

# **Afterschool Programs Consortium 2006-2007**

## **Santa Cruz County Child Care Planning Council**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The objective of the Santa Cruz County Afterschool Programs Consortium is to provide a forum for the identification of challenges, needs, solutions and best practices in the Afterschool arena. Supporting the sustainability of programs through seeking and retaining federal, state and local resources and enhancing the quality of afterschool programs through providing needed professional development opportunities to staff is of critical importance to us. We invite all afterschool programs to join and become an active member. Our areas of focus include:

- Quality of Care
- Provider/school/parent alliances
- Quality/Responsive Programs (Academic enrichment and support)
- Availability and affordability of afterschool care
- Coordination of ECE & K-12
- Policy awareness (regional)
- Prop 49 planning/implementation
- Unionization
- Availability of non-school days for full-day 0-5 care
- Facilities
- Licensing
- Cultural enrichment (arts)
- Choosing afterschool programs (CDRC)
- Afterschool standards

### **Consortium Goals**

#### **Goal 1: Increase awareness of CCPC members, parents and community partners regarding afterschool programs (types of programs, need for programs).**

- Identify afterschool providers in the county including type of program, eligibility criteria, funding, program goals, fees, locations and services provided, hours of operation, vouchers accepted.
- Provide an overview to CCPC of the afterschool programs in our county.
- Investigate resources and collaborative partners to support the completion of a Needs Assessment of afterschool programs at elementary/middle schools.

#### **Goal 2: Promote sustainability of afterschool programs.**

- Promote and support access to and implementation of afterschool programs (e.g. Prop 49) for eligible school districts. Provide an opportunity for and encourage networking, collaboration and strategizing for fundees and their partners.
- Support the retention of state funds within the county through the coordination and brokering of full use of state-funded slots.
- Investigate blending of funding sources, availability of matching funds and additional resources to support programs.
- Host meetings with state consultants from funding agencies as needed.

#### **Goal 3: Strengthen collaborative relationships between parents, districts, schools, state consultants and afterschool providers.**

- Develop a process to facilitate improved communication and alliances between parents, districts, schools, state consultants and afterschool providers.

#### **Goal 4: Build and maintain a highly skilled and stable workforce (especially bilingual and bicultural) in afterschool programs.**

- Identify training needs of afterschool providers.
- Advocate for resources to provide trainings on topics specific to afterschool program providers.
- Research the child development permit for providers of school-age children and relevant coursework.
- Partner with community colleges, four-year schools, school districts, teaching fellows, volunteer groups (e.g. Americorp, Classroom Connection) and the CCPC Workforce Development Committee to advocate for economic and educational supports to build and maintain a highly skilled and stable workforce.