



Before & After School Programs



SOLUTION

Establish **before- and after-school programs (BASP)**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child care is a family issue, a workforce issue and a community issue.



OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 IN IOWA

have all available parents in the labor force. But in many Iowa communities, child care is often inaccessible, unaffordable, or nonexistent.

Child care issues are not new, but have risen to a higher priority due to their pervasiveness, necessity, and impact on businesses. Parents often encounter issues finding and/or retaining child care. In turn, employers experience reduced productivity, increased absenteeism, and difficulty retaining and finding employees. Ultimately, this impacts the local economy of communities throughout the state.

Establishing before-and after-school programs (BASP) is a solution that can provide an influx of child care spaces. Starting a local dialogue is a simple way to begin the discussion and process. It is imperative that communities understand the market and the needs of parents, employers, and most of all—children—in order to successfully implement a solution.

For every child in a before- and after-school program, two are waiting to get in. In Iowa, more children and youth need BASP programming at their school or within their community than are currently being served. According to the Iowa Afterschool Alliance, there is an unmet demand for BASP care for over 136,000 children and youth in Iowa.

Investments that make way for equal access to high quality BASP and summer learning opportunities can have a positive impact on communities. They provide:

- Support for working families
- Support to enable student success
- A chance for young people to develop critical skills that support good mental and physical health
- Opportunities for mentorships and other positive relationships
- A way for students to explore STEM and literacy in different ways
- A chance for communities to leverage resources through partnerships
- A return on investment

There is no definite approach to starting either a before-school or an after-school program—each community is different, and the process varies depending on where you are and what type of program you plan to create. Still, there are several common resources that every program can use to start a quality before- and after-school program.

PROCESS

- 1 CREATE**
a team to oversee the BASPs.
- 2 ASSESS**
the possible need for a BASP, including strengths and existing resources of what is already being provided.
- 3 CONNECT**
with resources, supporters, and gain partners, such as Early Childhood Iowa, Child Care Resource & Referral, child care providers, city/county staff, and businesses to support and implement BASPs.
- 4 BUILD**
community awareness of the importance of BASP programming through local presentations.
- 5 CREATE**
a foundation that will lead to a sustainable, fluid program that meets the established needs.
- 6 BUILD**
public/private partnerships between the schools, families, and local community supports.
- 7 PLAN**
for the future and growth of a new program.

BEST PRACTICES/TESTIMONIALS

ALLAMAKEE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Allamakee Community Connections is the afterschool provider for Allamakee County in rural Northeast Iowa. Utilizing various funding sources, including federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding, Allamakee serves *many* students each night at the elementary and high schools.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY URBAN MOVEMENT (CFUM)

CFUM serves youth each night with after-school programming at community and school-based sites within the local neighborhoods of Des Moines. As a community-based nonprofit, CFUM combines private resources to ensure youth are served in a culturally-responsive and accepting environment that provides both enrichment and academic support after school and over the summer.

Altogether, CFUM currently serves 225 students in grades K-12, including 32% of the 471 elementary students. Two years ago, they were serving only 50 students in grades 3-5. Thanks to the financial support of a local Foundation and partnership with Des Moines Public Schools, they now serve 150 students in grades K-5.





SOLUTION

Establish before- and after-school programs (BASP).

Why is this solution a good fit for your community?

What resources and connections already exist that support implementing this solution?

What resources and connections are needed to implement this solution?

Who should help make this solution happen?

List next steps.

