

Research

ACA facilitates industry-leading research and grant-funded research initiatives to support and advance the industry's ability to provide impactful experiences across the country.

YOUTH AND STAFF IMPACT STUDY

In fiscal year 2022, the American Camp Association's Youth and Staff Impact Study — a multiyear research project funded by ACA with additional funding from ACA, New York and New Jersey Affiliate — concluded its fifth and final year under the direction of a university research team. In addition to exploring the lasting impacts of camp experiences from the perspectives of campers, staff, and families, we identified barriers families face to camp enrollment and how camp providers can make camp accessible, relevant, and inclusive to all young people. Now, in collaboration with the university research team, our research team is working to translate and disseminate key findings for the field.

CAMP PROGRAM QUALITY INITIATIVE

The Camp Program Quality Initiative began implementing sustainable systems of continuous program quality improvement within ACA which include workbooks to build capacity for continuous program quality improvement, a community of practice centered around program quality at camp, trainings, and technical assistance for program quality evaluation.

THE LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS PROJECT

The Leadership Pathways Project entered its second year, granting financial support for 22 camps' counselor-in-training (CIT) programs. Over the course of this project, grantees are working to identify and test strategies to increase accessibility to CIT programs for young people who might not otherwise have access to this camp staff pathway.

CAMP-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

In the Camp-School Partnership Demonstration Project, ACA has partnered with our sister organization, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), to disperse federal funding to 10 camps, each receiving \$25,000 toward a camp-school partnership, and matched by \$25,000 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funding from school districts. The purpose of this project is to support camps and schools in implementing high-quality, camp-based experiences that support middle-school students' social-emotional learning and address COVID-related learning loss, along with gathering research that demonstrates the positive effects of camp-school collaboration and builds long-term capacity for successful partnerships.

INDIANA YOUTH PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS (IYPC) INITIATIVE

Finally, through the Indiana Youth Programs on Campus (IYPC) initiative, supported by the Lilly Endowment Inc., ACA will offer specialized resources, training and technical assistance, networking and community connection opportunities, consultation, and other support customized for the 35 colleges and universities that have chosen to participate in IYPC. Through this initiative, IYPC institutions will have access to the national Camps on Campus Kindred group, a unique group of camps and professionals who run and operate youth programs on college and university campuses.



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