

Children, Families, and Communities Program

After-school and Summer Enrichment Strategy Brief

The Children, Families, and Communities Program strives to ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our grantmaking strategies address two interrelated and fundamental needs that must be met for children to thrive: health and education. For our most vulnerable children, it is important that they maintain gains once they transition from early learning settings to formal school. Learning opportunities, both in and outside of the classroom, become critical so they do not fall behind or suffer the devastating effects of summer learning loss. Quality after-school and summer learning opportunities help young people expand their horizons, improve their literacy skills, develop self-confidence, and increase their overall well-being.

The Challenge

For some children, time spent after school or during the summers allow for them to engage in many activities that enrich and enhance their formal education. However, for many low-income children, these out-of-school moments end up resulting in learning setbacks, not gains. Research shows that children who lack access to enriching activities typically suffer learning loss over the summer months and face a number of behavioral risks.

In addition, in 2007 California voters approved a measure to provide greater support for after-school programs in the majority of California's 6,500 elementary and middle schools located in predominantly low-income neighborhoods. Many of these programs need implementation support as they moved from the start-up phase into more established, durable systems.

Our Strategy

Our after-school and summer enrichment work initially sought to strengthen California's commitment to publicly funded after-school programs. In 2008, we expanded the strategy so that our work focused on all children and youth having access to high-quality after-school and summer learning opportunities that support their year-round development and well-being.

The after-school and summer enrichment strategy seeks to ensure that after-school and summer learning opportunities are fully integrated in to the education system because they play a crucial role in reducing the opportunity and achievement gaps for low-income students. Our vision is that summer learning, a key opportunity for children, becomes the norm for California families.

Our Approach

From 2007–2010, CFC's after-school strategy focused on expanding after-school programs in California by capitalizing on increased public support for these programs in low-income neighborhoods. In 2009, given the mounting evidence about summer learning loss, CFC modified its approach to include the development of summer enrichment programs. These programs were built on the state's existing after-school platform, with the aim of creating accessible, publicly-funded, high-quality summer learning opportunities for low-income students tied to what students are learning during the school day.

Select California communities receive funding to develop and implement quality summer programs

and to serve as showrooms for other practitioners across the state. Each program implements a continuous improvement process with regular assessments of quality followed by robust technical assistance. Programs are also engaged in planning for ongoing sustainability so that when the Foundation's investment ends in 2016, they will have the capacity to maximize available state, federal, and local resources so that they can keep they can continue to offer expanded learning opportunities to generations of children.

Where We Work

We concentrate most of our resources for the After-School and summer enrichment strategies in California. We fund organizations that help to build best practices in the field and cultivate education leader support for summer learning. We also fund a select number of organizations that seek to improve the systems and policies that undergird after-school and summer enrichment programs at the local, state, and federal levels, as appropriate.

Goals

Our work in after-school and summer will ensure that:

- Effective systems are in place to support after-school and summer programs in continuous quality improvement.
- After-school and summer learning leaders and providers increasingly agree on the definition of

quality summer learning programming and more programs begin to use those measures of quality.

- Strategies are developed that leverage resources to sustain after-school programs and grow summer programs.
- After-school and summer enrichment programs are integral to a system of high-quality learning in California and thereby help to narrow the achievement gap.

What We Don't Fund

The Foundation does not fund projects that influence specific legislation or ballot measures. We also do not fund direct service programs (i.e., individual after-school or summer programs) or research unrelated to specific needs identified by program staff in consultation with grantees in the field.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is a private foundation. We accept grant proposals only for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes, primarily from tax-exempt, charitable organizations. We do not provide funding for projects that benefit specific individuals or that serve religious purposes.

To Learn More

We encourage you to carefully review the guidelines and geographic limitations for your area of interest. To find information about current and previous grants, visit our [Grant Database](#).