

# ABOUT THE IOWA AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE



## OUR VISION

All Iowa children, youth, and families will have access to quality out-of-school time opportunities in their community.

## OUR MISSION

Develop strong statewide systems of support for high-quality, affordable, and accessible before school, after school, and summer programs.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- » High-quality out-of-school time (OST), or afterschool, programs promote academic success and social and emotional well-being through positive relationships, linkage to the school day, and parent engagement, among other strategies.
- » High-quality programs utilize diverse and mutually beneficial public-private partnerships.
- » High-quality programs tailor instruction and enrichment to make the greatest impact on youth with different learning styles and interests.
- » High-quality programs offer engaging, youth-driven and youth-led programming that inspires children and youth to learn and inquire.

## HOW WE SEEK TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMMING

**Policy and Partnerships – Develop policies and partnerships that build capacity at the state and local levels for high-quality out-of-school time programming.**

- » Monitor federal and state legislation and track bills of interest to the afterschool field
- » Host a legislative day at the Iowa Capitol annually
- » Connect advocates and policymakers
- » Develop and advocate for policies that increase access to high quality afterschool programming

**Practice Support – Connect local providers with the resources and tools necessary to provide high-quality out-of-school time programming.**

- » Showcase models of high-quality afterschool and summer programming
- » Encourage replication of models statewide
- » Support resource and best practice sharing among a statewide network of federal afterschool grantees
- » Coordinate activities of two enrichment coaches in Central Iowa
- » Disseminate a monthly e-newsletter with resources and news to a network of over 900 providers and advocates of high-quality afterschool programming

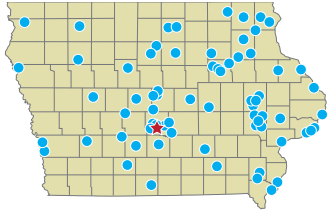
**Outreach and Engagement – Communicate critical data on the need and impact of out-of-school time programming to the public, partners, and other vital stakeholders.**

- » Identify and engage key partners in support of high-quality afterschool programming
- » Develop communication materials
- » Disseminate critical messaging around the importance and impact of afterschool and summer programming

## NETWORK COORDINATION AND FUNDING

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance is a member of the National Network of Statewide Afterschool Networks funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation. The Mott Foundation provides core operational support for the Iowa Afterschool Alliance. The Chrysalis Foundation serves as the IAA's fiscal sponsor and has remained a critical partner since the organization's inception in 2003. Several other funders provide programmatic support to the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, primarily the Iowa Department of Education, STEMNext, and United Way of Central Iowa. The IAA is staffed by a team from State Public Policy Group of West Des Moines, Iowa.

## MAJOR INITIATIVES



### Iowa Afterschool Opportunities Directory

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance has invested in a web-based tool to collect data on afterschool programs across the state. As use of the tool grows, the information provided by the directory will be a critical resource for parents, providers, program funders, policy makers, and community partners. A searchable map is accessible at <http://iowaafterschoolalliance.org/afterschool-programs/>. Program providers create a profile and follow three easy steps to have their program listed on the map and included in aggregate statewide data on afterschool in Iowa.



### Iowa 21st Century Community Learning Centers Network

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance coordinates resource and best practices sharing among a network of 21 federal grantees operating over 70 sites statewide. Services provided to the network under contract with the Iowa Department of Education include maintenance of a wiki site (<http://iowa21cclc.wikispaces.com>), annual site visits to grantees, identification and sharing of best practices among grantees, coordination of grantee committees, and the coordination of an annual conference.



### Informal STEM Systems Building

Through a partnership with STEMNext, the Iowa Afterschool Alliance is working to expand the number of high-quality informal STEM learning opportunities available to Iowa's children, youth, and families by investing in informal educator professional development and a certified Dimensions of Success (<http://www.pearweb.org/tools/dos.html>) observer network. In 2015, 272 staff and volunteers were trained on quality STEM, showing a 71% improvement in program quality after the training.



### Central Iowa Out-of-School Time Initiative

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance coordinates the work of two enrichment coaches supporting quality improvement efforts at 13 programs in Central Iowa serving nearly 6,000 children and youth. In addition, a group of over 40 Central Iowa OST programs convenes quarterly as a network to share resources and best practices. Among participating sites, program quality has improve steadily over the three years of the project.

**Iowa Afterschool Alliance**  
2910 Westtown Parkway, STE 302  
West Des Moines, IA 50266  
515-243-2000  
[www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org](http://www.iowaafterschoolalliance.org)  
[mrich@sppg.com](mailto:mrich@sppg.com)