

Policy Key Actions and Products

Policy Work Group Commitment:

We are committed to developing a financing plan that expands funding over several years to expand programs and enhance the quality of currently available programs. We are agreed that funding must come from a variety of sources, including public and private sources and parental fees.

Policy Key Actions:

- Interview programs to understand financial needs that support direct service provision (i.e. funding for capacity building)
- Determine targets for incrementally expanding funding for programs
- Select target figure or range of costs to run quality programs
- Research innovative strategies for meeting public financial commitment
- Develop multi-year plan for expanding programs
- Share examples among programs of creative funding solutions
- Engage business in understanding importance of out-of-school-time
- Educate foundations on importance of out-of-school-time and the resources needed for quality programming

Policy Products

- Resource map for providers
- List of sources for non-traditional public funding
- Finance plan developed

Steps for the Next Six Months

- look at California as a case study for developing a financing plan
- identify first steps need to achieve finance plan so advocacy agenda items are ready for the General Assembly session in January
- develop a concrete plan for determining the financing plane
- develop a more detailed map of funding streams, resources and demographic needs

Funding Outcomes

- Increase in federal dollars to Illinois for out-of-school-time
- Increase state dollars to out-of-school-time
- Increase in private dollars (foundation and corporate) to out-of-school-time (supporting both service provision and system building)

Outcomes Key Actions and Products

Outcomes Work Group Commitment:

We will select outcome measures as a state that we agree all out-of-school-time programs will meet. We will select measures that reflect the four possible goals of out-of-school-time work.

The four goals: Out-of-school-time programs should provide a safe and positive environment that allows children and youth to participate in rewarding activities; improve academic performance; develop positive relationships with peers and adults and gain self-confidence.

Outcomes Key Actions:

- Examine full array of outcomes currently required by public and private funding sources
- Assess current technical assistance provided around outcomes and evaluation
- Identify common outcomes for programs to attain
- Identify the proficiencies communities want to achieve

Outcomes Products

- Consistent outcome measures across programs developed
- Assessment of costs of reaching outcome measures (factored into financing plan)
- Develop guide of examples of different methods to reach outcomes
- Create a list of technical support needed to achieve the recommendations for outcomes

Steps for the Next Six Months

- Intra-agency groups have met and discussed common outcomes
- outcomes related to all publicly-funded out-of-school-time programs or strategies have been collected (i.e. subsidized child care, TeenREACH, 21st CCLC)

Capacity Building Key Actions and Products

Capacity Building Work Group Commitment:

We are committed to giving providers the tools they need to have quality programs that are funded through a variety of sources and staffed by a stable and skilled work force. We will give providers technical assistance so they are assisted in evaluating programs and reaching goals. We will examine what makes local collaboration successful and will make those components available to other communities and supported by public funders.

Capacity Building Key Actions:

- Document from a community level perspective examples and effects of different state program agendas, funding restrictions and data collection requirements;
- Current workforce surveyed on training level, salary, retention levels
- Assist communities in building and sustaining community and public/private partnerships

Evaluation

- Determine all possible goals of evaluation
- Determine how programs currently evaluate themselves
- Determine program capacity for collecting and reporting data
- Determine readiness of funded and non-publicly funded programs to meet evaluation standards

Capacity Building Products

- Statewide training plan and calendar (such as the plan currently produced by IDHS) is expanded, printed, distributed and posted on website of Partnership
- Pool of qualified trainers are identified and supplemented where needed
- Publicly and privately funded training available to all providers
- On-line resources – information on best practices, funding opportunities, evaluation, etc.
- Provider tool box
- Systematic method of exchanging ideas among providers and between providers and the Partnership

Evaluation

- Inventory of current types of evaluations required by private funders
- List of supports agencies need to meet outcome and evaluation goals
- Technical assistance to providers on evaluation
- Evaluation system institutionalized across programs/agencies

Steps for the Next Six Months

- Partnership website developed
- On-line resources – information on best practices, funding opportunities, evaluation, etc. created
- Statewide training plan and calendar (such as the plan currently produced by IDHS) is expanded, printed, distributed and posted on website of Partnership

Interagency Collaboration Key Actions and Products

Interagency Collaboration Commitment:

We are committed to fully examining the current policies and regulations keeping public agencies – at all levels, federal, state and local – from coordinating between programs and among different levels of government. We will create a forum that eases state administrators' ability to frankly discuss the steps needed to reduce duplication and increase coordination.

Interagency Collaboration Key Actions:

- Create ongoing ISBE-only Work Group to examine funding, program requirements, service areas objectives of ISBE programs to find gaps and overlaps
- Create ongoing IDHS-only Work Group to examine funding, program requirements, service areas and objectives of IDHS programs to find gaps and overlaps
- Create Work Groups of local government agencies to examine funding, program requirements, service areas objectives of programs to find gaps and overlaps
- Create interagency work group to examine issues across all related agencies
- Inventory the training, credentialing, fiscal and program requirements, required outcome measures and evaluation occurring among divisions in ISBE and IDHS and other state agencies
- Map service gaps, overlaps and funding streams
- Identify issues that re channeled to the Policy Work Group and the After-school Alliance

Interagency Collaboration Products

- Service, funding and needs maps created
- Consolidated state agency RFP created
- Common outcome measures

Steps for the Next Six Months

- Service, funding and needs maps created
- Intra-agency groups have met and discussed common outcomes