



Six Tracks to Sustainability

The long-term sustainability of your 21st Century Community Learning Center program requires vision, strategic planning, a commitment to quality, and an effective program implementation. From the start and throughout the life of your program, the topics below will command your attention. For this reason, Illinois Quality Afterschool technical assistance and professional development is grounded in research-based best practices and strategies to help you address these topics and create for your program—six tracks to sustainability.

MANAGEMENT – The management track focuses on staffing, professional development, maintaining a safe and positive environment, fiscal and budgetary concerns, crisis management, resources development and allocation, and other administrative responsibilities, such as reporting to funders. Emphasis is placed on shared leadership.

EVALUATION – The evaluation track focuses on data collection, data management, assessment of program effectiveness, continuous improvement, sustainability, and funding.

PROGRAMMING – The programming track places emphasis on responding to needs of students and their families, social-emotional learning, youth development, and ensuring the appropriateness of program practices and activities.

INTEGRATING K–12 AND AFTERSCHOOL – The integration track links afterschool activities to classroom learning, promotes the use of research-based teaching strategies and a challenging afterschool curriculum.

COMMUNICATION – The communication track focuses on developing effective internal and external communications, including developing and disseminating promotional material about the afterschool program.

COLLABORATION – The collaboration track places emphasis on building relationships, identifying and reaching out to potential partners, engaging families and community.

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