

OVERVIEW OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL INSTITUTE

Staff of The After-School Institute

Rebka Atnafou, Director, responsible for overall management, establishing strategic linkages with local, state, and national organizations, and the expansion and sustainability of The Institute.

Lori Carter Vassor, Professional Development Coordinator, responsible for network meetings and trainings, and oversight of TASI's youth development certificate programs.

Craig Kershaw, Chief Financial Officer, responsible for TASI's accounts management

Rebekah Lin, Communications and Technical Assistance Specialist, responsible for TASI communications and technical assistance.

Andrea Tillery, Office Manager, responsible for overall management of the office.

Intern

Briauna Gaines, Mayor's Office of Employment Development Intern

Natasha Holloway, Mayor's Office of Employment Development Intern

History: The After-School Institute (TASI) was established in 1999 as a citywide, capacity-building organization linked to the Safe and Sound Campaign's After-School Strategy. Over the years, TASI has expanded its services beyond Baltimore City, providing training and technical assistance throughout Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic region. As of 2008, TASI has become an independent nonprofit organization.

The vision of TASI is to be the premier training and technical assistance organization for after-school programs in Maryland focused on professionalizing and expanding the field by:

- providing innovative and multiple approaches to distilling and presenting national best practices,
- providing quality training experiences,
- providing tailored technical assistance,
- providing unique networking opportunities,
- promoting effective policies,
- engaging, convening, and supporting critical constituencies,
- brokering and leveraging resources and monitoring program quality, and
- establishing quality standards and promoting accountability.

The After-School Institute continues to significantly expand its work to include the establishment of an after-school system building initiative in collaboration with the Montgomery County (MD) Collaboration Council (lead), Montgomery County Community College, a Montgomery Supporting Quality Initiative (SQI) Steering committee, and the Institute. Our goals are:

Goal 1: Build competencies of after-school program providers to deliver quality programming.

Goal 2: Foster partnerships among after-school programs to create and support a peer learning community.

Goal 3: Empower programs to advocate for and sustain themselves.

Goal 4: Support school/after-school partnerships and coordination.

Goal 5: Support policies and a city-wide system to increase the quantity, quality, and utilization of after-school program.

Mission: The After-School Institute builds the capacity of after-school program providers so that they can deliver high quality services in a caring, supportive environment that empowers children and youth to develop civic, academic, artistic, and athletic talents and skills.

Goal: The After-School Institute strengthens the program delivery of community/school-based organizations serving youth ages 6-18 by building academic, athletic, artistic, civic/social, intellectual, and political competencies of youth through practitioner development.

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I. TASI's Work in Baltimore: The After-School Institute's mission, goal, and objectives are supported by the five capacity-building efforts described below:

Network Meetings for after-school program providers and youth workers are held the last Tuesday of every month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. These meetings represent the "hub" of capacity-building activities, inter/intra agency collaboration, network vision, mission and goal setting, dissemination of proven and promising practices to strengthen practitioner competencies, and program delivery. The network meetings serve as the primary catalyst for:

- Training/Technical Assistance to individual and clusters of providers,
- Facilitation of strategic linkages and collaborations between organizations/practitioners,
- Peer support workgroups, and
- Updates on Baltimore's After-School Strategy.



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Training and Technical Assistance is designed to advance institutional/practitioner development. Trainings are designed to build and enhance the skills of practitioners, support the development of youth, and strengthen the community in which the organization is located. Quarterly Training Institutes/mini-conferences and the annual Eastern Regional Conference on after-School are organized. Technical assistance provides an opportunity for intensive, institutional development to strengthen an organization's capacity to meet the *Standards for Baltimore After-School Opportunities in Youth Places* and supports other dimensions of program development.

Strategic Linkages and Collaborations have been established among after-school providers resulting from network meetings, resource fairs, trainings, technical assistance, and special events. Linkages have been forged between The After-School Institute and local, regional, and national organizations to support the goals, objectives, and activities of capacity building. Linkages will continue to be formed with funders, community leaders, parents/caretakers, city and state agencies, and youth.

Site Visits to after-school programs provide in-depth understanding of the programs and practical experience of the facility and the activities offered. They also provide an opportunities for intensive technical assistance.

Materials Development includes not only producing youth worker brochures and identifying resources to sustain quality after-school programming, but also The After-School Institute's website- www.afterschoolinstitute.org. Members of The After-School Institute can access an interactive *Standards* document, post inquiries and responses on the bulletin board, and build a website for their program if they do not already have one. The website allows members to obtain contact information of fellow colleagues and provides access to online trainings. It is through materials development and distribution that The After-School Institute informs after-school programs of best practices and local/national resources.