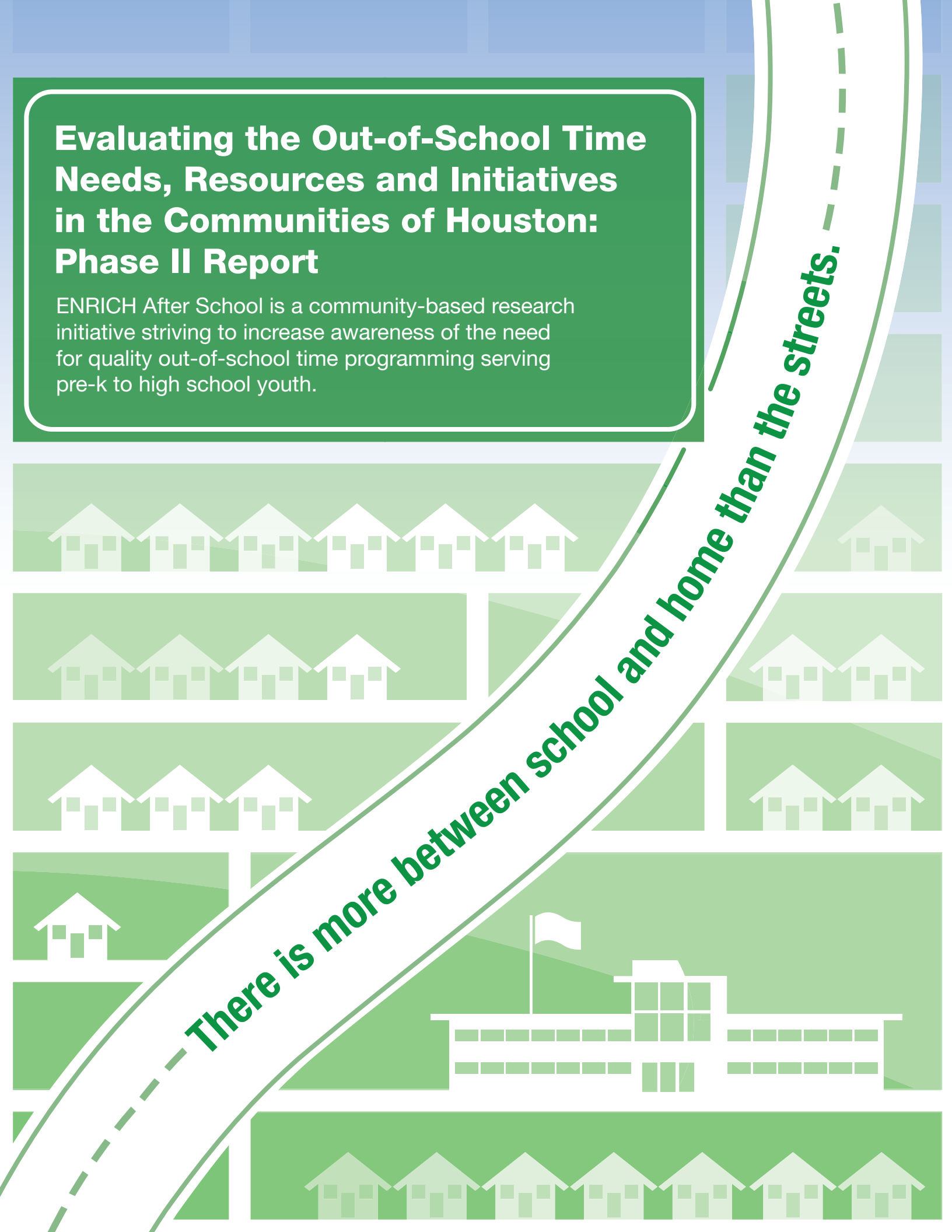


# Evaluating the Out-of-School Time Needs, Resources and Initiatives in the Communities of Houston: Phase II Report

ENRICH After School is a community-based research initiative striving to increase awareness of the need for quality out-of-school time programming serving pre-k to high school youth.

*There is more between school and home than the streets.*





## **HCDE and CASE for Kids**

Harris County Department of Education (HCDE) provides education services to the 25 school districts in Harris County and beyond. Formed by HCDE in 1999, the Center for Afterschool, Summer and Enrichment for Kids, or CASE for Kids, works to leverage community resources and strengthen the capacity of the out-of-school time (OST) community.

## **ENRICH After School**

CASE for Kids convened ENRICH After School in February 2012 to build a coalition to support the OST field. In the first 18 months, ENRICH successfully coalesced community partners and conducted key research on the need for afterschool programming and the impact that OST providers have on participating youth. With support from the Houston Endowment, the collaborative work was able to make critical progress in the areas of financial support, field cohesion, and research.

### The ENRICH Team:

Over 1,537 community members have convened and provided input into the ENRICH research, including:

- elected officials • nonprofits • corporate representatives • afterschool providers
- youth development experts • youth
- school administrators • researchers
- parents and superintendents.



## Our Roadmap to Success

Members of ENRICH After School continue to take research to the streets by educating key stakeholders to OST needs and impact areas. Details from the following ENRICH studies are presented here as resources for your own community outreach.

## ENRICH Research

ENRICH After School conducted research in an effort to further the work of our local partners. The studies should be used as a resource to inform practice and build awareness of the continued need for community wide investment in OST. Please utilize the following summaries and data points in your own work and conversations.

## Best Practices in Out-of-School Time Programming in Harris County

The Best Practices study identified and described the best practices of six exemplary OST programs in Harris County.

### The study found that quality sites:

- nurture students' strengths,
- increase community awareness and collaboration, and
- offer curricula that align with students' school-day lessons.

### All OST programs should subscribe to the following best practices:

set clear goals and empower staff with independence and authority,



hire staff with a diverse set of experiences and relevant sets of expertise, and



strengthen connections between the school day and afterschool program.

**Credits:**  
Catherine Horn, Ph.D.  
and Toya Conston



Character  
confidence  
Safe active engaged Children and youth

# ENRICH After School

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## ENRICH Research (cont.) Social Return on Investment

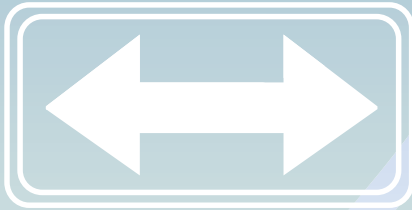
This study examined the financial investments made in Houston OST programming and their impact on the economy by tracking 2012-2013 funding streams funneled toward the cause.

About \$23.7 million was invested in 535 OST programs across Greater Houston. These programs employed 141 full-time and 465 part-time Houstonians, and provided OST activities to 41,367 students.

### Returns on afterschool investments have been found in the following areas:

- increased school attendance,
- reduced childcare costs,
- fewer grade retentions,
- lower dropout rates, and
- reduced juvenile delinquency.

**Credits:** Melissa Tackett-Gibson, Ph.D.  
Jabot' Colvin  
Lance Cook  
Annette Dento  
Shahrukh Farooq  
Emily Franke



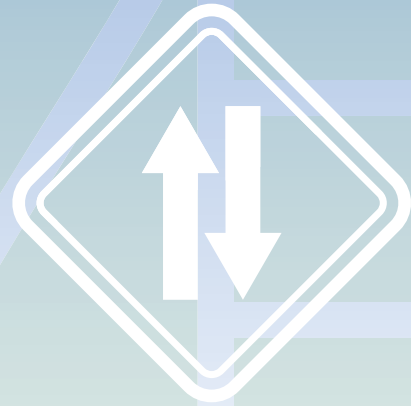
A survey at an April 2015 summit convened by County Precinct 1 Constable Alan Rosen found that 46% of Harris County teens do not trust law enforcement and that 36% are ambivalent. CASE for Kids and The American Leadership Forum-Houston hosted a community dialogue in May 2015 to discuss approaches to repair the broken relationship between inner city youth and police.

**While Houston is succeeding in implementing both family and youth engagement strategies, and fostering community collaboration, there is room for improvement in these areas:**

1. the public's negative perception of law enforcement,
2. a lack of understanding of our youth, and
3. inadequate practices and/or policies within the education and law enforcement systems.

Attendees suggested supporting grassroots organizations that have proven results in low-income areas, developing programs that educate youth on how to function in at-risk environments, and integrating law enforcement interaction skills into high school programs.

**Credits:** Lisa Caruthers, M.S.W., Ph.D.  
Rena Johnson, M.P.A.



Data from the U.S. Department of Education's federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers was used to analyze the effects of afterschool programming on criminal and non-criminal infractions.

Increased participation in afterschool programs results in a decrease in the likelihood of in-school infractions. Black males and older youth have higher rates of referrals identifying a need for afterschool programs to serve this population through intentional content-based programming.

**Community members and school officials should:**

1. create incentives for black, male and/or older youth to participate in afterschool activities,
2. provide quality training to staff, and
3. continue research on additional variables that may impact juvenile delinquency.

**Credits:** Melissa Tackett-Gibson, Ph.D.  
Cindy Alvarado  
Melissa Cano  
Robert Hammarberg  
Stephanie Kotick  
Sarah Tankersley

## Moving in the Same Direction: The City of Houston Invests in Kids

### City Connections

As part of a strategy to prevent crime among the city's youth and to promote safety, in 2014 the Houston City Council approved a first time \$550,000 financial investment in OST programs. The new initiative, City Connections, administered by CASE for Kids, has entered its second year of support evidencing Houston's commitment to youth and the community partners that serve our kids.

"Afterschool programs are effective crime prevention strategies. These activities should be viewed as important elements in keeping Houston a safe place to live, work and raise a family."

—Houston Council Member C.O. "Brad" Bradford, 2015

## The Work Continues

CASE for Kids will continue to lead the charge by hosting community meetings with OST providers and stakeholders and collecting research.



Please join us in our continued effort to drive change. Share why OST programs and activities are important to you and your organization. Let us know the needs of the youth that you work with and how we can collaborate to improve the OST community.

For more information and to access the full research reports, please visit the ENRICH After School page of the website [www.afterschoolzone.org](http://www.afterschoolzone.org)