

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

1. 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 Planning Council of the afterschool programs in our county.
2. Investigate resources and collaborative partners to support the completion of a Needs Assessment of afterschool programs at elementary/middle school grades.
3. Promote sustainability of afterschool programs:
 - a. 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 partners.
 - b. Support the retention of state funds within the county through the coordination and brokering of full use of state funded slots.
 - c. Investigate blending of funding sources, availability of matching funds and additional resources to support programs.
 - d. Host meetings with state consultants from funding agencies as needed.
4. Collaborate with school districts to develop a process to facilitate communication and foster an alliance between parents, districts, schools, state consultants and afterschool providers.
5. Identify and advocate for trainings (and funding to provide trainings) in the community on topics specific to afterschool program providers. Research the child development permit for providers of school age children and relevant coursework.
6. 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 (especially bilingual and bicultural) in afterschool programs.