

Houston Families Need More and Better Options After School

ENRICH After School, a collaborative of 35 youth serving organizations, spent 18 months researching Houston/Harris County after school programs to validate the need for local, strategic, cross systems investment in programming. To support our after school case, ENRICH coordinated two studies with qualified university professors. Below are key findings from each study.



Only **1 in 24** Houston youth has access to a free, structured, publically funded after school program.

What did we learn?

1

Parents, schools and community leaders agree on the **need** for after school programs, how they support youth and families and the best type of activities to include.

2

Programs that want to keep youth engaged and learning should employ **quality leaders** who listen to youth and parents when creating or scheduling activities.

3

Sustained funding, staff retention and opportunities for professional development are the **most pressing issues** facing local after school providers.

4

Middle school age youth living outside the 610 loop have significantly **more referrals** to juvenile probation; yet, these communities had fewer than three after school programs.

5

Communities with **five or more** after school programs had significantly fewer referrals to juvenile probation.



Since 2003, over **120** Houston after school programs have been disbanded due to lack of sustained local funding.

What do we do now?

- 1 Study how after school investments impact other local systems.
- 2 Identify and implement after school program strategies that lead to improved youth outcomes.
- 3 Create a city wide strategic plan that prevents closures, improves quality and increases summer programs.



Because there is **more** between **school** and **home** than the streets.



65%

of Houston kids age 7-17 are from low income working families earning about \$37,000 a year.

Why is this important?

Consistent and engaging after-school programming helps equip youth with the skills to achieve lifelong success. If we unite to save Houston/Harris County programs that are closing every year, increase quality programs in underserved communities and maintain programming through the summer months, we will better prepare youth for their futures and help Houston achieve economic sustainability. Link to www.afterschoolzone@hcde-texas.org or e-mail enrichafterschool@hcde-texas.org for more information.

All kids deserve an after school investment.

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