

Vermont Afterschool for All Program

JANUARY 25, 2021

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CDD POLICY DIRECTOR



Legislative purpose

FUNDING: Tobacco Settlement Spring, 2018

Opioid Prevention Council Guidance: “Focus on prevention, treatment, recovery and enforcement.”

“Afterschool for All”: increase access to quality afterschool and summer learning programs, especially for low-income children, youth and families and in underserved areas of the state.

Funding Priorities

- Increase access for low-income children and youth;
- Create or expand options in underserved areas of the state;
- Serve adolescents and teenagers; and/or
- Foster skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Implementation

CDD award to Vermont Afterschool to administer a grant program.

Applicants:

- New afterschool and summer learning programs to be created in areas where few or no services currently existed
- Existing afterschool and summer learning programs to increase access for low income children and youth

Grant Competition

- Grant Oversight Committee
- 2-part process:
 - Letter of Interest
 - Invitation to apply/Full proposals
- Of 100 Letters of Interest, 15 were invited to apply and 12 programs were funded.
- 2 year awards

Grant Oversight Committee

- Barb Russ, member of the ELO Working Group and former afterschool director
- Carolyn Weir, Vermont Community Foundation
- Cass Mabbott, Department of Libraries
- Katie Mobley, Community College of Vermont, member of the ELO Working Group
- Holly Morehouse, Vermont Afterschool, member of the ELO Working Group
- Katy Davis, Hunger Free Vermont
- Lynne Robbins, Child Development Division, Department for Children and Families
- Sara Chesbrough, Maternal and Child Health, Department of Health
- Rich Tulikangas, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Programs Funded

- ▶ Addison Northwest School District
- ▶ Albany Community School
- ▶ Bennington Center for Restorative Justice
- ▶ Brookfield Elementary School
- ▶ Franklin Northeast SU LEAPS
- ▶ Friends for Change Youth Group of Bellows Falls
- ▶ Kingdom East Afterschool
- ▶ Meeting Waters YMCA
- ▶ Twinfield Union School
- ▶ Two Rivers SU
- ▶ Upper Valley Haven
- ▶ Winooski School District

Program Supports and Tracking

- Quality Coaches
- Programs submit quarterly reports documenting outcomes and spending

Expanding Access

- 5 new programs created where no programs existed before
- 7 existing programs received enhancement grants in order to expand access in different ways
- Over 1200 additional children and youth served so far
- Second Round awarded in Dec 2020

Lessons Learned

- Meeting the needs of working families requires a responsive system and flexible options
- Wide variety of types of organizations stepped forward to run programs
- Importance of an inclusive and transparent process
- Coaching and staff training are essential in supporting quality

The Bigger Picture...

A systemic approach is most successful when it:

- Is multifaceted, responding to a range of needs and interests
- Is trauma informed, support social and emotional wellbeing
- Includes mechanisms for a variety of voices to be heard
- Has opportunities for meaningful youth engagement
- Is accessible
- Focuses on building resilient factors and thriving communities