



Montana Afterschool Network Progress to Date

The goal of the Montana Afterschool Network is to improve the quality and supply of afterschool programming statewide. The following accomplishments have grown out of state-level afterschool collaborations:

2004

- In partnership with the Office of the Governor, convened a National Governors Association (NGA) *Extra Learning Opportunities Summit (ELO)*.
- At the request of the Governor's Office, presented to the Children, Families, Health & Human Services Interim Committee of the Legislature the findings and outcomes of the NGA-ELO Summit.
- Secured the support of the C. S. Mott Foundation, Homer A. and Mildred S. Scott Foundation, First Interstate Bank Foundation, and Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation to support coordination of the Montana Afterschool Network for three years.
- Secured an Americorps* VISTA placement through the University of Montana Campus Compact to provide support staffing to the Montana Afterschool Network for three years.

2005

- Coordinated afterschool presentations or displays at the Montana PTA Conference, Montana Education Leadership Conference, MEA-MFT Conference, Montana Early Care & Education Conference and School Administrators of Montana Conferences.
- Provided information on the benefits of, and need for, afterschool programming to all members of the 2005 Montana House and Senate.
- Assisted DPHHS Early Childhood Services Bureau in the design and dissemination of the Montana Out-of-School Time Grants, which made three-year renewable awards of up to \$5,000 per year to 65 afterschool programs statewide.

- Hired an Afterschool Technical Assistance Specialist to provide training and support to community-level afterschool programs and develop quality improvement tools for use statewide.
- The Network developed three working sub-committees to advance efforts in afterschool program quality, collaboration and partnerships, and resource development and outreach strategies.
- Conducted survey conducted on current quality assessment tools used in afterschool programs in Montana as a foundation for developing a statewide Continuous Improvement Process to assist programs with quality guidelines.
- The Montana Child Care Resource and Referral Network provided sub-grants totaling \$51,500 to all Montana regional child care resource & referral agencies to provide on-site training services and community networking opportunities to license-exempt afterschool programs in their regions.
- To improve family access to afterschool programs, we added license-exempt 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Boys & Girls Club programs to the statewide child care referral system. In addition to licensed school-age care programs, child care resources and referral specialists can now refer parents to other programs in their community that serve children afterschool.
- We organized an appearance by Governor Schweitzer at a Lights On Afterschool promotion event, and promoted a Governor-tagged Afterschool Alliance television public service announcement statewide.

2006

- Maintain statewide database of afterschool programs and advocates with over 1200 contacts.
- Map by county Montana's annual afterschool program supply and demand.
- Disseminate afterschool resources, including information on grants, financial support, training and technical assistance.
- Produce a biannual newsletter and quarterly e-mail update.
- Coordinate the Annual Afterschool Training Conference and pre-conference intensive training session for program directors and staff. Conference participation doubled in 2005.
- Developing outreach tools including updated brochure, fact sheets, display boards, and website. Also developing complementary public awareness and education video promoting the value and need for afterschool programs in rural and urban Montana communities.