



After School Announcements

Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

July 2007 Vol. 2 Number 3

The Maine After School Network is housed at the University of Maine at Farmington. Funding is provided by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care and Head Start and the C.S. Mott Foundation. Supported by the Governor's Children's Cabinet.

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Hi All,
First I would like to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Kim Porter. She has been on board since June 4th and is doing a wonderful job. Please feel free to contact her with questions or information at 207-778-7576 or kimberly.porter@maine.edu. Hope your summer is going well, with your summer programs, lots of energetic children/youth and fantastic staff. Summer learning and enrichment are wonderful opportunities to get to know children in different ways, providing each child with special relationships and more focused time together.

Deb

Quality

From School-Age Notes June 2007
"The Case for Summer Learning"

After school Programs Go Green!!
After school programs are an excellent place to educate children about the environment and actively involve them in being good stewards of our planet. Turning your after school program "green" can be as simple as a single clean-up day on the grounds of your program or as elaborate as the development of a regular trash composting program. In addition to being fun, many "green activities" can also be easily linked to state curriculum standards.

Recycling, composting and cleaning up litter are just a few easy steps on the road to going "green".

From William T. Grant Foundation March 2007
"Measuring Youth Program Quality: A Guide to Assessment Tools"
Discusses and compares nine tools for assessing the quality of youth programs. This compendium will provide valuable information to practitioners, policymakers, researchers and evaluators about the content, ease of use, and technical properties of these instruments. The report was written by Nicole Yohalem and Alicia Wilson-Ahlstrom of the Forum for Youth Investment with Sean Fischer and Marybeth Shinn of New York University. It is available on the Forum's website http://www.forumfyi.org/Files/Measuring_Youth_Program_Quality.pdf

In this Issue...

• *A note from the Editor*

Quality:
Going Green

A Guide to Assessment Tools

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\$125 Million Increase in 21st CCLC

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Healthy Sprouts Awards

Disney Minnie Grant

The Big Read Program

Advocacy

From After school Alliance June 2007 House Subcommittee Budget: \$125 million increase in 21st CCLC

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education-the subcommittee that handles most after school funding-marked up their version of the FY2008 budget. Included was \$125 million increase in 21st CCLC for a proposed appropriation of \$1.106 billion. This proposed increase would make for the highest ever funding level for 21st CCLC and would provide after school for an additional 125,000 children and youth!! A state chart of funding and number of kids served is available at http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policy_news.cfm.

Legislative Updates:

One bill that passed was LD1369, a RESOLVE to **Promote High-quality Before-school and After-school Programs**. The Network was named as the lead and charged with bringing partners together to review the rules, standards, and policies for the range of before-school and after-school programs for school-age children, with particular attention to the differenced in custodial and noncustodial programs and to make recommendation on how these might be standardized in the best interest of all children served.

* **LD 63** An Act to Increase Access to After School Programs was carried over to next session. The bill sat within the Appropriations committee.

***LD 65** An Act to Provide Mentoring Funds has been officially tabled and will be considered in the next fiscal year.

***LD 1725** An Act to Modernize the Alcohol Tax by Imposing It on a Per Drink Basis was also carried over by the Taxation Committee.

Funding/Grants

Samuel Harris Fund for Children's Dental Health Grants Program. Community-based nonprofits may receive up to \$5,000 to support educational and preventative programs designed to improve children's dental health. Approximately \$300,000 in total funding is available. Deadline: July 17, 2007. Details: http://www.ada.org/ada/prod/adaf/prog_access_harris.asp.

National Gardening Association's Healthy Sprouts Awards. Eligible schools and organizations must plan to garden in 2008 with at least 15 children between the ages of 3 and 18. Garden programs should address nutrition and hunger issues in the United States. Grants of up to \$500 are available for up to 20 recipients. Deadline: October 15, 2007. Details: <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>.

Disney Minnie Grant. The Walt Disney Company and Youth Service America announce grants of up to \$500 to support youth (ages 5-14) in planning and implementing community service projects (October 1 - November 26, 2007). Projects can address themes such as the environment, disaster relief, hunger, literacy, or other community-related issues. Application deadline: August 30, 2007. Details: www.YSA.org/awards.

The Big Read program seeks to revitalize the role of literature in American popular culture. Approximately 200 grants are available, ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000 each. Organizations selected to participate will also receive: educational and promotional materials for distribution; an organizer's guide for developing and managing Big Read activities; and inclusion on the Big Read website. Application deadline: July 31, 2007. Details: <http://www.neabigread.org/about.php>.

Purpose:

To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Vision:

Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Network Goals:

- 1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.*
- 2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.*
- 3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.*