



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prime Time Selected For National Partnership

Intermediary Role Highlighted

Afterschool Professionals Help Develop National Policy & Quality Standards

Palm Beach County, FL The Collaborative for Building After-School Systems (CBASS) has selected Prime Time Palm Beach County Inc., Florida's only afterschool intermediary organization, to join its national partnership. CBASS is working to highlight best practices, change policy, integrate afterschool into broader education reform efforts, and increase the resources devoted to afterschool programs to support the development of strong, high-quality afterschool systems. Prime Time joins other exemplary organizations in Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, New York City, Providence, and Washington D.C.

Jessica Donner, Program Director for the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems commented, "CBASS is delighted that Prime Time, an accomplished afterschool intermediary in Florida, joined our efforts to make afterschool part of the system of essential services that support children and youth. In our work to share best practices with the afterschool field, Prime Time's success in improving quality through program enhancements and a comprehensive quality improvement strategy will inform the efforts of afterschool initiatives around the country."

Afterschool intermediaries connect the many stakeholders that exist in an afterschool system by providing resources, technical assistance, professional development, developing and deploying quality standards, program enhancements and other improvements. Intermediaries help define, shape and strengthen relationships between afterschool programs, public schools, community organizations, policymakers, and funders. It is through these collective actions, tools and strategies that intermediaries help make afterschool systems stronger, more resourceful and more responsive to the needs of the children, youth and parents it serves and the communities in where they are based.

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Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. is funded by the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Picower Foundation and the Sun-Sentinel Children's Fund.

Prime Time, along with the other participating intermediaries, face a common set of challenges in expanding systems of high-quality programs to serve greater numbers of children and youth. Prime Time and the six other CBASS partners from throughout the U.S. will participate in efforts to:

- Develop practical tools that demonstrate the social and developmental benefits of afterschool programming as well academic benefits;
- Develop programs and policies that strengthen the connections between children's school day and afterschool learning experiences.
- Define the role of afterschool programs in schools that adopt a longer school day
- Create policies and practices that accommodate the needs and interests of students of different races, ethnicities, financial circumstances and genders.
- Develop and test programs that serve high school aged youth more effectively.
- Craft strategies to strengthen the afterschool workforce.

Prime Time has piloted quality improvement measures for afterschool programs. These measures are designed to result in real quality improvements for afterschool programs and staff skills. Suzette L. Harvey, Executive Director of Prime Time Palm Beach County explains, "Our Quality Improvement System (QIS), developed and tested in Palm Beach County, is the best current example of a QIS that can lead to measurable AND meaningful change for afterschool programs according to the High/Scope Education Research Foundation. We are honored to help create a national quality model."

Prime Time Palm Beach County, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that school-age afterschool programs in Palm Beach County are of the highest quality and provides resources and technical assistance to afterschool providers throughout the county. Prime Time's work is designed to help all school-age children and youth to have access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs.

The centerpiece of Prime Time's work is a Quality Improvement System for schoolage providers, which includes self-assessment, external assessment, on-site technical assistance, training and program supports. Prime Time has created local partnerships with a diverse group of nonprofit organizations to manage and distribute high-quality program enhancements to afterschool providers who might otherwise be unable to offer such experiences on their own. These activities include short-term and long-term programming in Arts and Culture, Sports and Recreation, Health and Nutrition, Academics and Career Exploration.

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