

## 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC ASSETS Learning Community Description of Offerings

### Purpose

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC ASSETS Learning Community is designed to support new and current ASSETS grantees in developing quality after school programs and to build relationships between ASSETS grantees for the purpose of on-going peer support and learning.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC ASSETS Learning Community will include quarterly Learning Community Meetings, monthly training sessions and workshops and program level assistance in the form of regular site visits and program coaching.

### Quarterly Learning Community Sessions

Learning Community sessions are two days in length where ASSETS program directors and all other ASSETS personnel are invited to attend. The focus of the learning communities will be on direct practice and issues that grantees are facing in implementation.

The Learning Community will offer a diversity of learning approaches and topics. At times we will feature guest presenters outside of the region. We will also rely on practitioners who have a strong background in particular areas who will share their knowledge with peers who are seeking their knowledge and advice.

We will also offer small group breakout sessions dividing the group by level of experience or topics of interest. We will also participate in guided site visits to view the practices of strong ASSETS programs.

In the Learning Community Sessions participants will:

- ✓ Review the latest research and evaluation, and other field literature on high school after school programming;
- ✓ Participate in identifying emerging implementation issues;
- ✓ Participate in training workshops on topics identified by the group as important and
- ✓ Participate in facilitated site visits of experienced high school programs

ASSETS grantees that are already implementing effective and diverse programs will host site visits and assist with workshops.

Tentative Learning Community Dates:

- Kick Off Event: Aug. 8 (Half Day)
- Learning Community #1: Sept. 25 and 26
- Learning Community #2: Nov. 13 and 14
- Learning Community #3: Feb. 26 and 27
- Learning Community #4: May 8 (Half Day)

Themes and Goals of each Learning Community will focus on research findings from WestEd's Final Evaluation of the High School ASSETS Program (January 2007) with references to the seven dimensions of the Categorical Program Monitoring.

WestEd's final evaluation indicated four common elements needed in order to develop after school programs for high school students. Those elements are:

- ✓ Youth involvement in the design, development, promotion, operation and evaluation of the activities (Learning Community #1)
- ✓ Staff who are qualified to help students with academics and have enthusiasm for working with youth (Learning Community #2)
- ✓ A strong link to the students' regular academic day and structural supports for students' developmental needs (Learning Community #3)

### **Monthly Training Sessions**

Monthly training sessions will be ½ day sessions and will be offered to the ASSETs community (school and after school staff) on topics related to implementation challenges and promising practices in an effort to improve youth outcomes for high school youth. The topics and presenters will be developed by the Central Valley Afterschool Foundation in response to the needs of the ASSETs grantees, as articulated in the Learning Community sessions. Experienced ASSETs grantees and other contracted services will assist with monthly training sessions.

Note: There are may be several programs that share the same interests and motivation, in which case, a “study group” can be developed where programs would share and participate in joint training.

### **Program Level Assistance**

The Central Valley Afterschool Foundation will make site visits to ASSETs programs on a regular basis to provide on-going coaching and support. Programs in need of more support will be visited more frequently. The objectives of these visits are to:

- ✓ Identify program sites in need of site-specific assistance;
- ✓ Assess the needs of the individual programs;
- ✓ Offer recommendations for program improvement and needed assistance and
- ✓ Offer program-level consultation and training (and/or bring outside services to provide assistance if needed).

### **Peer Network Exchange**

Learning Community participants will engage in peer learning and networking through:

- ✓ Sharing of promising and innovative practices across sites during workshops, email, phone and through message board communication on the CVAF website;
- ✓ Development of site mentoring partnerships or “buddy sites” with new and experienced ASSETS grantees for program support.