

A COMPREHENSIVE, CITYWIDE STRATEGY FOR OUT OF SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

How children and youth spend the time when they are not in school has a significant impact on their academic performance and social development. The Fenty Administration is committed to ensuring that formal Out of School Time (OST) programs provide quality programs that are interesting to their participants while maximizing coordination and minimizing duplication among the many community-based providers.

The Administration's commitments, priorities, and strategies outlined in this document are the result of a collaborative process involving over 350 OST programs, 18 District agencies, national organizations, and other professionals in the field. Over 150 different community-based organizations offering 358 distinct OST programs responded to a survey developed by the Administration, providing information critical to an assessment of the current state of OST programs in the District and where there are deficiencies that need to be addressed to better serve District children, youth, and families.

The Administration's comprehensive, citywide strategy for OST programs requires broadly addressing existing gaps while taking necessary steps to move forward and achieve our goals for a strong network of quality OST programs throughout the District for our children and youth. Existing gaps will be addressed by:

1) Increasing coordination to minimize duplication and support standardization

Given the extensive network of providers and government agencies, there is some overlap of OST programs and services, particularly around funding priorities and program placement. Additionally, mechanisms to ensure quality, such as standardized program monitoring and evaluation tools currently do not exist. The lack of coordination in these areas diminishes the benefit available to the District's children and youth.

Action Steps:

- Hold quarterly funders meetings (with government agencies and non-government foundations) to decrease duplication and increase coordination. First meeting will occur spring 2007.

2) Addressing Transportation Barriers

As part of its preparation for the Project My Time grant submission to The Wallace Foundation in fall 2006, the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC) discovered that 27 percent of youth mentioned transportation issues as a barrier to involvement in OST programs. Of the OST programs that responded to the Administration's survey, only 20 percent of programs provide youth with daily transportation.

Action Steps:

- Work with government agencies, local funders, and providers to align OST program placement to offerings that are desired by parents and participants.
- Coordinate program locations and program placement to reduce the need for dependence on transportation.
- Maintain and publicize current efforts to reduce the transportation expense barrier.

3) Educating Providers about Legal Requirements

Many OST providers are unaware of the federal and District laws that impact their operation, such as the Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Amendment Act of 2004. To better inform programs of current laws, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education will develop and distribute a resource which discusses various laws that impact organizations that provide OST services.

Action Steps:

- Develop a guide book or publication which highlights the legal laws that impact programs, by fall 2007.

4) Raising Awareness of OST Programs

While many families participate in OST programs when their children are in the primary school grades, few enroll their middle or high school age children in OST programs. Through the Project My Time Initiative, CYITC is raising the awareness about the number of OST programs for youth at all ages. The Administration will support current outreach and programming efforts already underway as a means of raising awareness about the importance of OST programming for all ages.

Action Steps:

- Participate in national and local media events that highlight the importance of OST programs for students of all ages, including the Project My Time Initiative.

Moving Forward

Category	Goal	Status	Mayoral Action	Timeline
Determining the Need	The Administration attains a broad view of the program locations and offerings across the District of Columbia.	18 government agencies and over 350 former and current out-of-school time (OST) programs were provided a survey. Findings demonstrate that there are numerous offerings for children in primary grades, but the number of OST offerings decreases significantly for middle and high school students.	Survey conducted.	Completed
	Parents and youth provide input about needs for programs, desire for programs, and current program offerings.	Many funders have conducted some initial focus groups with parents and youth. CYITC is planning to conduct a youth mapping project this summer and to convene additional focus groups.	Support current efforts.	Summer 2007
Funding	Funding sources are diverse and are adequate for programs and infrastructure.	Multiple government sources support OST programs; requested supplementary information from area foundations.	Convene government and non-government funders to address duplication and increase coordination.	Spring 2007

Category	Goal	Status	Mayoral Action	Timeline
Coordination	OST program location is aligned with youth participation and variety of offerings.	Only a portion of programs are aligned with children and youth needs. Some efforts are underway to address this issue; agencies need to be in concert about these efforts.	Quarterly meetings of government and non-government OST funders.	Spring 2007
	Program providers have opportunities to meet with and receive support from program funders.	Each agency that funds OST programs holds distinct networking opportunities for its grantees.	Convene OST funders.	Spring 2007
Federal Mandates	OST providers are knowledgeable about local and federal mandates relating to children's health and safety.	No centralized location to provide information on the issue.	Develop a guide that addresses questions about federal and District laws impacting OST programs.	Fall 2007
Public Awareness	Caregivers and other interested parties are aware of the breadth of OST programs.	CYITC is developing a communications strategy for all OST programs.	Support current efforts.	October 2007
Infrastructure	OST programs have adequate, appropriate space in which to serve children and youth.	CYITC is working with DCPS to develop a standardized school usage manual. Similar manuals need to be developed for all public facilities.	Support current efforts.	December 2007
	Children and youth are able to access the OST programs of their choice free from transportation-related barriers.	27% of youth indicated transportation was a barrier to enrollment.	OST program placement in convenient locations; increase awareness of low-cost public transportation options.	December 2007

Category	Goal	Status	Mayoral Action	Timeline
Quality Issues	Uniform quality standards are implemented in OST programs District-wide.	Efforts are underway to update DC OST standards and accredit OST programs based upon the standards established by the National Afterschool Alliance.	Support current efforts.	December 2007
	Youth workers, organizations, and leaders have access to professional development opportunities to enhance the benefit they provide to children and youth.	Recent report by CYITC identified a higher educated OST workforce compared to the national average. CYITC and MACECD working on building skills of this workforce.	Support current efforts.	December 2007
	Program activities are intentionally aligned to school-based curricula and content standards.	Small efforts are underway to increase OST providers understanding of school content and curriculum.	Develop strategies with OST funders to increase alignment through quarterly meetings.	Fall 2007
	OST programs are monitored and evaluated to ensure compliance with quality standards and provision of consistently high quality services.	Each funding agency has developed its own program monitoring tool and evaluation of effectiveness.	Support the development of a centralized evaluation and monitoring tool.	Fall 2007