

Looking for a quality afterschool program? Here are some ideas:



1 Ask teachers or a principal at your school if they have an afterschool program.

If not, ask why. Tell them about 21st Century Community Learning Centers, a program that funds afterschool in every state. For more information: www.ed.gov/21stcllc.

3 Talk to other parents, guardians, and grandparents about what their children and grandchildren do after school.

They might be able to tell you about good programs in the area.

2 Contact national providers and organizations within your community:

- ▶ YMCA: <http://www.ymca.net>
1-800-872-YMCA
- ▶ Boys & Girls Clubs of America: <https://www.bgca.org>
- ▶ 4-H Council: www.4-h.org
- ▶ Girls, Inc.: <http://www.girlsinc.org>
212-509-2000
- ▶ Camp Fire USA: <http://campfire.org>
- ▶ Local parks and recreation department
- ▶ Churches, synagogues and mosques
- ▶ Police Athletic Leagues: <http://www.nationalpal.org>
- ▶ After School All Stars: <http://www.afterschoolallstars.org>
- ▶ State afterschool network

4 Call or email your local child care resource and referral office to inquire about nearby afterschool programs or visit www.childcareaware.org.

5 Afterschool is often part of larger programs, including community centers, settlement houses, community learning centers, full-service schools, museums, arts councils, libraries, and youth employment programs.

Look for programs called Lighted Schools, Beacons, Extended Learning Centers, and Supplemental Educational Services. For more guidance, check out Principles of Expanded Learning Programs at <http://bit.ly/2wcMbGI>.

What can you do if there is no afterschool program in your community?



Photo: Alaska Afterschool Network

What if there is no afterschool program in my community?

Don't give up. Many afterschool programs have been created by residents and parents in partnership with schools and organizations. If you are interested in high quality afterschool programs, so are many others! Nine out of 10 voters, whether they have children or not, agree that all kids should have access to afterschool programs.

Here are some steps you can take to get one started in your community

(You can find more ideas here, <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Utah4HAfterschoolGuide.pdf>):

1 Talk to parents, guardians, grandparents, and concerned neighbors.

Find out who else is interested and needs afterschool programs. Working in larger numbers gives you greater strength and influence.

1. Check out our tools on starting an afterschool program <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/startingaprogram.cfm>.
2. Ask your neighbors and friends.
3. Place a notice in your school's parent bulletin, send an email to a parents' listserv or ask the principal to place flyers in each child's backpack. The notice can ask if they are interested in afterschool programs for their children and whether they are willing to help organize such programs.
4. Attend a PTA meeting and ask participants if they are concerned about the after school hours.
5. Build a list of the people who are interested in having afterschool programs.
6. Document why a quality afterschool program is important to your community.

2 Talk to your school principal and/or teachers. Principals often control the use of school facilities and equipment after school.

Ask for ideas and help. Tell them about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/21stCCLC-Overview-2017.pdf>) program.

3 Enlist help within your community.

Start with: the mayor, city councilors, YMCAs, the parks & recreation director, Boys & Girls Clubs, 4-H staff, labor organizations, arts organizations and museums, PTAs, the local chapter of NAACP and UnidosUS, businesses, libraries, community centers, churches, synagogues, and mosques. Call or email to ask for ideas or resources to help start an afterschool program, including funding, facilities, volunteer time, or equipment.

4 Coordinate a meeting for parents and others who are interested in starting an afterschool program.

Explain the need for and benefits of a high-quality afterschool program. Ask for volunteers to:

- ▲ assess the community's afterschool needs and the available resources for creating afterschool programs that help meet those needs;
- ▲ talk with elected officials about obtaining financial support for the program;
- ▲ find out how nearby communities got afterschool programs started;
- ▲ talk with teachers about activities that might be offered in the program;
- ▲ distribute the Afterschool Resource Booklet (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AfterschoolActionBookletEnglish.pdf>) to everyone interested; and
- ▲ develop a fundraising plan.

We are so excited that you are working to start a high quality afterschool program in your community! The answers and research gained from your larger meeting will determine how you move forward but know we are still here to help. For guidance on next steps, contact your state Afterschool network (<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/policyStateMap.cfm>)!