How Community-Based Organizations Leverage Their Strengths in Managing 21st CCLC Programs

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Presenters

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Webinar Agenda

1. Opportunity-Strategy-Action!
2. Challenges and Strategies from Illinois 21st CCLC Programs
3. Building on CBO Strengths
4. Best Practices from an Illinois CBO Program
Challenge = Opportunity

Action

Strategy
Common CBO Challenges (or…Opportunities!)

- Establishing and Maintaining School Relationships
- Sharing Building Space
- Engaging Community Partnerships and Vendors
- Engaging Families
- Complying with 21st CCLC Grant Requirements
Establishing and Maintaining School Relationships

Opportunity: Establish a supportive mindset—“21st CCLC is part of the team.”

Strategies:

• Build a shared understanding of priorities.
• Actions speak loudest—be present.
• Communicate with administration (principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor).
• Set clear and consistent expectations for teachers.
• Connect thoughtfully with ALL school staff.
Sharing Building Space

Opportunity: The program has a diverse set of spaces available for programming after school. The school and CBO are able to meet shared needs through mutual space sharing.

Strategies:

• Communicate regularly with other programs in the school.

• Plan for space needs and possible issues (in collaboration with the school).

• Advocate to administration—21st CCLC is priority.
Engaging Community Partnerships and Vendors

Opportunity: The program has a diverse set of partners and vendors that expand opportunities for youth after school.

Strategies:

• Identify partners and vendors whose programs align with 21st CCLC.

• Implement written and signed Memoranda of Understanding with all partners and vendors.

• Create clear procedures for program staff regarding bringing in outside partners and vendors. Work with your ISBE consultant to resolve questions.

• Communicate early and often with everyone involved.
Engaging Families

Opportunity: Expand communication with families. Build understanding and value of the program with families of enrolled youth. Build bridges between school and home.

Strategies:

• Build trust with families by regular communications.

• Offer programs and activities on diverse topics scheduled at varied times to engage families.

• Involve families or family representatives in planning.

• Become the nonthreatening link between families and schools.
Grant Compliance

Opportunity: Sustain funding for the 21st CCLC site. Collect information to inform future funding efforts.

Strategies:

• Read the proposal. Take notes. Familiarize yourself with what is in the proposal.

• Inform all staff, partners, and vendors about 21st CCLC requirements. Provide them with training and tools to understand and manage the requirements.

• Set milestones throughout the year for meeting report and paperwork requirements.
What strategies resonated with you and your site(s)? What 1 or 2 specific actions can you commit to that will address the challenges we discussed today?
Building On CBO Strengths
Guest Speaker

Leslie Warner
Youth and Opportunity United (Y.O.U.)
Evanston, IL
What unique perspectives, approaches, and resources do CBOs bring to 21st CCLCs?
Advance Shared Priorities for Students

• Social and Emotional Learning [CASEL Guide, Finding Common Ground Report, Beyond the Bell Planning Tool]

• Student-Support Partnerships [National Mentoring Resource Center, Peer Mentoring Guide]

• Academic Outcomes, Credit Recovery [You4Youth]

• Service Learning [National Service Learning Clearinghouse]
Advance Shared Priorities for Students: Collaborative Planning

Create a Shared Goal
- What goals resonate across contexts?

Identify [THEME] Practices
- What school-day practices support that goal?
- What community partner practices support that goal?

Plan for Alignment
- What opportunities exist for alignment?
- What key personnel will be involved?
- What action steps are emerging?
What kind of unique expertise does your program bring to the school site(s)?

What specific strengths, knowledge, or resources do you have to offer?
Expand Resources and Opportunities

- Space, Transportation
- Partnerships
- Community connections (e.g., families)
- Field expertise
Expand Resources and Opportunities: Leslie Warner

- Holistic approach to youth engagement and programming
- Dedicated Master’s level clinicians supporting each program site
- Close collaboration with school social workers and community providers
Continuous Improvement

[Retrieved from: CASEL School Toolkit- Community Partnerships
https://schoolguide.casel.org/focus-area-3/community-partnerships/]

• What kind of data will help us measure collective progress toward our shared goals?

• What data is already being collected by the school and by the partner? How frequently?

• Do we need to collect new data, or can we modify the way we currently collect data to better inform decisions about SEL implementation?

• What data would be important to share/can legally be shared? How frequently?

• How often should the school and community partner(s) come together to discuss continuous improvement efforts, and what meeting format would work best to promote equity of voice and solution-oriented discussion?
Continuous Improvement: Guest Speaker

• How do you evaluate?

• What tools do you use?

• How do you bridge evaluation/tools and your school partnerships? How do you make the case for how you are important to your schools?
Questions?
Welcome to the Illinois Quality Afterschool Program

AII provides technical assistance and professional development to Illinois 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs). We hope you will take some time to explore the resources on our website—workshop and conference archives, webinar recordings, newsletters, and resource bulletins. Do you have a question about afterschool? Illinois 21st CCLC grantees can request technical assistance from the Illinois Quality Afterschool team or you can join our private Facebook group and ask other grantees for feedback.

Quick Links for Grantees

Our calendar of Illinois 21st CCLC events, including webinars, conferences, workshops, and data reporting deadlines.

- Workshop and Conference Archive
- Webinar Archive
- Calendar of Events
- Request Assistance

How can we help?
REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Update Your Contact Information

Has your email address or phone number changed? Send your new contact information to us at iqa-support@air.org, and we’ll make sure you continue receiving Illinois Quality Afterschool publications, announcements about upcoming events, and grantee information.

Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly

The Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly is a resource for Illinois 21st CCLC professionals. Subscribe to the newsletter.

http://iqa.airprojects.org/
Resource Database

The Illinois Quality Afterschool team has created this resource database to help you and your staff provide high-quality 21st CCLC programming. Browse or search the database to find the latest information on afterschool research, best practices, tools, conference proceedings, policy briefs, professional development tools, and activities.

Click on a topic or use the search box below to look for a listing:

There are 227 resources. Displaying 10 resources per page.

10 Research-Tested Ways to Build Children’s Vocabulary

Developed by Scholastic, this short brief outlines 10 ways that educators can help students build their vocabularies. The brief explains each strategy, the research evidence that supports it, and provides suggestions for implementation. (Download as a PDF.)

View Resource

Topics
Academic Enrichment

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