ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL

Better Together: Tools for Powerful Partnerships

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Illinois Quality Afterschool Presenters

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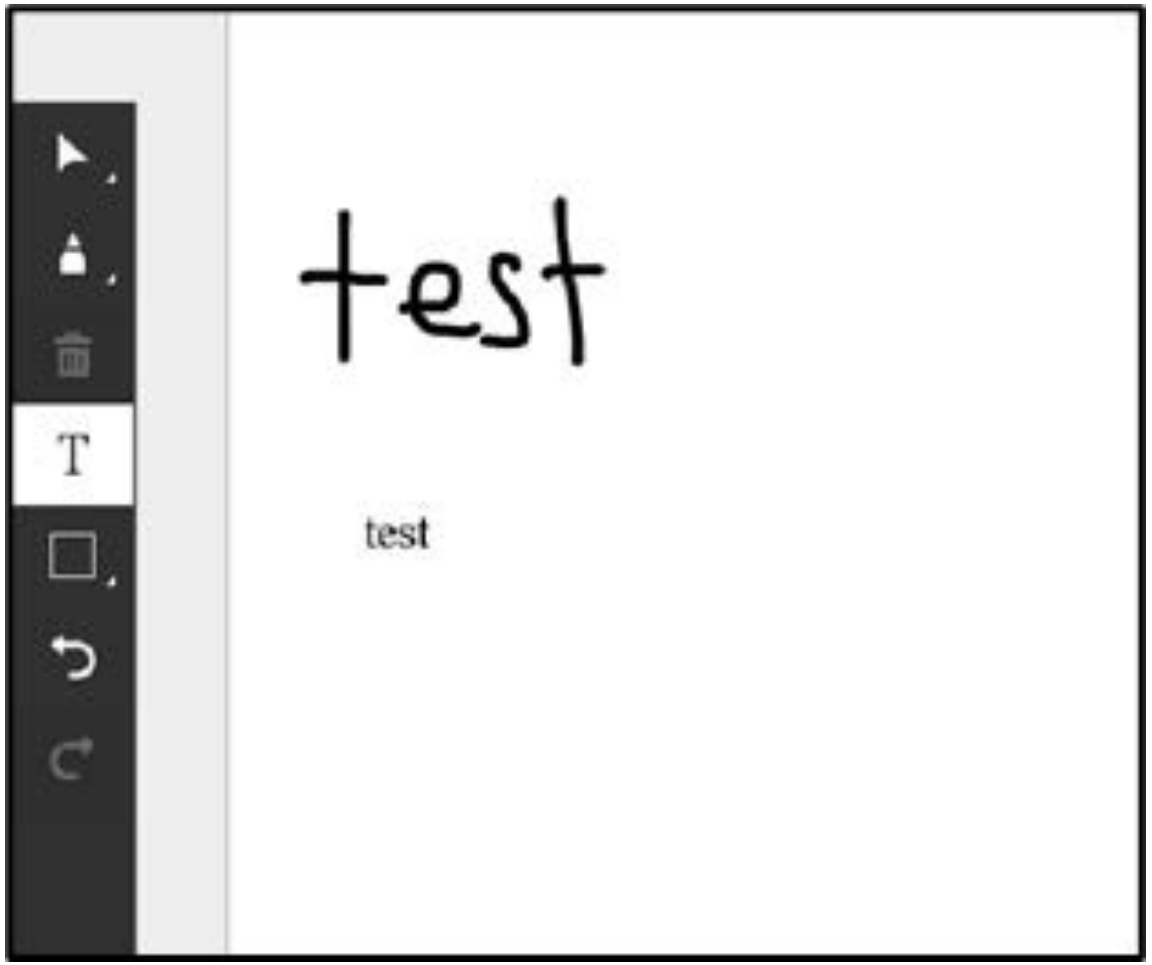
Agenda

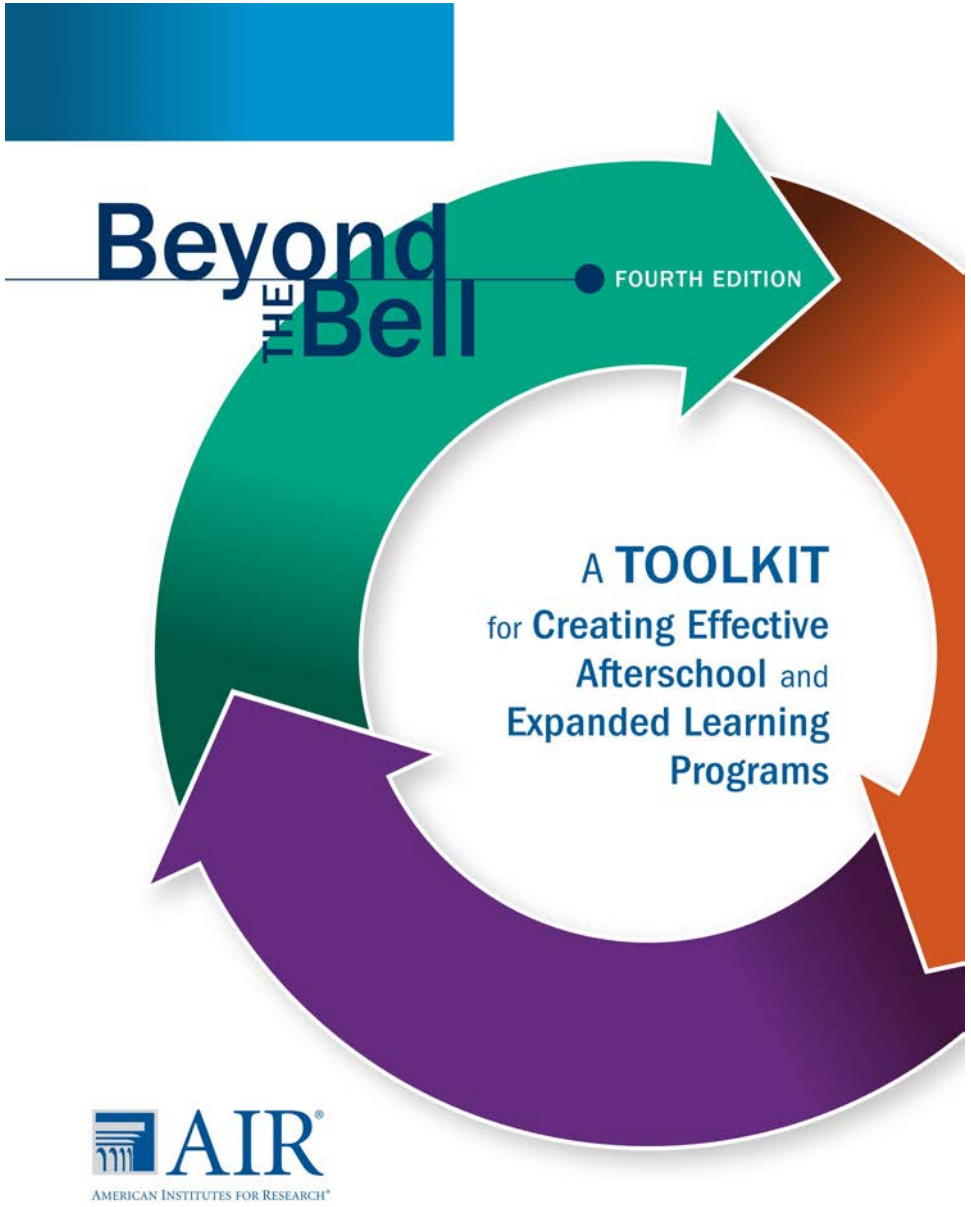
- My desert island partner
- Beyond the Bell Toolkit overview
- Determine your program needs
- Identify and codify appropriate partnerships
- Reflection and close

Participant Goals

- Understand how the Beyond the Bell toolkit can benefit your programs.
- Practice using Beyond the Bell tools to make a partnership plan that addresses program needs.
- Learn how to access the Beyond the Bell Toolkit.

Annotation Instructions





https://beyondthebell.org/online-home

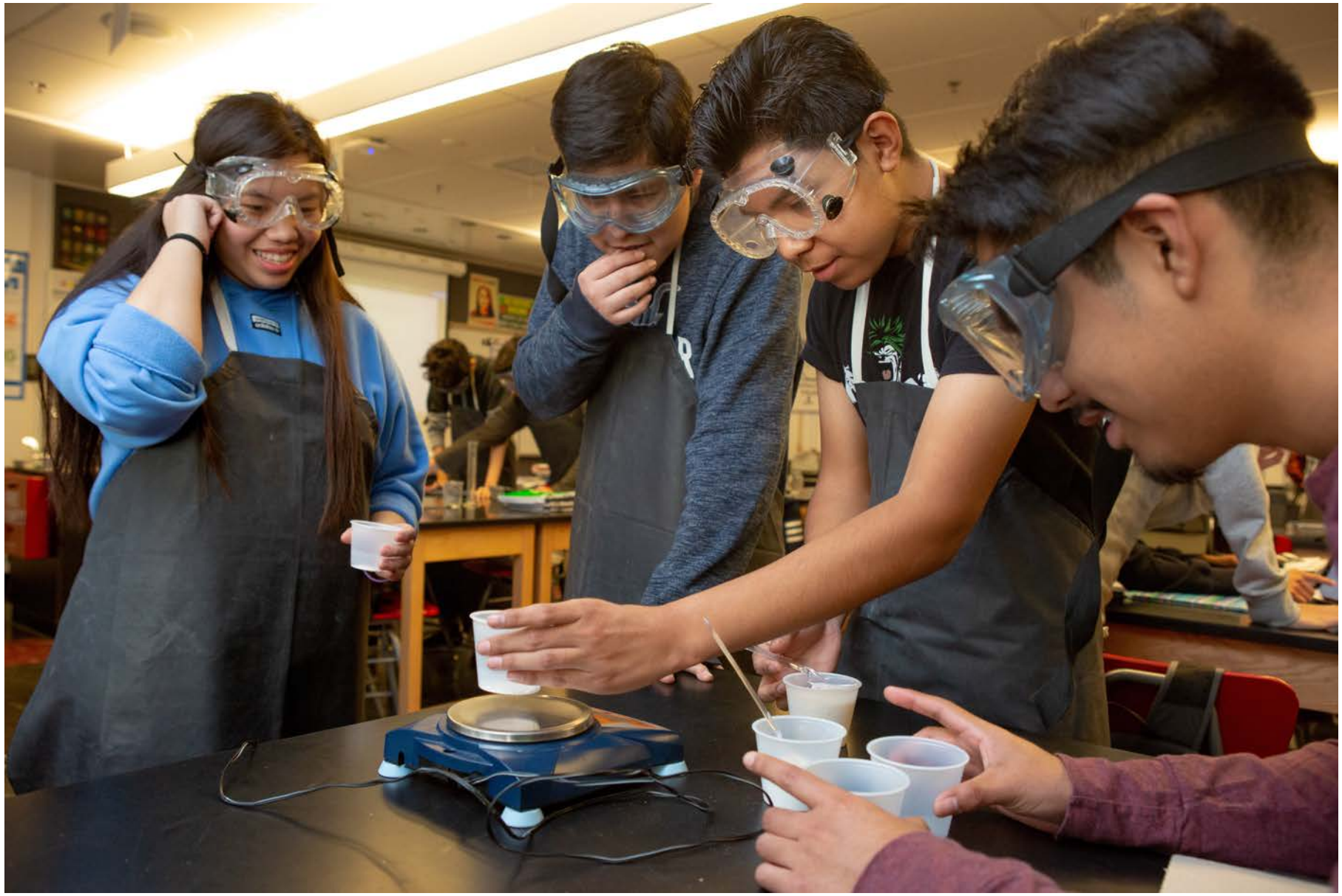
Beyond the Bell Toolkit

- Program management
- Design
- Partnerships
- Delivery
- Evaluation
- Continuous program improvement

https://beyondthebell.org/online-home

Let’s Talk Partnerships

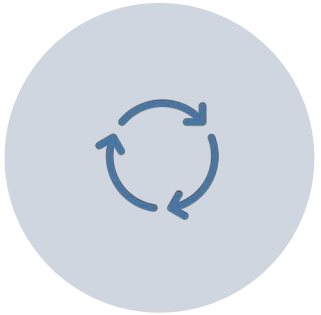
Finding, building, and sustaining effective partnerships in afterschool



https://medium.com/pressonetwork/best-unlikely-business-partnerships-3b821b48e4cd; Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages- https://images.all4ed.org/high-school-students-conduct-chemistry-experiment

Elements of a Successful Partnership

Purpose is clearly defined

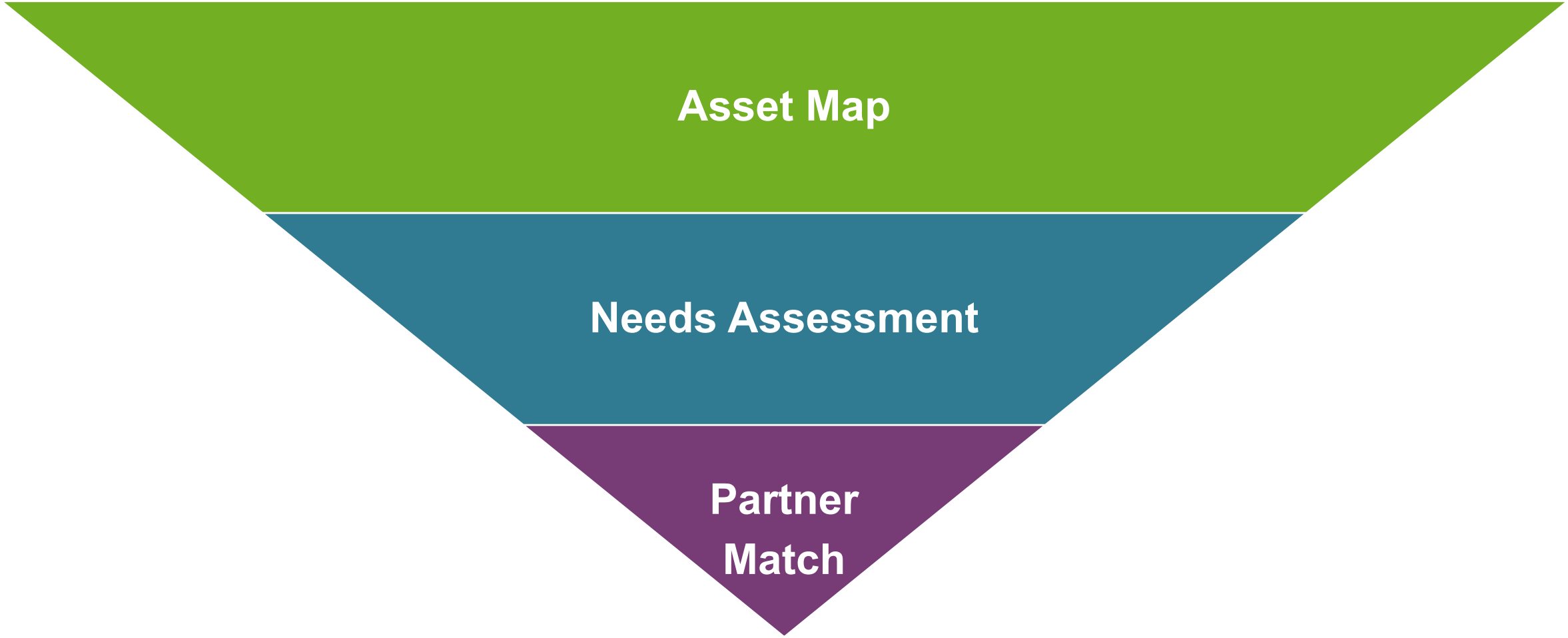


Arrangement is mutually beneficial (we are both getting something we want out of this)

Roles and responsibilities are clear

Partnership is formalized

Matching Assets to Needs



BtB Tool Highlight

Beyond THE Bell

Tool 34

Asset Mapping

In Chapter 2, you learned that asset mapping is a great way to uncover the talents and skills of your staff, participants, family members, and community. You can use the assets you uncover to assist with your program planning.

***Directions**: There are multiple ways to do an asset map. This tool contains some tips and suggestions for developing your map and answers some questions you might have about the process. You can use this information to develop a process that will work best for you and your team.*

Who Should Be Involved?

It is difficult to do asset mapping alone. We strongly suggest that you bring together a group to conduct the process. This can be one large group or several smaller groups of stakeholders. You may want to include staff, family members, older youth, community organizations, community members, program providers, school staff, etc. You can do several asset maps with individual stakeholder groups (youth, families, or teachers). Post all of the asset maps in a public place, and let people reflect on the commonalities or differences among them.

How Long Will Asset Mapping Take?

Asset mapping can typically be done in one meeting of approximately two hours. If you are engaging different groups of people, you may have several two-hour sessions.

What Kinds of Assets Should We Try to Uncover?

Quick Assets Brainstorm

BtB Tool Highlight

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Tool 58

Identifying Potential Partnerships

In Chapter 3, you learned that not only are partnerships important, but selecting individuals or organizations to complement your mission is also crucial. Collaborations should encourage partners to contribute the resources they have to the broader collective. Several organizations and individuals (including your program) working together can create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Directions: *Review the tips below and then complete the worksheet on the following page to begin identifying partners and strategies for reaching out to them.*

Tips for Identifying and Reaching Out to Potential Partners

- **Revisit the work you have already done.** By now, you have likely already captured a great deal of information about potential partners. Look back at your market analysis (**Tool 15**), your asset mapping process (**Tool 34**), and your needs assessment (**Tool 35**). In those tools, you identified a number of potential organizations for partnerships. List them in the appropriate categories below.
- **Ask for what you need.** Once community organizations have been identified, decide which ones offer the most potential to help with your program. Then reach out to the organization to discuss the possible collaboration you have in mind. Don't be afraid to ask the organization for what you need—ask to set up a museum visit, for instance, or tell a local business you'd like a two-hour meeting with 20 youth and a top executive—and set an agenda. Start slowly and build. Consider opening your request list with items that can be delivered free of charge.

Sustainable Partnership Tips

- Ask for what you need
- Let your partners know why they could be so valuable, and explain how their participation benefits them
- Consider a variety of partnership roles
- Nurture your partners
- Bring partners together
- Make sure your partners represent your community

Partnership Planning

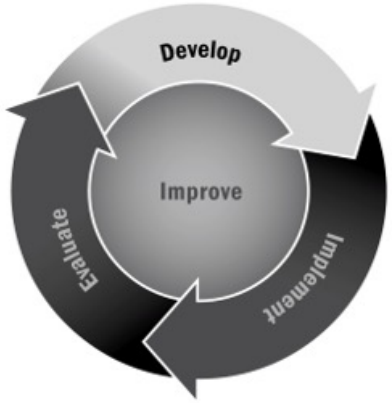
Photo by Allison Shelley for EDUimages, https://images.all4ed.org/male-and-female-middle-school-teachers-in-library-2

BtB Tool Highlight

Beyond the Bell

Tool 2

Partnership Planning Worksheet



In Chapters 1 and 3, you learned that developing and maintaining successful partnerships is vitally important for afterschool and expanded learning programs. By clearly establishing roles for each partner you will help set the stage for a successful relationship.

Directions: *Use this tool to think through the details of your partnership, including any potential issues that may arise. In some cases, the decisions made will require a joint response, while other instances will require individual responses. The tool shows when a joint response is needed. NOTE—the responses on this worksheet do not need to be developed all in one meeting or session. It can be used to first explore potential intersections of goals, then be used later to help identify the role required of each organization.*

Topics of Conversation	Afterschool and Expanded Learning Program Priorities	Partner Organization Priorities
Goals for the Partnership		

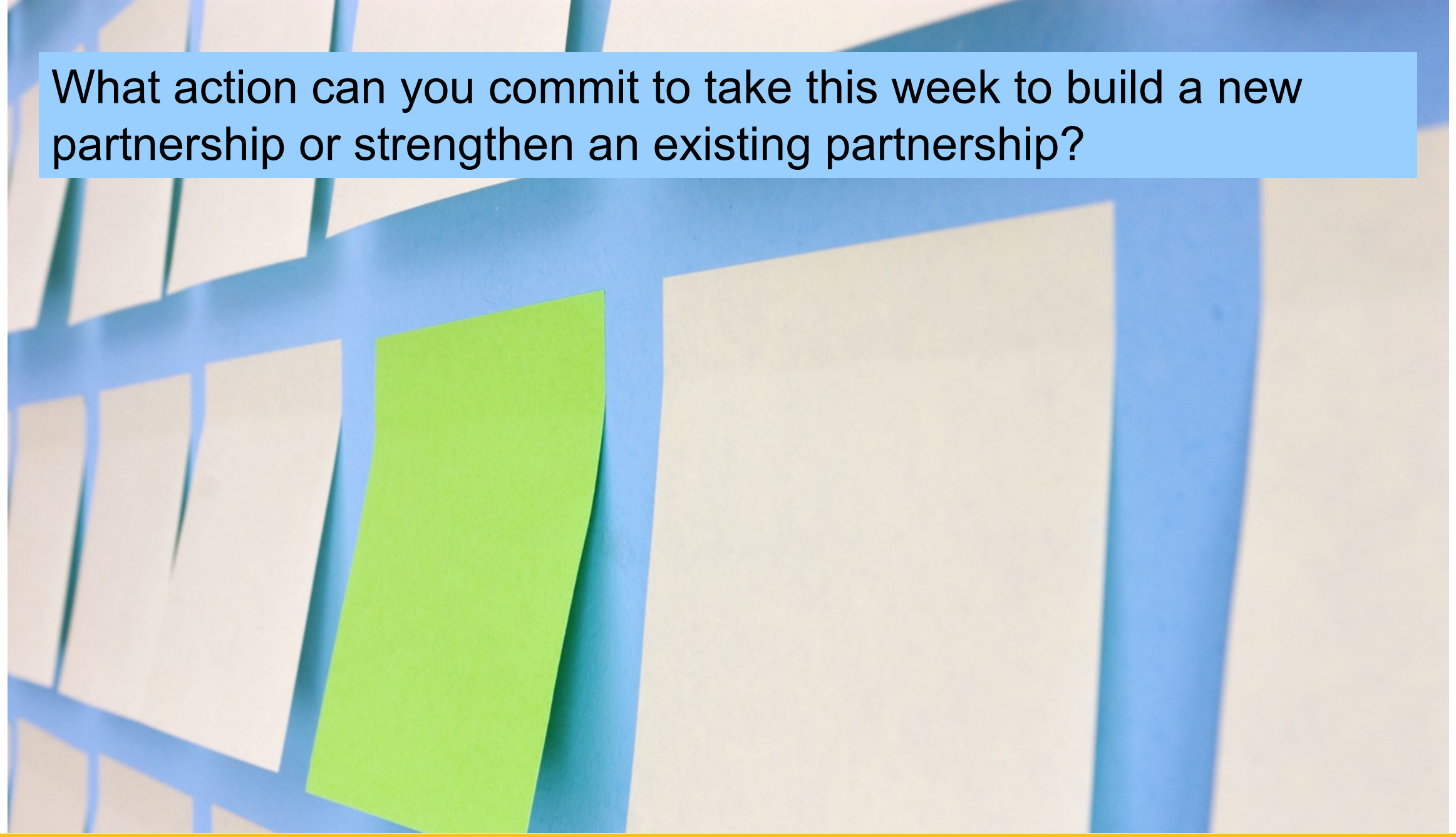
Responsibilities	Afterschool and Expanded Learning Program Role	Partner Organization Role

Conversation- Partnerships for 2021

Discuss:

- What are some of the creative roles you envision for partnerships this year?
- How will you make time and space to nurture, recognize, and bring partners together this year?

Share your innovations!



What action can you commit to take this week to build a new partnership or strengthen an existing partnership?

Resources

Beyond the Bell: https://beyondthebell.org/online-home

- Tool 34: Asset Mapping
- Tool 58: Identifying Potential Partnerships
- Tool 2: Partnership Planning Worksheet

Access Beyond the Bell

Online:

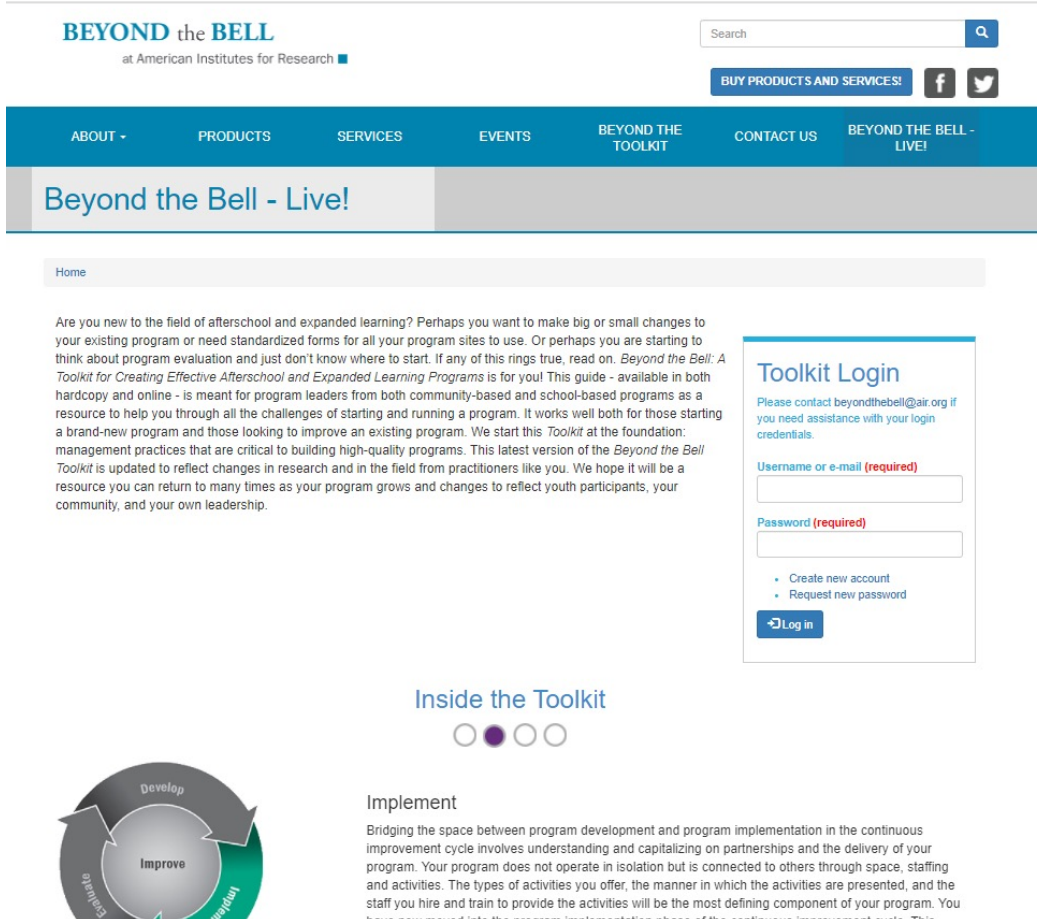
Go to Beyond the Bell Live

https://beyondthebell.org/online-home

- Click Create new account
- Complete account registration fields; you will be asked to create a username and password

Hard Copy:

- Use grant funds to purchase on Shopify



Webpage

http://iqa.airprojects.org/

Resource Database

http://iqa.airprojects.org/resource-database/

Connect with us on Facebook!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/IQA.SEDL/

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