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 mean 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.

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.

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.

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Hours of Opportunity