

## **The Importance of Community Partnerships**

### **Partnerships Enhance Your Programs**

Having a minimum of one or two strong community partners is vital to your long-term capacity. We know this might seem daunting to achieve, and understand the time and commitment it takes just to run your afterschool program.

Despite this, we can't emphasize enough how important community partnerships can be to your program's success – particularly in relation to running AMP.

### **How Partnerships Help**

#### **They Assist In Fundraising**

If you decide to sponsor your own Afterschool Meals Program, having good community partners and networks can be useful for fundraising. You might work with a community partner to help raise funds to offset costs not fully covered or reimbursed by AMP.

This can be as simple as an annual fundraiser by a partnering church, or as complex as a strategic initiative with a variety of partners such as the Chamber of Commerce, the local school district, your local Commission on Children and Families and other non-profits.

#### **They Increase Community Awareness**

Most importantly, such partnerships will help make your program stronger and better known in the community.

#### **They Provide Non-Monetary Support**

Finally, partnerships can provide crucial non-monetary support as well. For example, volunteer groups can help with activities and serve meals.

#### **AMP as a Tool to Build Partnerships**

AMP itself can be a tool to begin partnerships. If you've decided to have your meals and/ or snacks supplied by a school district or other non-profit, you're creating a partnership which demonstrates your willingness to work with others. You're also showing potential funders that you think outside the box by leveraging as many community resources as possible.