



10 Reasons for CBOs to Provide After-School Programs

Community-based organizations (CBOs) have a long history of providing California's youth with safe places to go when school is out. Now, with the recent increase in public funding for after-school programs in California, CBOs have a tremendous opportunity to expand that commitment. Thanks to the triggering of Prop. 49, the state's After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program now has \$550 million to offer. California also receives more than \$100 million in federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding each year. Both funding streams place an emphasis on community partnerships, creating an avenue for CBOs and schools to work together to provide youth with a safe, enriching place to go after school. Below are a few reasons why community-based organizations should team up with schools to provide after-school programs.

1. Community involvement is essential to program success. The structure of ASES in particular, with its required 33 percent local matching contribution and collaborative planning process, underscores the need for community involvement.
2. California has designated a portion of its 21st CCLC funds to be used for providing programs to high school students, giving schools and CBOs an opening to reach out to a group of students that is often overlooked when it comes to after-school.
3. Many CBOs have a mission or mandate to work with youth but can't offer school-day programming. After-school, however, is where the kids are.
4. After-school programs are an opportunity for CBOs to build their capacity to deliver youth-focused programming and services and connect with their target populations (e.g. school-age, under-served populations, parents and families).
5. Even if CBOs are not part of a school's application, they can subcontract to provide staff or programming for school-based programs. Some school districts may even prefer to subcontract the entire program, including staffing, to a CBO that has extensive experience providing after-school programs and is known in the community.
6. CBOs don't have to run an after-school program to be involved. Programs often need short-term or one-time programming, such as a once-a-week art class. After-school programs also value a number of in-kind resources from partners, including staff and volunteers, materials, curricula, facilities or special events and field trips.
7. Public dollars dedicated to after-school programs will provide sustainable funding. As long as public support for after-school programs remains strong, so will public funding.
8. CBOs can help get new programs started fast. With their inherent flexibility, CBOs are in the best position to help new programs get off the ground and running quickly by contributing matching funds and finding and training staff.
9. These publicly funded programs don't have to be school-based. As long as safe transportation is provided, community-based organizations can house programs in their own facilities.
10. Schools and CBOs need each other. Once a school gets a grant, it will need curriculum, activities, staff and more. A CBO, on the other hand, might have staff and programming ready but lack either funds or access to students.