



NEBRASKA
Community Learning
Center Network

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E-Blast
www.NebraskaCLCNetwork.org

Growing successful students, engaged families, stronger communities

Proposed Budget Cuts Could Affect Funding to Afterschool Programming

A recent article in the Omaha World Herald ("[After School Program in Peril](#)") reported that while afterschool programs were showing much promise in Nebraska communities stretching from Omaha to North Platte, the federal funding that has supported some of this programming, the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant program, had been identified in President Bush's most recent budget for some major cuts and changes. While this is still VERY early in the federal funding cycle and these cuts and changes are far from assured, this story reminded us of the importance of developing diverse funding sources to help build long term support for important afterschool and summer school programs that meet important community needs.

In this issue of the Network newsletter, we will return to that familiar issue of sustainability by providing links to some resources and funding opportunities that I hope will prove to be helpful to you as you build sustainable initiatives in your community.

Grant Opportunities

Full Service Community Schools

While the President's budget suggested his desire for reductions and changes in the 21st Century program, several other US Department of Education grant opportunities show Congress's growing recognition of the importance of afterschool and full service school programs. For example, under the Full Service Community Schools grant program, almost \$5 million in seed funding is available to support full service community school demonstration projects in a limited number of communities across the nation.

The purpose of the grant is to encourage coordination of educational, developmental, family, health and other services through partnerships between (1) public elementary and secondary schools and (2) community-based organizations and public or private entities.

Funding for this project comes from the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Education. No match is required. 8 awards are available from a total of \$4,912,650, with a maximum amount of \$500k per award. Eligibility is open to a local educational

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Professional Expertise Available Online

The Finance Project (TFP) is an independent nonprofit research, consulting, technical assistance, and training firm for public and private sector leaders nationwide. It specializes in helping leaders plan and implement financing and sustainability strategies for initiatives that benefit children, families and communities.

As such, TFP has a wealth of information you can use to help you plan for, locate and secure resources to help build and sustain afterschool programs. The Network anticipates working with TFP over the

upcoming months to develop a section of our website with some specialized material that can help you think through developing sustainability plans for your initiatives.

In the meantime, we encourage you to visit their excellent web site and explore the available resources. For example, for those of you operating programs in rural settings, you might find the January 2008 downloadable booklet **Financing and Sustaining Out-of-School Time Programs in Rural Communities** useful, as it contains a comprehensive an up to date overview of funding sources and strategies to support programs in rural communities.

Partnership Outreach

One of the most important lessons in developing program sustainability is ensuring that your initiative rests on a firm foundation of diverse partnerships. To that end, we look forward to working with you to ensure a growing number of high quality, sustainable programs across the state. The Network was created, in part, to help develop the partnerships necessary to ensure that Nebraska communities develop strong, high quality, sustainable after-school initiatives that serve the needs of their children, families and communities.

During the next several months, we will be focusing our attention on expanding our list of partner organizations and working to find meaningful roles for engaging diverse organizations from across the state in our work. We need you to let us know your interests and ask that you visit our new (and still being developed) web site and take a few minutes to fill out the [Nebraska Community Learning Center Network Partner Form](#) showing us your interest.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to partner and your commitment to the children, families and communities of our state.

Feedback

Again, please send us updated partnership forms as well as any other feedback that you have on issues related to afterschool to:

jcole@nebraskachildren.org

The Nebraska Community Learning Center Network is coordinated by

www.NebraskaChildren.org

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agency and one or more community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, or other public or private entities.

You can find more information on this exciting program by visiting the [Full-Service Community Schools Program page at Grants.gov](#), which provides the grant synopsis, full announcement and a downloadable application. **An intent to apply letter is due on March 17, with full applications to follow by April 15.**

Carol M. White Physical Education Program

In recognition of the growing understanding of the importance of exercise to academic performance, the Department of Education is funding afterschool programs through the Carol M. White Physical Education (PEP) Program.

Funding for this initiative comes from the Department's Fund for the Improvement of Education. 112 awards will be made from a \$33.85m total. Award amounts average \$300k with a maximum award amount of \$500k. A match is required. Eligible applicants include local education agencies and community-based organizations that do not currently have a grant under the PEP program. [Click here to view the full announcement for the PEP Program grant in the Federal Register \(2/15/08\).](#)

The purpose of the program is to provide grants to local educational agencies and community-based organizations to initiate, expand or enhance PE programs, including after-school programs, for students K-12. Recipients must implement programs that help students make progress toward meeting State standards. Funded physical education programs must meet both this absolute priority and one of the other priorities listed on the website, which include:

- Fitness education and assessment
- Instruction in a variety of physical activities
- Opportunities to develop positive social and cooperative skills through participation in physical activity
- Instruction in healthy eating habits and good nutrition
- Opportunities for professional development

You can learn more about the impact of physical activity on academic performance from ["Mounting Evidence Suggests Link Between P.E., Educational Achievement"](#) posted on the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation website](#).