

# Afterschool UPDATE



## What Exactly Is an Afterschool Program?

*By Jimmy Reed, Supervisor, Community Education*

The good news for me is that I don't have to come up with an answer – there is no true, across-the-board definition for what an afterschool program is. However, since most of you reading this are recipients of 21st CCLC or SAC funds, maybe we can use the grant guidelines to define a portion of the answer.

Think back to when you wrote your initial application for funding. (This might be recently for some of you.) People always say to “put your best foot forward,” so I am sure that you assessed the needs of your students and community, set measurable goals and objectives, wrote a justifiable budget, included a plan for an objective outside evaluation, and provided a plan to become self-sustaining after the grant ends.

Now that we have established that, I have one question: How many of you are following it? This isn't intended to cause you any additional stress, but all of our grant funds are competitively bid based on what you (or someone within your program) put on your application. So, your application is the blueprint for your program.

Please take the time to honestly answer the following questions (to yourself):

- What are your goals and objectives?
- If you are a 21st CCLC grant, what adult programming are you providing?
- How many hours and days per week do you offer programming?
- If you know the answer to the first question, how do your budget items tie in to your goals and objectives?

These questions are extremely important to you and your program. Even if you are new to your program, you must become familiar with the original scope of the grant. Simply being new or uninformed does not excuse compliance issues. Take time to review your original application, and make sure that everything on it is being executed now.

### Educate Others on the Importance of Afterschool Programs

Now more than ever, funding for afterschool programs is being closely examined at the state and national levels. For those of you on the front lines, it is easy to see the importance of these programs and the impact they have on the lives of the children and the families you serve. Please take the initiative to educate our lawmakers on the importance of your afterschool program and the impact it has on your community.

May 2010

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# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

## VISITATION JUNIOR BOARD OF KANSAS CITY

*By Jimmy Reed, Supervisor, Community Education*

Normally, this section would profile an afterschool program that receives 21st CCLC or SAC funding. However, this month we are going in a bit of a different direction by featuring the Visitation Junior Board of Kansas City. This program is made up of more than 80 middle school kids who raise money and then award it to nonprofit organizations in the Kansas City area.

To say that they “award” the money is not entirely accurate. Board members conduct research, receive presentations from representatives of the nonprofit organizations, and present their findings to a panel of judges. The judges, along with the remaining board members, then evaluate the presentations to make their decision.

To say that the kids in this program are impressive does not do them justice. I was fortunate to get to meet with them when they recently visited Jefferson City, and I also got to participate in their evaluation process. To learn more about these kids and their remarkable program, please visit <http://visitationjuniorboard.shutterfly.com/>.

The following is a message from Hudson O’Neill, president of the Visitation Junior Board:

*“The Visitation Junior Board is a program I have enjoyed for three years, and all five of my brothers and sisters have been a part of it also. Junior Board is special to me because of the places I get to visit in our community. We see things we do not normally see and visit with people we probably wouldn’t meet otherwise. I enjoy discussing the different agencies we have visited and deciding to which agencies we should donate the money we have generated this year. I realize that the decisions we make as a group will touch a lot of people’s lives, and hopefully it will make a positive impact. I like to see the reactions on people’s faces when we present them with a check at the end of the year because we all know that our efforts throughout the school year have been worth it. This year we have the most members ever, 85, so it has been really fun getting to know some of the younger kids in the group. Our trip to Jefferson City by train was awesome, and all the government buildings were great to tour, and we even got to meet in one of the special meeting rooms in the Capitol. It looks like after our grants this year, we will have donated more than \$35,000 to over 30 nonprofit agencies in the seven years of Junior Board.”*



### JUNIOR BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

“THE VISITATION JUNIOR BOARD IS A STUDENT LED FOUNDATION THAT IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AS THEY CONTINUE TO FEED, CLOTHE, EDUCATE, SHELTER, AND PROVIDE AID TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED.”

# How to Get Ready for a Program Monitoring Visit

Whenever monitoring is brought up to a program, there is understandably a bit of nervousness on the side of the program. This doesn't need to be the case. More than anything else, DESE wants to see programs improve while showing their strengths to the afterschool community.

Preparing for a monitoring visit is not as difficult as it might seem. You can access the exact monitoring tool form at any time from the DESE Afterschool Portal.

Use the monitoring tool to your advantage. Because everything comes from the tool itself, there are no trick questions. Most programs put together binders that separate programming information from financial data. You will be contacted prior to the visit about which specific months' finances will be reviewed. (This makes it easier on both parties.) However, other months' finances can and will be requested if there is a need to do so.

Regardless of whether you are expecting a visit from DESE, you need to prepare a binder anyway. Doing so will help you in the future when it comes time to review your program.

## Reminder: Always Use the Most Current Documents

Please make sure you are using the most recent versions of invoices and budget amendments as found on the DESE Afterschool Portal under the *Procedures and Report Forms* tab.

### ITEMS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

<b>June 15:</b> Final invoice due
<b>June 23-25:</b> MAACCE conference
<b>June 30:</b> Expenditures must all be spent
<b>July 15:</b> Final expenditure report due
<b>July 15:</b> Final program report due (SAC only)
<b>July 15:</b> APR (CCLC only)

## Early-Bird Rate Extended for the Mystery MAACCE Conference

This year's annual Missouri Association for Adult Continuing and Community Education (MAACCE) conference will be June 23-25 at Tan-Tar-A in Osage Beach. Afterschool is now an official category, and more afterschool breakout sessions will be offered than ever before. The early-bird rate of \$175 including meals has been extended to May 25. Come be a part of this event!



**Mystery MAACCE**  
Looking for clues and seeking answers in difficult times.

**File the Date:**  
JUNE 23-25, 2010  
TAN-TAR-A RESORT  
OSAGE BEACH, MO

**Register by May 25 to receive your gumaboo discount!**

For more information, or to register, go to:  
[www.maacce.org](http://www.maacce.org)

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