

How to contact us:
PHONE: 612-627-0160

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Leveraging Resources for Afterschool Learning Opportunities

Maximizing Human and Financial Resources to Support Afterschool

Youth programs in Minnesota have long struggled with the challenge of sustaining quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities in communities across the state.

Youth Community Connections supports smart and strategic investments that leverage public, private and parent contributions to fund afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Learning opportunities beyond the classroom allows children and youth to learn, grow and develop to their full potential.

Youth Community Connections supports Smart and Strategic Investments that Leverage Public, Private and Parent Contributions for Afterschool and Summer Learning Opportunities.

WHO CURRENTLY FUNDS AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS?

In 2007, Youth Community Connections conducted a cost survey of afterschool programs in Minnesota to better understand the costs of providing afterschool and summer learning opportunities beyond the classroom. While programs reported income from a variety of sources, the primary sources of income for afterschool programs surveyed include private foundations, public grants (federal, state, and/or local), program fees and parent or individual contributions.

- ◆ Nearly 60% of afterschool programs received funding from private foundations in Minnesota
- ◆ 30% of afterschool programs raised income through registration or program fees
- ◆ Public grants provided income for up to 30% of programs (25% federal, 31% state, 29% local)
- ◆ Nearly half of all programs received contributions from parents or through individual donations, 45%

ALIGNING RESOURCES FOR AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding the resources that support children and youth allows communities to better coordinate their investments and promote a more cooperative system for engaging young people in meaningful learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Public funding for youth programming can be found in several different state or local government agency budgets. Too often the goals and objectives of these grant programs vary and are not coordinated. Alignment and coordination of resources allows communities and youth serving organizations to make strategic decisions about what resources are needed to provide quality afterschool and summer learning opportunities for children and youth in their community.

INCREASING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO LEVERAGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Increasing public-private partnerships is an important way to leverage both human and financial resources for children and youth in Minnesota.

Leveraging businesses to support afterschool and summer learning opportunities benefits the young people engaged in afterschool, the business itself and the community at large. Businesses can help ensure the future workforce is prepared with relevant skills and knowledge when they support afterschool and summer learning opportunities.

Private foundations led the way in funding afterschool programs - nearly 60% of afterschool or summer programs receive funding from private foundations in Minnesota.