



Afterschool Partnership

AFTERSCHOOL FOR GREATER NEW ORLEANS

Fall 2008

Policy Brief: Funding Map for New Orleans' Afterschool Programs

Quality afterschool programs play a crucial role for children, families, and communities. In today's society, school alone cannot guarantee a child's success. In order to foster healthy mental and physical development, children need access to the types of academic support, arts and culture enrichment, physical recreation, and adult mentorship that out of school time programming is uniquely equipped to provide. Current research demonstrates that high-quality afterschool programs help children succeed in school, in work, and in life.

This policy brief offers guidance to key stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels on how to better understand and strategize for public investment in youth programs. This brief provides an analysis of the major public funding sources for afterschool programming in New Orleans, how service providers currently access those funds, and recommendations to policymakers from the state of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans on how to build a comprehensive, cohesive, and sustainable approach to funding out of school time programming for New Orleans youth.

Leaders in our community recognize the need to coordinate across the agencies and systems that serve youth to leverage limited public resources for expanded learning opportunities. Education, social services, parks & recreation, libraries, workforce development - working together – ask what they are doing to make sure as a whole they serving a greater number of children and not duplicating services. It is this broad systems-based approach that most often reforms cities and communities to best support the positive development of all our children.

Increased public and private investments in afterschool and youth programs are critical to guarantee that all children and youth transition to successful adults. Children and youth need more learning opportunities beyond basic education to develop the skills necessary for 21st Century. Further, working families need no or low-cost high-quality programs – and safe places - for their children to attend during the non-school hours.

Afterschool Funding Sources

Afterschool funding sources are any sources that can be used to provide academic, enrichment, recreational, or supportive services to children ages 5 through 18 during non-school hours. There are few programs at either the federal or state level that have, as their sole explicit purpose, the promotion of structured activities which foster positive youth development during afterschool hours. However, there are numerous programs designed to fund one or more specific learning components - such as academic attainment, reducing teenage pregnancy, crime prevention, or physical fitness - to support afterschool's overall program goals.

Afterschool Partnership is the intermediary organization leveraging resources to programs that serve children and youth during "out of school" hours in New Orleans. Since 2002, the Partnership has maintained connections between community groups, schools, government agencies, private funders, and families. Through training, advocacy and quality initiatives, we strive to fill any gaps between existing local youth systems and to create a strong infrastructure that effectively supports the children and youth of New Orleans. The Afterschool Partnership publishes a local funding guide annually, sponsors sustainability workshops, and regularly surveys programs in order to understand issues around access to funding.

Federal Funding for Afterschool

According to a 2007 study by the Urban Institute, the federal government's investment in children comes through about 100 programs within eight major budget categories. In recent years, funding available for children's programming has reduced, and is likely to shrink further, as entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security become relatively more expensive. As a result, such programs will serve disproportionately fewer families at a time when low-income working families need more services for their children. Indeed, the Urban Institute finds that federal spending on children has consistently declined in recent decades, from over 20% in 1960 to about 15% in 2006.

Federal programs designed to support educational attainment, crime prevention, recreation, workforce development, service learning, and public health may be used to support afterschool programs. Many of these programs are block granted to states based on a funding formula, so amounts available to each state are fixed. In Louisiana, the demographic shifts caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have made it nearly impossible to apply funding formulas in a fair and equitable manner.

Further, there is a need to support increased access to federal grants in our community at the public and private levels. Out of 33 discretionary federal programs identified as potentially funding afterschool programs, only 9 of them currently have awardees in New Orleans. One goal of this policy brief is to ensure that the agencies and community organizations eligible for discretionary federal grants are aware of the programs offered, timelines for applying, and have resources necessary to submit a competitive grant application.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program is the only federal funding program devoted exclusively to afterschool programs for school-age children. First created in 1998 and reauthorized in 2001 as part of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), 21CCLC grants are managed in Louisiana by the State Department of Education Office of School and Community Support. Since 2004, Louisiana is eligible to receive over \$20 million each year to support afterschool programs.

Despite generous annual allocations from the federal government to Louisiana, the state has not drawn down the maximum amount of money dedicated for 21st CCLC programming. The U.S. Department of Education reported that in FY2005, Louisiana failed to access as much as \$20M, with millions left untouched by the state in subsequent years as well. Unused 21st CCLC funds represents the most significant loss of dedicated federal funding to high-quality afterschool programs serving Louisiana's children and youth. As a result, thousands of children throughout the state do not have access to afterschool learning opportunities each year.

No Child Left Behind Education Programs

Originally passed in 2001, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) remains the primary law authorizing federal support of education efforts. Out of the nine titles to the Act, Titles I and II are the largest programs. Over 47,000 schools receive Title I funding to provide additional resources for low-income children to meet state standards. State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) eligible for Title I can use the funds to support afterschool programming if they fall within the strategies developed at state and local levels to support student academic performance and/or school improvement.

In Orleans Parish, Title I allocations fall into only three of the six Title I categories: Part A (promotion of student achievement), Safe and Drug Free Schools, and Innovative Programs. There are no NCLB dollars currently allocated in Orleans Parish for School Improvement, Comprehensive School Reform, or Supplemental Education Services (SES).

SES funds represented a significant source of revenue for local providers prior to Hurricane Katrina, but the upheaval of the New Orleans educational system after the storms rendered all Orleans Parish schools ineligible for SES funds (which require three consecutive years of school failure). Many Orleans Parish school may become eligible for SES dollars shortly, as they begin to meet the minimum three-year period required.

NCLB	Total National Funding Amount	General Purpose	Potential Use for Afterschool
Title I, Part A	\$12,838,125,280	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplemental funds for schools with high concentrations of economically disadvantaged students for the purpose of promoting student achievement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended day/year and summer programs, parental engagement activities; program staffing; Professional development for staff; and/or Program equipment, curriculum materials, and supplies.
Title I, School Improvement	\$500,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An 4 % allocation of Title I funds to support schools that fail to meet adequate yearly progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds can support the same activities/components as Title I, but they must be an explicit part of a school's improvement strategy.
Supplemental Educational Services	Varies based on Title I allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Title I schools that fail to meet adequate yearly progress for 3 years are required to make afterschool academic support available to children from low income families through SES or transportation to attend another school. Districts required to offer SES must spend between 5% and 20% of their annual Title I allocation on these services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds can support targeted academic instruction (tutoring) for eligible students attending schools not meeting adequate yearly progress. Tutoring must occur outside of the regular school day.
Comprehensive School Reform, Title I, Part F	\$205,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps high poverty and low achieving schools increase the quality of education and accelerate reform by developing a comprehensive plan for improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds can support OST activities incorporated into a broader comprehensive school reform model that is adopted by a school.
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (Title IV, Part A)	\$431,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports programs that prevent violence in and around schools and that prevent illegal use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol and otherwise support an orderly learning environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds can support character education, mentoring, and drug/violence prevention activities. Program components must address substance abuse and violence concerns in the school where the program is located.
Innovative Programs (Title V, Part A)	\$99,183,447	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad flexible program designed to support local school reform efforts aligned with statewide reform efforts, with focus on innovation and creativity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funds can support different program components including: Service-learning; Mentoring and Counseling; Parental and Community Engagement; Homework Help; and/or School Safety Activities.

Child Care Development Block Grant

The federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) is designed to help provide child care to low income parents who work and/or attend school. Child care centers are also important, safe places where children participate in expanded learning opportunities. Louisiana receives over \$56 million each year in CCDF funding. The majority of CCDF funding comes in the form of vouchers attached to each child (not to specific programs). CCDF funds are available only to children under 13 years of age, and only to families with incomes less than 85% of the state's median income (some states use an even lower income threshold).

According to research by the Afterschool Investments Project, only 38% of eligible school-aged children in Louisiana access CCDF subsidies. Louisiana's monthly reimbursement rate to providers is \$165 per month, which is significantly lower than many other states (\$300 – 616 per month). As a result, providers are unable to easily access CCDF funds, and when they do the amount they receive per child is insufficient to cover costs, licensing requirements and program improvements. Raising the reimbursement rate is an important step in making sure more Louisiana families have access to affordable afterschool child care.

State Funding for Afterschool

In addition to directing federal block grant funds to local programs, the state of Louisiana makes additional investments in afterschool. The most significant state program is the TANF After School for All program, where the state has invested between \$7-9 million each year since 2001 in federal TANF funds for the purpose of funding afterschool programs tied to the prevention of teenage pregnancy.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

After School for All: In 2008, the state of Louisiana authorized \$7.6 million to the Department of Education to administer the TANF After School for All program. The program is reauthorized each year as an interagency transfer in the state budget, and funds go to local school districts and community organizations through a competitive grant process. In 2008, the Department of Education made substantive changes to eligibility and content requirements of the afterschool program, and awards are made solely to eligible school districts (SEAs and LEAs). Community organizations must partner with a school in order to receive TANF afterschool funds for its afterschool services.

Child care: Louisiana also dedicates \$19-25 million each year in TANF funds to reimburse licensed child care centers.

Section 8(g) Grant Program

The Competitive 8(g) Grant Program provides approximately \$5.1 million in funds each year to exemplary or innovative programs designed to improve student academic achievement or vocational-technical skills. The state of Louisiana has traditionally not funded afterschool programs with 8(g) monies in the past, but has made awards for summer programs that fit the purpose of the competitive grant program.

Local Funding for Afterschool

The current planning and rebuilding efforts in New Orleans present opportunities for a more coordinated investment for youth. As New Orleans recovers, there must be significant efforts made to create a youth- and family-friendly city. Afterschool and youth programs, community and faith-based centers, parks and athletic fields represent the host of services necessary to support the positive development of all young people.

Municipal Funds

According to the adopted 2008 New Orleans budget, youth programs currently receive a total of \$2.65 million out of a total city budget of \$467.6 million. Opportunities for Youth is one of the four greatest budget priorities for the City of New Orleans. The funds currently allocated to Opportunities for Youth cover a wide variety of costs including facilities maintenance, the Youth Resource Center, the Youth Reporting Center, athletic programs, summer programs, juvenile regional services, and NORD centers. Although NORD's overall budget is \$5.1 million, nearly half that amount is dedicated to juvenile court and to public libraries, leaving only limited city funds going directly to serve children in afterschool and summer programming.

Community Development Block Grants

New Orleans qualifies as an "entitlement community" (population over 250,000), which allows the city to receive a direct allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) monies. The city has broad discretion in how these funds are allocated, so long as they meet the federal intent of "develop[ing] viable urban communities." Currently, the City of New Orleans allocates less than 1% (or \$115,617) of the \$15.5 million CDBG funds to youth programs.

New Orleans in the National Landscape

Cities across the country leverage limited local resources with federal and state funding to develop strategic and creative ways to expand the number of afterschool learning opportunities for children and youth. New Orleans provides no general or consistent revenue stream for youth programming. Other cities of comparable size have made a significant investment in youth using City General Funds or by creating dedicated revenue streams from, for example, revenue generated by building contracts or small increases to municipal sales taxes. The Youth Opportunity Task Force, led by the Afterschool Partnership and with a membership encompassing key city department heads, is the vehicle best poised to examine such investments in other cities and leading similar efforts at the local level.

City	Funding commitment from the City for Afterschool	Funding Source	City Population
Albuquerque, NM	\$2.5 million/year	City general fund	471,000
Fort Worth, TX	\$1.2 million/year	City crime tax	529,000
Alexandria, VA	\$2 million/year	City general fund	128,283
Charlotte, NC	\$550,000/year	City general fund	540,828
Baltimore, MD	\$7 million/year	City general fund; CDBG; City Department of Social Services/TANF	651,154
Little Rock, AR	\$3.5 million/year	½ cent sales tax increase	183,043
Austin, TX	\$2.5 million/year	City general fund	600,000
Providence, RI	\$315,000	CDBG; tax levy	173,618
Waco, TX	\$350,000	City general fund	113,726
New Orleans, LA	\$0	City general fund	300,000

Conclusions: Recommendations for Dedicated, Coordinated Funding of Afterschool

Current trends in funding for afterschool programs at the federal, state, and local levels all speak to the absolute necessity of dedicating revenue streams and coordinating funding systems to ensure that youth continue to receive the out of school time services they need. Several states have begun building innovative financial investments (backed by legislative mandates) in youth programming, to which Louisiana could look for models as we build our own comprehensive approach to youth funding. In New Orleans, the partnership of public and private agencies provides a basis for building infrastructure and funding programming through both municipal and private (corporate and philanthropic) funding sources.

Afterschool Partnership makes the following recommendations:

At the federal level:

- Increase access to federal grant-making cycles and requirements, and work with providers to ensure that grants are highly competitive.

At the state level:

- Identify administrative remedies to ensure that all funds are spent each year for 21st CCLC, TANF, and CCDF afterschool and child care programs.
- Develop legislative action to establish a statewide afterschool network.
- Effectively lobby for the state to allocate more TANF funding for Afterschool for All, and to make specific allocations of Section 8(g) funding to afterschool and summer camps
- Work with the Louisiana Department of Social Services on reasonable school-age licensing regulations and Quality Rating System requirements so that school age providers are more likely to go through licensing.
- Consider pursuing a dedicated state revenue stream like unclaimed lottery money or duplicate birth certificates (like Children's Trust).

At the local level:

- Continue the work of the Youth Opportunities Task Force to develop a plan for afterschool and youth development activities and funding in New Orleans.
- Work with providers to access a greater portion of Community Development Block Grant funds for youth programs.
- Support NORD's efforts to seek more city funding for the recreation budget.
- Work with the City toward obtaining a local dedicated revenue stream for funding youth programs.