

May 2003

## **Commitments to Meet the Illinois After-school Partnership Policy Recommendations**

### **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.

### **Outcome 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.

### **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.

### **State-level 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.*