

AzCASE/VSUW Out of School Time Network Action Plan Synopsis

Background

In recent years, efforts to improve outcomes for young people have focused primarily on the public school system. Yet children and youth only spend approximately 27% of their developmental time in school, with the primary focus being academic success. Leaders in the community are beginning to recognize that what young people do outside of the six to seven hours per day that they are in school matters profoundly to their overall well-being and personal achievement. Out of school time providers are a tremendous resource in supporting the positive development of children and youth outside of school and home by helping them to develop the social, emotional, cognitive and civic skills needed to become a successful adult and contributing member of society.

Goal

Valley of the Sun United Way and Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence in partnership with community stakeholders will develop an actionable agenda to strengthen the impact Maricopa County's out-of-school time programs have with children and youth. We will do so by focusing on coordination, access and post-secondary readiness.

Framework

The partnership will use the Forum for Youth Investment's Ready by 21[®] Approach to build on and coordinate existing efforts to improve the odds for young people in Maricopa County. Ready by 21[®] provides leaders with frameworks, strategies and tools to work together, set big-picture goals, map and align resources and improve accountability and coordination.

Strategies

We will engage leaders from across the community—ranging from policymakers, school administrators, local program directors and business leaders to parents and young people themselves to:

- Challenge their understanding of the effectiveness and impact the out of school time system has on our community's children and youth.
- Share data and analyze existing supports and gaps, ultimately creating a "landscape map" of out-of-school time resources
- Define key indicators of risk and protective factors and the resources in the community to address.
- Identify short, mid and long term actionable items for improving Maricopa County's out of school time system through increased coordination and access and integration of post-secondary readiness.

Deliverables

- An actionable agenda focused on strengthening the Out-of-School Time system in Maricopa County and as a result the positive outcomes for youth in our community.
- A landscape map of out-of-school time resources

Supports

- United Way Worldwide, Forum for Youth Investment and cities that have done similar work will provide technical assistance to the leadership team and the strategic planning committee.
- AzCASE and VSUW will facilitate the strategic planning process, with support from UWW and FYI
- AzCASE and VSUW will provide significant support for data gathering and information sharing

Time Commitment

- Three meetings of the entire strategic planning team which will incorporate a large group meeting as well as break-out subcommittee meetings
 - **Thursday April 15, 9am – 1pm**
 - **Wednesday, May 12, 9am – 1pm**
 - **Thursday, June 17, 9am – 1pm**
- Subcommittees determine inter-meeting tasks and work together with support from AzCASE and VSUW to complete prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Subcommittee Structure and Actionable Agenda Completion

There are three subcommittees, Coordination, Access and Post-Secondary Readiness. The subcommittees and meetings are structured to create by the end of the third meeting :

- 7-9 clearly defined issues per focus area facing the Out of School Time system in Maricopa County, high level opportunities/solutions to address them and a menu of key resources and stakeholders that can be engaged in strengthening the system.
- Prioritized from the above, one issue from each focus area, coordination, access and post-secondary readiness, with clearly defined opportunities, strategies, and tactics, a resource map and timeline for implementation.

Actionable Agenda Implementation

AzCASE and VSUW are committed to the implementation of the actionable agenda. We will work with the strategic planning committee to identify appropriate implementation roles for AzCASE, VSUW and all other interested parties.