



4-H Afterschool ... Across America

4-H Afterschool is a specially focused initiative within the nationwide 4-H Youth Development Program that is designed to increase the quality and availability of after-school programs for millions of children in communities across America.

The 4-H organization is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. With a 4-H presence in all 3,150 counties in the United States, every staff member and youth in an after-school program can benefit from 4-H's "learn by doing," "hands-on" approach.

4-H Afterschool is unique in that it "trains the educators." It operates through a partnership of county, state and federal governments and land-grant universities - known as the Cooperative Extension System - together with private-sector organizations. As a result, 4-H Afterschool programs meet the highest standards.

4-H Afterschool staff in local communities and state offices, as well as collaborating organizations and agencies, draw on the rich resources developed specifically through 4-H Afterschool funding. Additionally, thousands of after-school resources have been developed throughout the Cooperative Extension System.

4-H Afterschool staff can provide resources and expertise to after-school programs in areas such as: using experiential learning curricula for programs; conducting local needs assessments; assisting with program evaluation; bringing resources to communities; building community collaborations; working with parents; and starting 4-H clubs in after-school programs.

In some states, 4-H Afterschool staff work with school systems to align after-school learning outcomes with state educational standards; develop educational materials to specifically work with school superintendents and principals; and add a developmental and care dimension to academically focused approaches.

One of 4-H Afterschool's strengths is staff development and training. Local after-school staff can receive training from 4-H Afterschool professionals in a wide range of topics, including youth development, "hands-on" learning techniques to use with youth, life skills development, discipline, health, nutrition, program management, and recruiting and training volunteers. By working with local 4-H professionals, after-school staff can design training programs that meet their individual and program needs.

Youth development workers across the country can tap into 4-H Afterschool's human and technological system of expertise, curricula, and training to create or improve after-school programs for youth in their communities. 4-H Afterschool works toward a vision that all children and youth are in safe, healthy, and enriching environments when they are away from their parents.

For more information about 4-H Afterschool, contact: Dr. Eddie Locklear, Director, 4-H Afterschool - (elocklear@fourhcouncil.edu); 301-961-2834