West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program
Development Grants
Request for Proposals

Introduction and Purpose

The West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network is accepting proposals for Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program Development Grants**. The Explorations grant program will provide up to 30 grants of up to $10,000 each to existing West Virginia afterschool programs to enable them to create or expand afterschool or summer programs to serve middle and/or high school students beginning in April or Summer 2009 through June 2010.** By increasing the positive out-of-school time choices available to these youth, the Network hopes to enrich learning experiences, provide career awareness information, enhance cross-age mentoring of and by these students, expand community service opportunities, and increase academic assistance available to youth, particularly in counties lacking in youth education, recreation, and/or care programs. Eligible applicants include out-of-school time programs (afterschool programs based in schools, churches, or community-based organizations such as YMCA's, YWCA's, Boy and Girls Clubs, 4-H Programs, or other providers of school-age child care) that serve students for 25 or more weeks during the 2008-2009 school year. **The deadline for submission of proposals to WVSAN is Tuesday, March 17, 2009. Submissions should be made as Word files attached to an e-mail message addressed to Jane.Hange@mail.wvu.edu .**

Need for the Grant Program

In this predominantly rural state, most communities have few activity programs for middle and high school youth outside of those conducted by the schools, churches, and a few community-based organizations (YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, et al). With no late transportation available for many middle and high school students, the only alternative at the end of the school day is to catch the school bus home—often to an empty house. While West Virginia remains a low crime state, risky behaviors by youth frequently exceed national averages. The 2007 WV Kids Count Data Book, using 2005 data available from state and federal sources, reported the following indicators of youth at risk:

Teen Birth Rate (ages 15-19 per 1,000 females)—WV 44%, U.S. 40.4%
Percent of births to unmarried teens (ages 10-19)—WV 9.2%, U.S. 8.3%
Child death rate (age 1-14 per 100,000 children)—WV 24.6, U.S. 20.9
Teen injury death rate (ages 15-19 per 100,000 teens)—70.6, up from 67.5 in 2000

With few recreational facilities available in most of the state's small towns and rural areas and few supervised activities afterschool and during summer weeks, West Virginia's youth find too much time on their hands. According to the 2003 WV PRIDE survey (survey of 8th and 11th grade students conducted bi-annually), 29.3% of WV's 8th and 11th graders reported using alcohol at least once a month, 14.9% reported binging on alcohol often, 50.6% reported that beer was fairly to very easy to get, 47.4% reported that marijuana was fairly or very easy to get, and 65.2% reported that cigarettes are fairly or very easy to get. PRIDE survey data also indicated that many students do not participate in school activities (31.1% reported never or seldom participating) or in community activities (31.1% reported never or seldom participating). Safe harbors in the out-of-school time hours are needed for all, but youth from low income families (more than 53% of WV students receive free or reduced price lunches, a frequently cited indicator of low family income) are particularly disadvantaged. Since child care subsidy payments from WVDHHR are not available for children over age 12, many centers do not serve middle and high school youth, and/or care and enriching out-of-school time experiences don't exist or are unaffordable for many families in some communities. Clearly greater access to high quality afterschool and out-of-school time programs is needed by many youth and families throughout the state if these conditions are to be alleviated.

Objectives of the Grant Program

Explorations grant-funded programs should be designed to meet the objectives below. Proposals should provide performance indicators stating how the effectiveness of the project will be measured against these objectives and project goals:

- Provide quality afterschool activities to underserved middle school and high school youth
- Provide participating youth with enhanced learning opportunities, civic engagement experiences, academic assistance, recreation options, and career awareness
- Strengthen collaborative efforts in communities struggling with problems associated with middle school and high school students

Funding Amount and Project Timeline

Up to 30 programs will receive up to $10,000 to operate middle or high school afterschool programs during the grant period of April 8, 2009 through July 31, 2010. Renewal funds will not be available and a second competition for funding is not anticipated. Two technical assistance conference calls will be held for any potential applicants (dates and times below). Anyone interested in participating in either call should send an e-mail message to Jane.Hange@mail.wvu.edu by February 17 to receive the call-in information. If there are no callers in the first 10 minutes of each scheduled conference call, the call will be ended. Individual technical assistance is not available during the grant application period.

Timeline

February 3, 2009	Distribution of RFP and download made available
February 19, 2009-1 PM	Technical assistance conference call

February 25, 2009-10 AM	Technical assistance conference call
March 17, 2009	Deadline-all proposals must be received by COB
March 26, 2009	Peer review panel recommendations completed
March 27, 2009	Notification of grant awards
April 8, 2009	Grantees contracts completed and funds transmitted
April 16, 2009	Grantee meeting in Charleston
June 2009-June 2010	Site visits conducted and technical assistance
May-June, 2010	Final evaluation data collection
July 30, 2010	Grantee final report deadline

Grant Requirements

Eligibility. Explorations will provide grants to up to 30 existing out-of-school time programs (afterschool and/or summer) to enable each to create or expand programming dedicated to middle and/or high school students. Eligible applicants include out-of-school time programs (afterschool programs based in schools, churches, or community-based organizations such as YMCA's, YWCA's, Boy and Girls Clubs, 4-H Programs, or other providers of school-age child care) that serve students for 25 or more weeks during the 2008-2009 school year. Applicants must be nonprofit organizations (such as entities with 501 c 3 status) or other tax-exempt organizations (such as schools or school systems).

Children to be Served. Explorations grant funds must be expended on afterschool and/or summer programming for middle and/or high school youth. However, afterschool programs that currently serve primarily elementary school students may apply to serve middle and high school youth. Proposals must identify the school system and schools participating youth attend, specify the number of students expected to regularly participate and describe recruitment of youth to the program. Proposals should describe other sources of afterschool and/or summer programming in their vicinity and any collaboration between these organizations and their proposed programs

Program Activities. Proposals must describe the format of the program (afterschool or summer) including weeks of session, days per week, hours per day), programming content (must address meeting the needs of participating children and be correlated to the above-described objectives), collaborating organization roles (including a letter of commitment from each), collaboration and communication with the regular education school day and school year teachers and administrators, transportation of students to and from the program, and recruitment of students and accessibility of program activities by any special needs students in the service region. The flow of funds to grantees should allow programs to offer afterschool and/or summer programs beginning in mid-April 2009 through June 2010. Applicants are required to describe how the proposed program will incorporate any of the following activities frequently associated with highly effective afterschool programs:

- Remedial education and academic enrichment learning programs (required)
- Mathematics and science education activities
- Arts and/or music education activities

- Entrepreneurial education activities
- Tutoring services
- Mentoring, counseling, and/or character education programs
- Recreational activities
- Technology education activities
- Expanded library service
- Assistance to students who have been truant, suspended or expelled to facilitate their academic achievement
- Drug (also alcohol and tobacco) use and violence prevention programs

Innovation and creativity in activities and in evaluation measures that are aligned with the Explorations program goals and the objectives of the proposed project are encouraged. Activities related to the acquisition of 21st Century Learning Skills (see http://wvde.state.wv.us) and/or to community service requirements for West Virginia students (see http://wvde.state.wv.us) are welcomed.

Matching Funding, Allowable Costs, Project Management, and Accounting and Reporting. Matching (funds or in-kind contributions) equal to 50% of the requested funding (a minimum of $5, 000 for a proposal requesting the maximum of $10,000) must be identified on the Budget Form and explained in the Budget Narrative. Any matching funds or in-kind contribution provided by a collaborating organization must be cited in a letter of commitment specific to the Explorations grant proposal from that organization that is included in proposal appendices. No indirect costs may be included in the proposal budget.

Proposals must describe the applying organization's capacity to manage a grant including prior experience with similarly funded grants. A clear management plan with roles and responsibilities and a timeline of project activities must be included. Funding will be provided as a one-time grant to funded programs. Funds expended should relate to program activities. Funds cannot be used to supplant federal, state, or local funds. Funding cannot be use for construction, organization or program audits, or for equipment valued at over $1,000. The proposal's Budget must provide the basis used to calculate costs. The proposal's Budget Narrative must explain how the projected costs are reasonable in relation to the number of youth to be served, activities provided, and benefits that should result. Funds not expended by June 30, 2010 must be returned to the West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network (WVSAN).

Training, Technical Assistance, Site Visits, and Monitoring. Directors of programs selected for funding (grantees) must participate in a one-day grantee meeting in South Charleston during April, 2009. Grantees must agree to and assist with an on-site visit by the Explorations grant program staff of WVSAN that will include a review of program activities, documentation, and financial records. Additional technical assistance from WVSAN will be provided upon request or following site visits and may include e-mail, conference calls, and Webinars. Grantees may be invited to present about their programs at future WVSAN training events or to host a Demonstration Day workshop at their location (separate funding available).

Reporting. Grantees must complete and return a quarterly evaluation form provided by WVSAN staff. In addition to the site visit to each grantee, technical assistance will be provided by phone, e-mail, and/or webinar to grantees. Each grantee must participate in all program evaluation tasks undertaken by WVSAN. A final report on each grantee's project activities must be submitted to WVSAN 30 days following the conclusion of the project (July 31, 2010 or by August 31, 2010 if operating any summer project activities in 2010). WVSAN will provide a copy of the final Explorations program evaluation report to each grantee.

Proposal Narrative Section Requirements

The proposal should include the below-described contents for each of the following sections in the sequence stated below. Maximum points that may be awarded to each section are indicated. The proposal (all sections except Budget pages and Cover Sheet) should comprise 10 or fewer pages (one-sided, 12 point font, one inch margins on all sides). Applicants should review the proposal for alignment across the project goals, activities, organizational and partner capacities, staffing, and evaluation measures.

Cover Page. Complete all sections including the brief project summary.

Project Description (40 points)

Needs Statement.
- What are the needs of youth in your service region (cite data and sources)?
- How might these be reduced through project activities?
- How are these needs currently addressed by others?
- What gaps in service remain?

Goals and Objectives.
- Describe no more than three major goals of the proposed project and include objectives for each.
- How are the goals and objectives aligned with the goals of the Explorations Grant Program (above)?
- What are the performance indicators for each objective?
- How will you know if you have achieved program goals?
- Applicants should ensure that goals, objectives, performance indicators, activities, program capacity, staffing and evaluation are aligned within the proposal and correlated closely to the goals of the Explorations Grant Program.

Students.
- Who will the program serve (grades, ages, numbers, etc.)?
- How will the program build upon the regular school day and year experiences of the students? Name the school system and schools with which your program will work to implement the program. Include letters of commitment from these partners in the proposal appendix.
- Explain how the program will recruit and retain students in program activities.

- Describe methods for documenting student participation in program activities, academic performance, and assistance from mentors or tutors.
- Describe how the program will learn of and address individual student needs. Explain how the program will assist the participation of students with special needs.
- Describe student: teacher or staff member ratios and how students will be grouped (if appropriate) for activities.
- Explain any leadership or mentoring opportunities available to participating youth.

Activities.
- Describe proposed program activities and supports (e.g teachers, mentors, information access--books, computer programs) needed to achieve the proposed goals and objectives. List and explain activities (see Program Activities section above) that the program will implement.
- Explain how the program will collaborate with others to carry out activities or extend activities into the community (e.g. community service and service-learning activities, partner organization activities).
- Describe how youth participants will reflect on their performance in academic and community-service related experiences.
- Explain how the activities proposed are aligned with student needs and interests and how the program involves students in activity planning.
- Include a daily schedule or description of a typical day's activities and choices students may make among activities.
- Describe how accomplishments of students and the program will be recognized and/or celebrated.

Timeline.
- Will the program offer afterschool and/or summer activities?
- Provide and explain the project timeline including recruitment, activities milestones (student performances, project deadlines, internships, etc.), and evaluation. A chart or graphic timeline showing the duration of the project and alignment with goals and funds requested may be included.

Organizational Capacity (30 points)
Project Management and Staffing.
- Name the fiscal agent and describe project management including any shared responsibilities with existing programs.
- Will the program activities require paid staff and/or volunteers? Describe the number and skills of employees and volunteers the program will need, their roles, and recruitment.
- Describe any training for staff and volunteers that is specific to project goals and activities.

- If the program extends service to a new group—middle or high school youth—but employs some staff working in an existing program, how will staff and volunteers be trained and supervised?
- If background checks are needed for employees and volunteers, explain how the program will secure these in a timely manner either before or after recruiting staff.
- Include an organizational chart for the program and fiscal agency.

Facilities, transportation, and food.
- Describe space and equipment facilities of the program and of any partner where student activities may occur as they relate to activities proposed.
- Explain how the selected facilities are conducive to carrying out all activities proposed safely and in ways that enhance learning.
- Explain how students will be transported safely to and from the program if offered afterschool or in the summer.
- Explain how the program will fund and provide a nutritious snack or meal (for programs longer than four hours) to students.

Collaboration.
- Collaboration with a local school attended by youth participating in the program and with at least one partner organization must be described in the proposal.
- Applicants are encouraged to extend activities funded by the grant by working with community-based organizations (Boys and Girls Clubs, Scouts, 4-H Extension Services, Parks and Recreation Departments, YM or YWCAs, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, Senior Centers, local businesses, colleges and universities, faith-based organizations, etc.). Active involvement with the community (i.e. internships, mentoring, youth leadership opportunities, career awareness experiences, community service, etc.) is encouraged. Name the program's collaborators and describe their roles and responsibilities.
- Ensure that this description is aligned with statements in the letters of commitment from each collaborating organization developed for this proposal and included in the appendix.

Evaluation and Performance Measures. (10 points)
- How will the effectiveness of the program be measured?
- Describe how you will evaluate activities, participation rates, attendance, achievement of goals and objectives, student progress or performance, student and parent/guardian perceptions of program quality, and staff/volunteer perceptions of program quality.
- Explain how evaluation measures are appropriate to project activities and participants and aligned with project goals.
- WVSAN staff will provide additional methods of data collection needed for cross-program evaluation reports.
- Program directors and staff are required to prepare for and assist an on-site visit by WVSAN staff.

Sustainability.
- How will activities of the project be continued after grant funding ends?
- Describe any commitments from partners to continue programming and/or in-kind contributions that would extend activities described in the proposal.

Budget and Budget Narrative. (20 points)
- List all sources of funding. Describe the source and value of any in-kind contribution to the project.
- Justify the proposed budget. Explain the cost effectiveness of the project in terms of number of students served and expected results.
- State the cost basis (e.g hourly wage of part-time staff, curriculum materials cost per set, mileage and hourly wage of bus drivers for field trips, etc.) for every expense.
- Travel expenses relating to attending the required one-day training for grantee program directors in South Charleston must be included in the budget.
- Funds not expended by June 30, 2010 must be returned to the West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network (WVSAN).

Further Information
Contact Jane Hange, Director of the WV Statewide Afterschool Network, at Jane.Hange@mail.wvu.edu or phone 304-720-9882 to participate in one or both of the technical assistance conference calls on February 19 (1:00 PM) and February 25 (10 AM). A compilation of Questions and Answers provided during the calls will be sent to the WVSAN listserv and available from Jane. **The deadline for submission of proposals to WVSAN is Tuesday, March 17, 2009. Submission should be made as a Word file attached to an e-mail message addressed to Jane.Hange@mail.wvu.edu. Original letters of commitment from collaborators that cannot be scanned and transmitted with the proposal may be sent with a copy of the cover page (postmarked no later than March 17) to Jane Hange, WVSAN, WVU Extension Service, PO Box 18410, South Charleston, WV 25303. All submissions will be acknowledged by an e-mail message to the key contact person. Thank you.**

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program
Development Grants
Proposal Cover Page

Please type all information.
Project Name _____

Applicant Information
Name of Applicant Organization_____
Organization Director _____
Organization Address_____
City, State, and Zip Code_____
Phone_____ **Fax**_____
Organization's Tax Exempt # (EIN)

_____

Fiscal Agent_____
Address_____
City, State, and Zip Code_____
Phone_____**E-Mail**_____

Project Director/Grant Contact Person _____
Phone_____**E-Mail**_____
Address _____
City, State, and Zip Code_____

Project Partners
Contact Persons and Organizations (including schools or districts served)
_____
_____

Amount Requested _____**Total Project Cost**_____

Beginning and ending dates of project _____

Number and grades of students to be served _____

**Project Abstract (brief summary of the proposed project. If your grant is
selected, this may be used for public relations purposes).**

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program Development Grants

Project Budget Form

Describe how your organization will allocate resources to fund the proposed project. Limit your budget and budget narrative to two pages or less.

Budget

List by budget category your organization's proposed expenses and matching funds or in-kind contributions. Funds must be matched with at least a 1:2 commitment from your organization; i.e. your organization provides a commitment of $1 for every $2 requested. Your organization may not request more than $10,000, and you may not request support for overhead or indirect costs or for construction. Add budget categories if necessary.

Budget Category	Requested	Matching Funds or In-kind Contributions	Total
Personnel			
Training			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Food and Refreshments			
Travel			
Total			

Budget Narrative

Provide a brief description of how you propose to use funds in each category and how you intend to complement the requested funds with a matching contribution. Provide a basis for calculating costs such as personnel (hourly rates or salary basis, plus benefit rates); travel (mileage rates); and other calculated costs.

Personnel	
Training	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Food and Refreshments	
Travel	
Overhead	

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program Development Grants

Proposal Checklist

Project Title_____

Applicant Organization_____

Please use this checklist to ensure that you include the following components in your proposal and attach it behind your cover sheet.

- o **Proposal Cover Page.**
- o **Proposal Checklist.**
- o **Proposal Narrative. (Include all sections in the order discussed above.)**
- o **Project Budget Form.**
- o **Copy of organization's IRS 501 (c) (3) non-profit determination letter or documentation of tax-exempt status (not required for governmental agencies).**
- o **Assurances Page signed by applicant organization's executive director.**
- o **Appendix—Letters from directors of partner organizations and principals or superintendents of participating schools or school systems written for this proposal that detail the specific involvement of their organizations or schools in the proposed project and/or describing any monetary or in-kind contributions to the proposed project. No other appendices will be read by reviewers.**

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program Development Grants

Assurances Page

Project Name_____

Applicant Organization_____

The applicant hereby declares understanding, agreement and certification of compliance to carry out the activities described within the budget specified during the project period. The applicant's signature below indicates assurance that grant funds will be expended for purposes named and evaluation and reporting requirements will be completed by project personnel and/or the applicant organization.

Signature Required

Superintendent or Executive Director of Applicant Organization—Printed Name
_____

Authorized Signature _____

Date_____

Mailing Address_____

E-Mail Address_____

Phone_____ **Fax**_____

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program
Development Grants

Criteria for Evaluating Explorations Grant Proposals

1) Goals and objectives focused on improving academic achievement and fostering positive youth development outcomes for middle school and/or high school youth.

2) Documented organizational capacity in successful operation of afterschool programs including activities for students found to be effective by research and sound fiscal accounting and reporting experience.

3) Commitment to community partnerships with planned collaboration activities with and for participating youth described in narrative and in attached letters from partner organizations.

4) Activities for recruiting and retaining in program a minimum of 20 middle and high school students described in narrative along with a project management plan and timeline.

5) Budget and budget narrative requesting no more than $10,000 and describing a minimum of 50% matching funds or in-kind contributions dedicated to the project.

6) Commitment to assist with one grantee site visit and to participate (project director and one staff member) in one meeting of Explorations grantees in Charleston (roundtrip mileage reimbursed through grant funds for one car to one-day meeting)

7) Description of plans for sustainability of project activities beyond grant funding

8) Agreement to participate in project evaluation activities.

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program Development Grants

Sample Grant Letter of Agreement (provided to funded projects)

The West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network of WVU Extension Services, through the West Virginia University Foundation Inc., is providing your organization ("recipient organization") with a grant as part of the "Explorations" program. This grant will be used to support the implementation of a local afterschool and/or summer program in the recipient organization's community. This grant is possible as a result of a contribution from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation to the WVU Foundation on behalf of WVU Extension Services.

Recipient Organization: NAME OF RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION

Amount: $

Project Start Date:

Project Director Name:

Project Director Title:

Project Director Address:

Project Director Phone:

Project Director Fax:

Project Director Email:

Project Administration: The Director of the WV Statewide Afterschool Network, Jane Hange, Ph.D., will direct the "Explorations" program and oversee the implementation of all grants. The overall goal of the "Explorations" program is to foster the development by afterschool and summer program providers of new programming specifically targeted to meeting the needs of middle and high school students in the afterschool hours and during school vacation periods.

The recipient organization is responsible for the execution of the project as described in the recipient organization's proposal to the WV Statewide Afterschool Network. Please direct questions about the WV Statewide Afterschool Network and the "Explorations" program to Dr. Hange.

Project Length: The recipient organization must complete the funded project and provide the required follow-up report within the project period listed in this Letter of Agreement.

Grantee Tax Status: The recipient organization represents that it is currently a tax-exempt organization as described in the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Funds: The recipient organization will directly administer the project or program being supported by the grant and agree that no grant funds shall be used in any way other than as specifically set forth in this Letter of Agreement and the final proposal, budget, and related documents submitted to the West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network. The recipient organization promptly shall repay any portion of the grant which for any reason is not used exclusively for the purposes of the grant.

Payment: Payment will be made to the recipient organization upon receipt of the Letter of Agreement signed by all parties.

Reporting: The recipient organization will provide a financial report and narrative report about the activities the recipient organization conducted with grant funds. Reporting guidelines will be provided at the grantee training in April. Please submit all reports to:

> Jane Hange, Ph.D., Director
> WV Statewide Afterschool Network
> WVU Extension Service
> PO Box 18410
> 3200-3300 Kanawha Turnpike, Building 740
> South Charleston, WV 25303

The WVU Foundation on behalf of WVU Extension Services is responsible for providing the Benedum Foundation with timely reports about the "Explorations" program, including a complete financial report that shows all spending directly from the Benedum Foundation's grant.

The director of the WV Statewide Afterschool Network is responsible for writing the narrative reports for the Benedum Foundation and for compiling reports from recipient organizations. The director will provide the reports to the WVU Foundation at least one week before they are due to the Benedum Foundation.

Recipient organizations must provide complete and accurate report materials on time to the WV Statewide Afterschool Network.

Changed Circumstances: The recipient organization shall promptly notify the WV Statewide Afterschool Network in writing if there is any change in circumstances that might affect the recipient organization's ability to carry out the grant.

NAME OF RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR	Date
RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION NAME	

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network	Date
Jane Hange, Director	

WVU Foundation	Date
R. Wayne King, President and CEO	

West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Explorations: Middle School and High School Afterschool Program Development Grants

Afterschool Program Resources

Afterschool Alliance—www.afterschoolalliance.org
Overview
The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs and advocating for quality, affordable programs for all children. The Web site contains and links with numerous resources on communications, marketing, Lights On Afterschool, and findings from recent research.

Promising Practices in Afterschool—www.afterschool.org
Overview
The Promising Practices in Afterschool (or "PPAS") System is an effort to find and share things that are working in afterschool programs. The PPAS website contains information useful in programs—curriculum and promising practices from programs around the country and a listserv and discussion board through which program staff can talk with other afterschool staff (digest available). The Academy for Educational Development (AED) Center for Youth Development and Policy Research maintains all components of PPAS.

Afterschool.gov—www.afterschool.gov
Overview
Afterschool.gov is a website connecting the public, and particularly afterschool providers, to federal resources that support children and youth during out-of-school time. The range of links includes issues that face America's youth and information about starting and operating an afterschool program. Resources from a variety of federal agencies including a searchable database of federal funding sources are accessible. The Afterschool Investments Project, a contract with the Finance Project and the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices maintains the site.

Child Trends—www.childtrends.org
Overview
Child Trends is an independent, nonpartisan research center focused on children. The goal of the center is to be an indispensable resource for improving children's lives through research, policy insights, program guidance, and information on emerging trends and issues. Formats include fact sheets, research briefs, best practice descriptions, and active evaluation and technical assistance to research projects.

A Resource Guide for Planning and Operating Afterschool Programs, 3rd Edition. Janet Hall Bagby. 2008. (Austin, TX: SEDL) Available online as a searchable database at www.sedl.org/pubs/fam95/

Afterschool Curriculum Databases.
www.sedl.org/afterschool/resources/curriculum.html

Afterschool Training Toolkit. www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits

Children, Youth and Family Consortium. www.cyfc.umn.edu

Corporation for National and Community Service. www.nationalservice.org

Educational Resources Information Center Clearinghouse. www.eric.ed.gov

Federal Resources for Educational Excellence. www.free.ed.gov

The Finance Project. www.financeproject.org

Forum for Youth Investment. www.forumfyi.org

The Harvard Family Research Project. www.hfrp.org

Learning Point Associates. www.learningpt.org/afterschool/hqactivities

The Mott Foundation. www.mott.org

The National 4-H Council. www.fourhcouncil.edu

National Afterschool Association. www.naa.org

National Child Care Information Center. http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov

National Clearinghouse on Families and Youth.
http://ncfy.acf.hhs.gov/publications/nationalclearinghouseonfandyfs.htm

National Institute on Out-of-School Time. www.niost.org

One on One: The National Mentoring Partnership. www.mentoring.org

The Out-of-School Time Learning and Development Project. www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time

Partnership for Reading. www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading

Resources on Afterschool. Collaborative Communications Group.
www.afterschoolresources.org

Search Institute. www.search-institute.org

21st Century Community Learning Centers. www.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc

The Wallace Foundation.
http://www.wallacefoundation.org/GrantsPrograms/FocusAreasPrograms/Out-Of-SchoolLearning/Pages/default.aspx

13 Indicators for a Quality Afterschool Program

The National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning conducts research on best practices for afterschool programming. The research uses a multi-method approach to data collection and analysis, including staff and parent surveys, in-depth interviews with program directors, site coordinators, principals, and instructors, and direct observation of classroom instruction. The National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST), one of seven partners in the Partnership, found three broad themes from this research: goals and evaluation, curricular quality, and program environment, and 13 indicators for quality afterschool programs.

- Establishing clear goals for content-area practice
- Assigning research-based activities to achieve goals
- Aligning content materials with state standards
- Developing links between content and school day activities
- Using research-based curriculum and teaching strategies
- Providing a positive program environment
- Employing motivational strategies to engage students in learning
- Promoting student engagement (e.g., encouraging meaningful experiences)
- Providing effective program management, support, and resources (e.g., staff-student ratio, staff educational experience, ongoing evaluation)
- Providing opportunities for student practice
- Assessing program effectiveness periodically
- Reviewing student progress periodically
- Resetting goals according to assessment results

National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning (headquartered at SEDL)
Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL)
National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST)
Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)
Northwest Regional Education Laboratory (NWREL)
SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
WGBH Educational Foundation
U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education