

Los Angeles County Office of Education: Expanded Learning Technical Assistance Unit is seeking a Part Time Contracted Consultant to work on establishing a greater Los Angeles County Summer Matters Network.

Background

The After School Technical Assistance Unit (Unit) of the Los Angeles County Office of Education has been providing technical assistance and consultation to the one hundred and fifty nine expanded learning programs in the county for the past fifteen years. The mission of the Unit is to ensure that students are receiving high quality programming during their expanded learning experiences.

The Unit has been actively involved in the Summer Matters Campaign for the past six years. The goal of the campaign is to create and expand access to high quality summer learning opportunities for all California students with a particular emphasis on low income students who often miss out on the opportunity to participate in these programs. The campaign has five objectives:

1. Develop and advocate for legislation to increase public funding for summer programming
2. Pilot innovates summer programming and technical assistance models
3. Raise public awareness about the effects of summer learning loss
4. Grow the Summer Matters coalition to generate increasing momentum and support for expanding access to summer learning opportunities among educators, elected officials, business, civic and philanthropic leaders along with parents, child advocates and program providers
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of high quality summer learning programs

The main components are: technical assistance and consulting, building a Greater Los Angeles Summer Matters Roundtable; and increasing the awareness of elected and civic officials and businesses on the importance of summer learning programs.

Project Overview

1. Describe the problem/background information

Summer Learning Loss is a well-documented educational problem for all students but particularly for those from lower income families who are not in the position to pay for enrichment, academic, recreational and other programs for their children to participate in during the summer months.

In a 2012 study conducted by Public Profit on behalf of the Summer Matters Campaign titled "Summer Matters: How Summer Learning Strengthens Students' Success" it was reported that:

Unequal access to summer learning and enrichment opportunities is a significant factor in the achievement gap between low-income students and their higher-income peers. This study describes how learning programs that provide high quality summer, engaging enrichment activities are a promising solution to this challenge and can help to narrow our unacceptable achievement gap.

This study examines the ways in which summer programs in three different parts of our state -- Fresno, Sacramento and Los Angeles -- benefitted children and their families. The study addresses a gap in the existing literature on summer programs in California by examining the extent to which youth attending high quality, academically, socially and physically enriching summer programs demonstrate improved pro-social attachments, academic self-efficacy and motivation, and English Language Arts proficiency.

Based on these findings, this report concludes that summer learning programs are helping to sustain and improve academic skills, build strong connections to peers and adults, and reinforce positive work habits and attitudes.

2. Brief description of the project and key components

ASTAU has led the efforts to explore the interest of creating a Los Angeles County Summer Matters Roundtable with key stakeholders. The purpose of this group would be to share best practices, advocate for funding for summer expanded learning programs, and build and/or strengthen partnerships among the many entities that have a vested interest in this work. The results of these efforts have been the following:

- Identification of several key organizations willing to take on a co-leadership role in this work with the ASTAU including Families In Schools, California Library Association and United Way of Santa Barbara County
- Meetings need to be held in a central location and run no more than 4 hours as the commute time is an issue in the great Los Angeles County area.
- Districts and agencies who have been contacted are interested in participating in regular meetings if the focus of the work is on outcomes [they are ready to take action]. They have also expressed a willingness to participate in one or more Work Groups that would report back to the Los Angeles County Summer Matters Roundtable.
- Based on initial discussion with interested parties the Work Group areas identified are:
 1. Grade level reading
 2. Parent engagement
 3. Sustainability including the use of Local Control Funding Formula dollars for programming
 4. Program Quality and
 5. Staff Development.
- It is anticipated that each Work Group would develop 2-3 outcomes for the two-year period of 2016-2018 with a detailed action plan as to how they plan to meet these outcomes. Each Work Group would be co-facilitated by two individuals from the membership who would be supported in these efforts by the Project Manager.

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3. Program goals and objectives

Goal: to establish a greater Los Angeles County Summer Roundtable which will lead the efforts to increase the number of summer expanded learning programs within the geographic area

Objectives

1. Identify other key community groups, major funders, district, charter school and business leaders to reach out to and engage in this work
2. Organize and hold two to four meetings of the greater Los Angeles County Summer Roundtable during 2016-2017
3. Facilitate the start up and operation of the Work Groups
4. Continue to build support for the mission of the Summer Matters Network in the greater LA area

Timetable

1. Project to start August 2016 and the first meeting to be held in October 2016
2. Subsequent initial meetings to be held November 2016-March 2017
3. Work Groups formed April-August 2016 with reports out at two to three meetings from September 2016-March 2017

5. Organization unique positioning

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is the largest educational institution in the state of California and has strong relationships with all eighty school districts within its service area as well as with elected officials, civic, business and community based organizations. The Expanded Learning Technical Assistance Unit/After School Technical Assistance Unit (ASTAU) has been recognized as the leader in the provision of services to expanded learning grantees within the county by their clients as well as other regions throughout the state.

The Summer Matters work has been coordinated out of the office of the ASTAU for the past six years; which will allow them to continue to build up the strong relationships they have built during this time in order to continue to move this work forward.

6. Ultimate beneficiary and target

The ultimate beneficiaries are the students in grades K-12 who do not have access to summer expanded learning opportunities for a variety of reasons. Participating in these programs will allow them an opportunity at a minimum stay at the same academic and social emotional level with their peers who are participating in such programs. K-12 instructors will also benefit as it will allow them the opportunity to move students forward when they return to school each fall, rather than spending the first four to eight weeks reviewing material and content from the previous year.

The target for this project are identified leaders (educational, civic, business, nonprofit, legislative, parents and faith based organizations) who are committed to participating in a greater county effort to move the needle (on a declining mode) on summer learning loss by advocating for increased resources for such programs as well as creating new partnerships and collaborations among current providers in order to gain greater efficiencies and effectiveness from these efforts.

Consultant Requirements

1. Must possess a minimum of a bachelor's degree (masters preferred) in one of the following Public Policy; Business or Social Welfare or Public Administration
2. Have experience working in youth development and/or expanded learning programs at a managerial level in Los Angeles county
3. Have experience building networks of aligned community partners that develop and take action in Los Angeles county
4. Have over five years of working directly with CEOs, Presidents, Executive Directors and other similar stakeholders on a peer basis; working on mutually beneficial projects in Los Angeles county
5. Strong oral and written communication skills
6. Be highly proficient in Microsoft word, excel, power point, and publisher
7. Have experience establishing a social media presence
8. Must live in Los Angeles County
9. Have access to appropriate technology to carry out the work plan including: computer, printer, scan/fax machine, business email; business cell phone
10. Own a car and carry appropriate insurance coverage
11. Be willing to work as an independent contractor for the period of August 1, 2016-July 31, 2017 on an average of 20 hours per week

If you are interested send the following to: regionallead@gmail.com

1. Resume
2. Cover letter stating why you feel you are highly qualified for this consulting assignment
3. 4 references with names, organization name, email and phone numbers of past clients or employers that you performed similar work for and a description of the work and the dates the work was completed
4. Your current hourly rate schedule

Deadline to submit materials: Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 5 pm

No phone calls please!

For more information on Summer Matters visit:

www.summermatters.net

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/summerlearning.asp>