Out-of-School Time Programs are Improved, Expanded and Saved by Sustainable OST Systems

"The [Wallace] initiative provided a proof of principle—that organizations across cities could work together toward increasing access, quality, data-based decision making and sustainability." – *Hours of Opportunity,* RAND

Before...

Waste of city resources
Without data on matters like neighborhood needs and program attendance, leaders fund OST blindly.

Uneven program quality
No standards means program quality varies wildly.

Fewer children participate
Good programs are unavailable to many who need them.

Public skepticism
Lacking information on program value, policymakers resist OST investment.

Children lose
Many programs are ill-staffed, uninspired and unsafe.

The Four Elements of Ongoing Citywide Coordination

Leadership
Mayor tasks coordinating group to set priorities, plan, involve OST programs and collect data.

Data
A complete city OST picture – service gaps, children's participation, program quality – emerges.

Participation
With carrots and sticks, coordinators nudge programs to meet attendance goals.

Quality
Coordinators set standards, then use assessment and training to lift program quality.

After...

Smarter use of city resources
By analyzing demographics, service gaps and attendance, leaders can make the most of every OST dollar.

Program quality improves
Staff training and program assessment help programs meet standards.

More children participate
Higher quality programs, especially for those needing them most, lead to higher attendance.

Public support
Armed with data, city leaders and providers can make a stronger case for quality OST.

Children gain
The best OST has to offer becomes accessible to those who need it most.

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