

Building an After School System in Louisville

Louisville Metro Government (LMG), Metro United Way (MUW) and the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) have come together around creating a coordinated system for the enhancement of youth services in Louisville. This system will be guided by a multi-component, long-term planning process to produce a set of strategies and recommendations dubbed the Louisville *YouthPrint*. Built upon a **common vision** for successful youth, the YouthPrint will:

- **Synthesize** information about Louisville's assets with its most critical needs
- **Envision** a community-based system that identifies locally-defined quality programming and standards

As research and the successes of other cities have shown, after-school programming can have tremendous learning and developmental benefits for youth, helping to improve their performance now and in the future. In Louisville today, the need for a more coordinated system of services is clear. **Only approximately 50% of high school students participate in after-school activities. This percentage drops to 30-40% for at-risk youth.** At 2008's Dropout Summit, students themselves emphasized the need for diverse options. Yet, we don't know what the youth and their families want. A recent JCPS-commissioned study found that services may be *underutilized*, especially among low-income students.

With shrinking budgets and reduced services, integrating services enables efficient allocation of resources and identifies cost-sharing opportunities—an attractive model to public and private funders looking for systems-based approaches.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Overseeing the execution of the YouthPrint will be a Leadership Team composed of a diverse group of experts that have played critical roles in youth services, both locally and nationally. A few of the Leadership Team's responsibilities will be to:

- Determine and ensure the completion of the YouthPrint components including the Vision for Youth, Program Landscaping, Asset Map, Market Study, and Funding Analysis
- Determine the elements of a potential quality improvement strategy relevant to local youth services and youth needs
- Investigate possible governance structures, nature of a coordinating entity, and possible funding strategy
- Develop a public outreach and marketing strategy for the YouthPrint and, when necessary, invite other agencies and individuals into planning

The Leadership Team will issue a mid-project Progress Report and final recommendations in light of the planning process and collected data. They will advise on the ultimate YouthPrint document to be completed by April 1, 2010. The Leadership Team will be directly supported by a LMG staff member and intern.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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A number of cities and counties nationwide have developed integrated provider systems aimed at improving the quality and impact of afterschool programs. Some examples include:

Providence After School Alliance

(Number of Youth: 1,800)

- Pioneered the "Afterzones", 5 virtual hubs that coordinate services and reduce transportation and administrative cost across neighborhoods.

Visit: www.pasa.org

Boston After School & Beyond

(Number of Youth: 1,000)

- Co-developed the "Boston Navigator", a web-based inventory, with mapping capacity of services that is updated regularly by providers.

Visit: www.bostonbeyond.org

Prime Time Palm Beach

(Number of Youth: 10,000)

- Their innovative Quality Assessment Strategy uses on-site advisors and peer coaches for data interpretation, planning and implementation.

Visit: www.primetimepb.org

Greater Omaha After School Alliance

- Their "Middle School Learning Center" focuses on the in-school/out-of-school gap by targeting partnerships between schools and a committed network of providers.

Visit:

www.omahaafterschool.org