

## Collaborating & Partnering for Better Youth Outcomes March 2010

**The Article:** "Building Community Partnerships: Tips for Out-of-School Time Programs"

**Where It's From:** Child Trends

**The Findings:** This research brief discusses ways in which community involvement can be important for out-of-school time programs and describes how programs can begin to identify valuable community resources and develop strategies for leveraging community support.

**Some Specifics:** The following are strategies that programs can use to leverage community resources:

- **Utilize Businesses:** Look to businesses for monetary donations, gifts of supplies, and the use of free spaces. Make partnerships public in order to attract other businesses. Businesses may also be able to assist through volunteer programs, mentoring, or apprenticeships.
- **Utilize Colleges and Universities:** Contact your local college or university's civic engagement or public service office and ask about having your program listed as a public service opportunity. Make students aware of how your program benefits youth, as well as how volunteering with your program will benefit them.
- **Utilize Other Youth Service Providers in the Community:** Share information about your program with other youth service providers and learn about their programs. Refer your program participants to other qualified programs that meet their interests and needs, and ask other youth service providers to refer interested youth to your program.
- **Utilize Elementary and Secondary Schools:** Ask teachers, guidance counselors, and school psychologists to refer students. Work with teachers to develop complementary programs and to support the needs of individual students. Respectfully take advantage of school resources, such as classrooms and computers.
- **Utilize Parents and Other Adults:** Communicate frequently with parents and other adults, both formally and informally. Encourage their participation through incentives such as shared meals, transportation, and opportunities for leadership. Offer a wide variety of ways for parents and other adults to share their skills and abilities.

**Read the Full Article:** [www.childtrends.org/Files/Child\\_Trends-2008\\_03\\_12\\_PI\\_CommunityPartner.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2008_03_12_PI_CommunityPartner.pdf)

**The Article:** "Strengthening Partnerships and Building Public Will for Out-of-School Time Programs"

**Where It's From:** The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (funded by the Wallace Foundation)

**The Findings:** The out-of-school time hours also represent a genuine opportunity for municipal leaders — the opportunity to rally the entire community around keeping children & youth safe and engaged, while also helping to advance city priorities.

**Some Specifics:** This guide highlights three key strategies that mayors and other city leaders can use to promote partnerships and build public will in support of out-of-school time programs:

- Engage and involve a broad set of partners to take full advantage of community resources;
- Keep out-of-school time on the public agenda; and
- Lead efforts by city, school and community leaders to establish a common set of outcomes and a shared vision for out-of-school time.

**Read the Full Article:**

[www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/CurrentAreasofFocus/Out-Of-SchoolLearning/Documents/strengthening-partnerships-building-public-will-for-out-of-school-time-programs.pdf](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/KnowledgeCenter/KnowledgeTopics/CurrentAreasofFocus/Out-Of-SchoolLearning/Documents/strengthening-partnerships-building-public-will-for-out-of-school-time-programs.pdf)