginia has access to safe, supportive, and high-quality learning opportunities beyond the classroom.*



Diane Foucar-Szocki
Chair



Jonathan Melendez
Vice Chair



Duane Sergent
Treasurer



Blaire Denson
Secretary



Deanna Reed
Board Member



Mark Emery
Board Member



Ross Grieve
Board Member



Marsha Granderson
Ex-Officio Member



Kathryn Hendrickson
Board Member



Caitlin Brown
Board Member

Staff & Consultants

VPOST's staff consists of a dedicated team that works to strengthen and expand access to high-quality out-of-school time programs across the Commonwealth. Together, we advocate for supportive policies, provide professional development opportunities, foster collaboration across sectors, and amplify youth voices.

From coordinating statewide initiatives and managing legislative partnerships to supporting early childhood and youth leadership efforts, each team member plays a vital role in ensuring that all Virginia children and families have access to enriching experiences beyond the school day.



Blaire Denson
Executive Director



Christine Jones Monaccio
Professional Development & Quality Coordinator



Bridget Corbett
Administrative Assistant



Nathan Groce
Development & Communications



Sandra Gilchrist
Bookkeeper



Brent Holsinger
General Assembly Funds Program Manager



Michelle Simpson
Youth Ambassador Coordinator



Holly McCartney
Early Childhood Advisory Council



Lauren Schmitt
Government Relations Strategist

OUR IMPACT



1,500 Youth Served Annually (GAF Program)

440 Educators Served via Professional Development

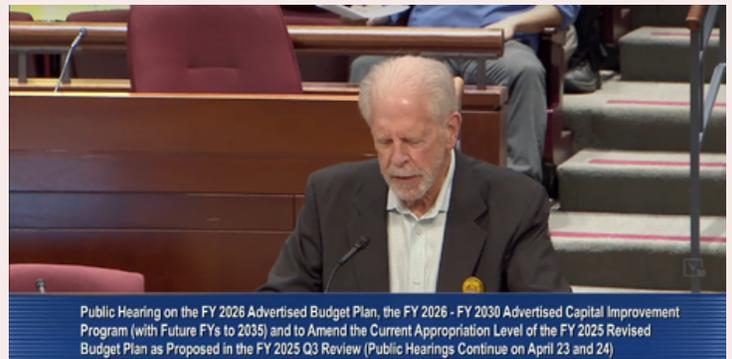
7 Regional Coalitions

A Year in Review

This Highlights Report offers a detailed summary of VPOST’s 2025 Year in Review. With collaborative community efforts like our *Year of Quality Community Practice*, the establishment of new regional coalitions, and *The Heartbeat of OST 16th Annual Conference*, VPOST’s focus in 2025 remained steady on strengthening and advocating for the out-of-school time field in Virginia.

Advocacy in Fairfax County

In February, the proposed 2026 budget out of Fairfax County threatened to eliminate all afterschool and summer programs for Middle School students. VPOST, along with advocates from across Virginia, sent hundreds of action alerts to the School Board and Board of Supervisors, resulting in the OST programs being restored.



According to the [Fairfax County Government Website](#), *“Following feedback from thousands of residents, the board restored full funding for the middle school after-school program for the 2025-26 school year.”*

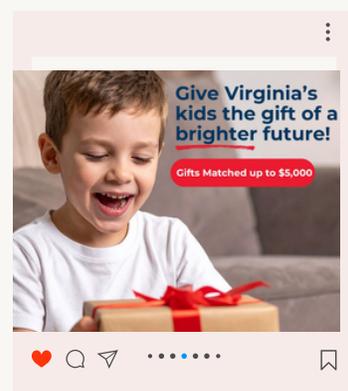
Top Performing Social Media Content:



VPOST and VSBA



VPOST and NC CAP



VPOST GivingTuesday

Friend of the Field

As a trusted connector and advocate, VPOST serves as a true *Friend of the Field* for Virginia's out-of-school time community. Grounded in deep relationships with educators, providers, state leaders, and national partners, VPOST listens closely to the needs of the field and elevates those voices where it matters most. Through strategic communication, capacity-building, and sustained advocacy, VPOST champions the people and programs that support youth beyond the school day - ensuring OST remains visible, valued, and vital across the Commonwealth.



In 2025, VPOST nominated President and CEO of NextUp, Dr. Traymanesha Lamy for the White Riley Peterson Fellowship! With more than 20 years of experience in youth development, she was the perfect candidate to represent Virginia. VPOST will be working alongside Dr. Lamy to support her policy project work and looks forward to seeing how it will positively benefit the youth both in Richmond and across the Commonwealth.



VPOST brought professional development opportunities, advocacy supports, and strengthened connections throughout the regions of Virginia. Through lunch & learn webinars, our conference, and cohorts, as well as collaborative efforts with our partners, VPOST reached a total of 545 ost professionals in 2025.

Quality Check Tool

TOOL LAYOUT

The Quality Check Tool mirrors the Quality Standard but adds new sections for you to reflect, broken down bit by bit. Here's an example:

Quality Standard:
The core area being explored

Standard: Active and Engaged Learning

Guiding Principle:
Describes the Standard

Guiding Principle: Programming and activities are developmentally appropriate and serve the diverse needs and interests of participants of all abilities.

The Why:
Explains why this Standard matters

The Why: Participants who represent varying ages, backgrounds, and life experiences, and possess unique talents and abilities, deserve responsive learning experiences.

High-quality out-of-school time programs don't happen by accident - they're built with intention. VPOST's **Quality Standards** define what strong OST programs look like in practice, giving educators across Virginia a shared language for quality that reflects local needs and realities. While national frameworks exist, VPOST's standards are made for Virginia, by Virginia.

In 2025, VPOST launched **the Quality Check**, a companion tool that helps OST professionals turn the Standards into action. Through a clear, step-by-step, team-based process, Quality Check supports programs in reflecting on their strengths, identifying opportunities for growth, and continuously improving the experiences they provide for youth.

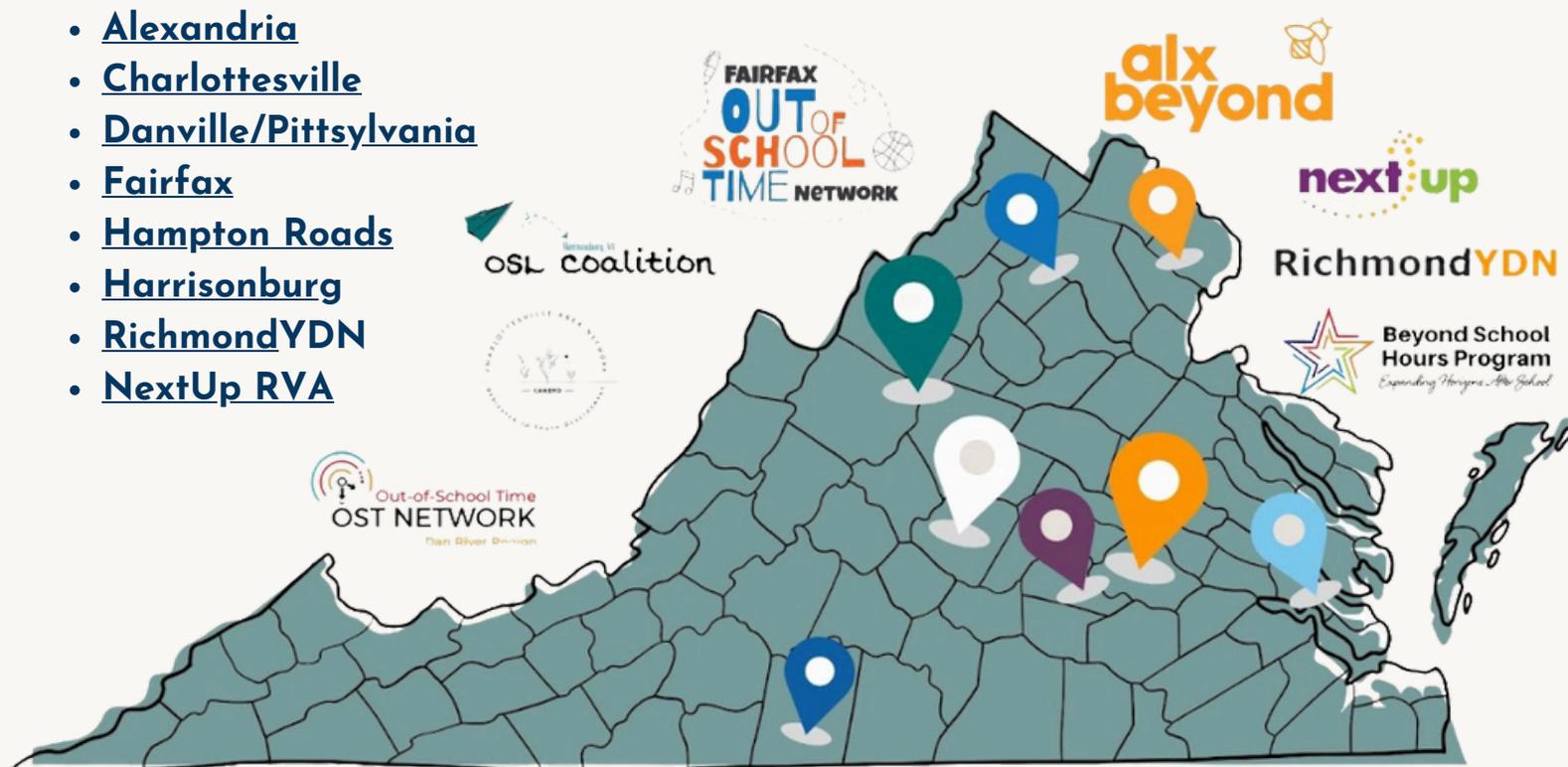
To complement the Quality Check Tool, VPOST launched **A Year of Quality**, a statewide Community of Practice for afterschool educators. This yearlong experience helps participants explore the Quality Standards in depth and apply them meaningfully within their own program settings.

Each session focuses on one area of the Standards and creates space for peer learning, reflection, and shared problem-solving. By the end of the 12-session series, participants gain a clear understanding of all 10 Quality Standards and how to put them into practice to strengthen program quality.



Regional Coalitions

- [Alexandria](#)
- [Charlottesville](#)
- [Danville/Pittsylvania](#)
- [Fairfax](#)
- [Hampton Roads](#)
- [Harrisonburg](#)
- [RichmondYDN](#)
- [NextUp RVA](#)



In Virginia, eight percent (80%) of youth are missing out on attending an afterschool program. VPOST is working every day to produce, evolve, and expand access to programs across the Commonwealth. Establishing these coalitions allows regional leaders to connect and share their programs' victories, challenges, and unique needs in order to promote success in their respective communities.

Since 2004, [America After 3PM](#), a comprehensive national survey from the [Afterschool Alliance](#), has provided critical insights into how children and families experience the hours after school. Based on responses from 662 in-depth interviews in Virginia, both the newly released fifth edition of the national report and the [Virginia After 3PM 2025 report](#) reveal that unmet demand for afterschool programs remains alarmingly high.



VPOST's 16th Annual Conference

The Heartbeat of OST:

Relationships that Inspire, Empower, and Transform

Attended by almost 200 OST and summer learning professionals across Virginia, the 2025 conference was one of the largest yet! Keynote speaker Sheneika Simmons set the tone, with vibrant workshop presenters and the exhibit hall adding to the energy she created. Additionally, the "Plenary Power Hour" featuring the National Afterschool Association and the K-12 Coalition all offered excellent ways to increase your program quality.



Conference Demographics

Satisfaction Rating:



72%
Very
Satisfied



22%
Satisfied

Audience at a Glance:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Program Managers | 56.7% |
| Frontline OST Staff | 14.9% |
| Average Age Group Served | Middle School |

General Assembly Funds (GAF) Program

By serving as a liaison between the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and community-based organizations (CBOs), VPOST ensures public funds are used effectively and equitably. VPOST's GAF Program, led by Brent Holsinger, works in coordination with the VDOE to provide regular communication with and assistance to CBOs to aid them in the successful implementation of their programs and/or grants.

2025 Facts & Figures



9 Million

In Funding Since 2022



1,500

Youth Served Annually



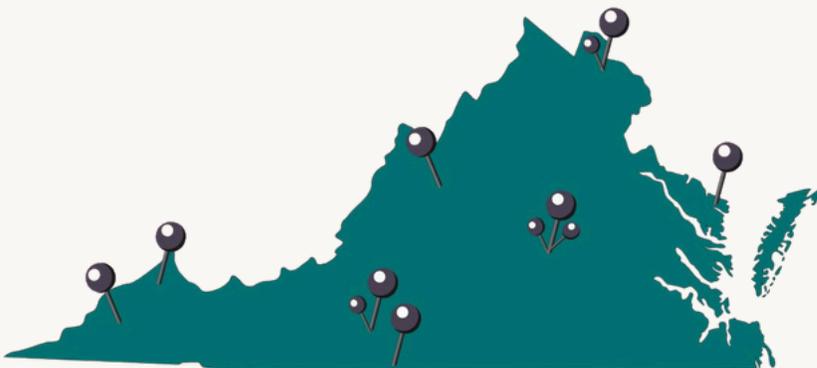
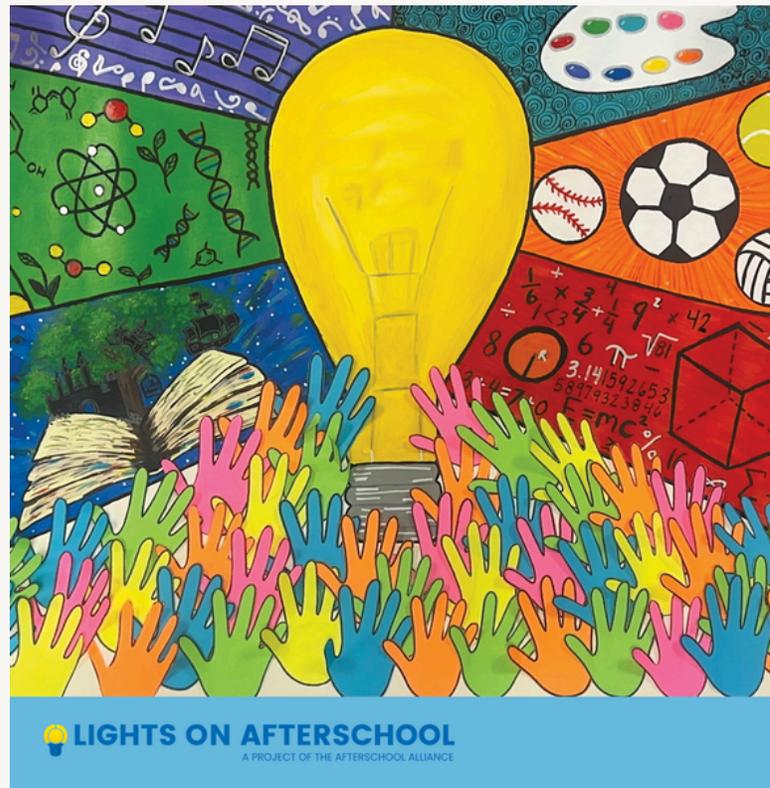
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Grants Awarded in 2025



12

CBO Grantees

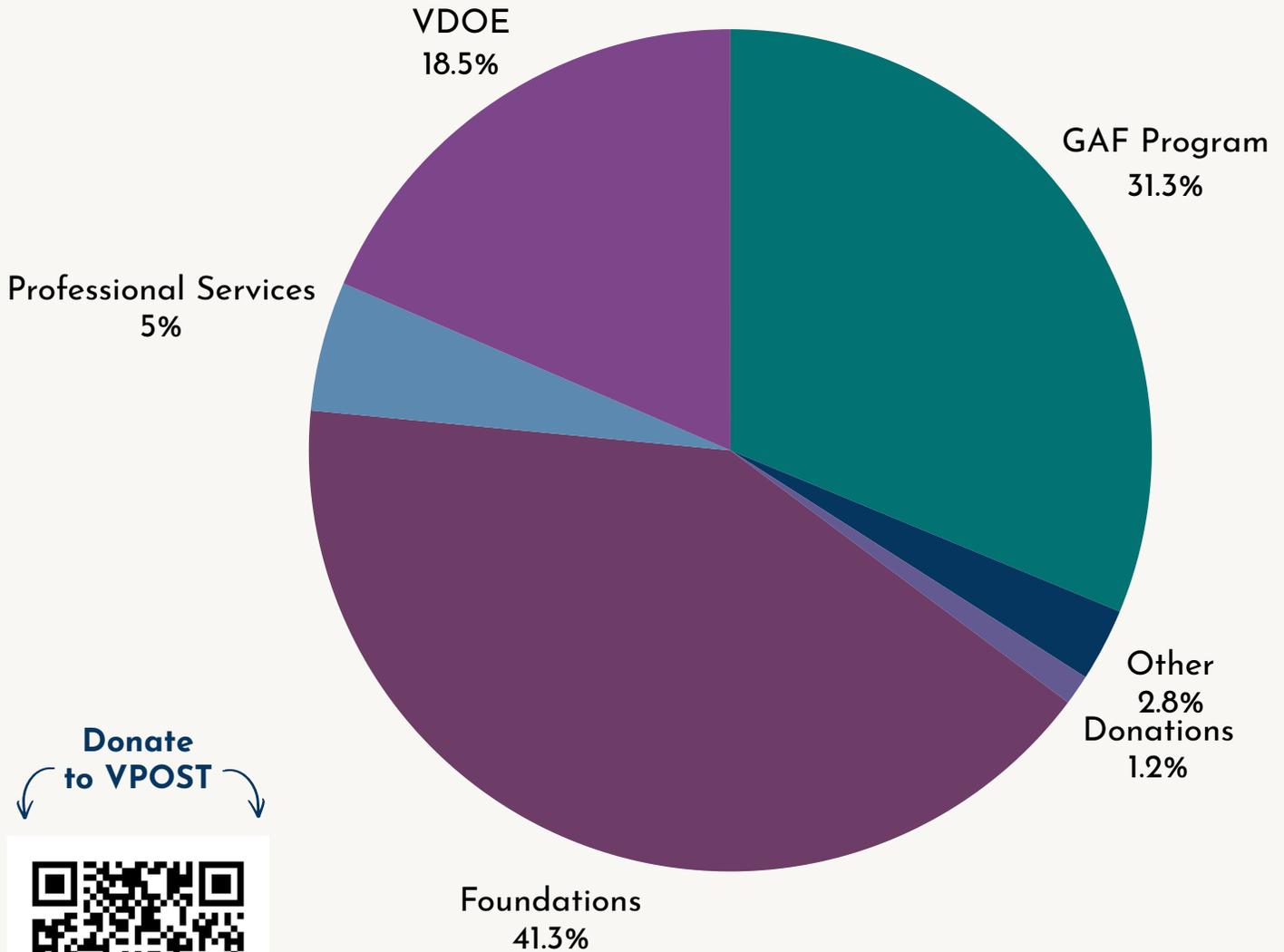


In 2025, VPOST offered *Lights on Afterschool* Mini-Grants in the amount of up to \$1,500 for each CBO that has a GAF 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant for the 2025-2026 school year.

Financial Impact

By creating public-private partnerships with statewide supporters, VPOST is building a network of identifiable providers with the capacity to meet the needs of Virginia families while providing engaging learning opportunities that help kids build successful futures. VPOST is supported by [the Charles Stewart MOTT Foundation](#) and [Afterschool Alliance](#).

These partnerships provide essential funding, advocacy support, and access to a national network of resources. Our largest supporter, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), continues to play a crucial role in sustaining our mission to improve the quality of out-of-school time programming across the state. The remaining support comes from individual donations through dedicated educators, community leaders, and passionate advocates.



Donate to VPOST



Thank You For a Great Year



Phone Number
804-223-2226



Email Address
info@v-post.org



Website
www.v-post.org



Social Media
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