

2004 SUCCESS STORY

TITLE: J.C. Penney 4-H Afterschool Training Grant

Situation:

In Wisconsin, low-income youth lack access to safe high quality Afterschool programs. Through a mini-grant process, the 10 counties were selected for this grant provided evidence indicating they are currently working with local Afterschool collaborations in low income neighborhoods that are culturally and ethnically diverse. Local staff and volunteers who work with youth have little, if any, youth development training.

The fall 2003 survey of all Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development Agents indicated there was a high need for training in 63% of Wisconsin counties currently involved in Afterschool programs, and that more counties would get involved in Afterschool programs if training was provided. Staff indicated that their top five Afterschool training needs were:

1. Program evaluation
2. A Wisconsin version of "How to Start 4-H Afterschool Clubs"
3. 4-H Project Teaching Kits
4. How to make any activity both experiential and educational
5. Afterschool staff training

Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development staff members are the catalyst for transforming their success with creating sustainable community-based 4-H clubs, to customize 4-H Afterschool Clubs for low-income youth and families. Counties participating in this proposal include: Brown, Dane, Douglas, Fond du Lac, Iron, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Outagamie, Racine, Sawyer counties..

B. Objectives

Objectives defined by the Wisconsin Building 4-H Afterschool Programs Work Team that supports this training grant include:

1. Afterschool program staff and adult and youth volunteers *improve their ability to offer high quality care, education and developmental experiences* for youth by January 1, 2005.
2. Teen volunteers, adult volunteers and Afterschool staff *adapt 4-H curriculum and share 4-H project skills* with youth involved in 4-H Afterschool programs by January 1, 2005.
3. 2,000 youth, who participate in Afterschool learning activities based on 4-H project curriculum criteria, *improve* communication, decision making, teamwork and other *life skills* by January 2005.
4. Active and self-sustaining 4-H Afterschool Clubs *improve the quality and community support* for Afterschool programs by January 1, 2005.

Response:

Twelve local sites were recruited via a Mini-RFP process. Four sites hosted the fall 2004 training workshops for 18 Extension Staff and 99 local Afterschool collaborators. Fall 2004 training sites included:

- 46 participants at the September 10, 2004 Workshop at Grand Chute Town Hall in Grand Chute [
- 21 participants at the September 15, 2004 Workshop at the Dane County Extension Office in Madison
- 30 participants at the September 21, 2004 Workshop at the Pointe Waters Resort in Minocqua
- 20 participants at the October 29, 2004 Workshop at the Racine County Extension Office

Since then local sites have provided ongoing training and support for additional staff along with adult and youth volunteers.

The 16-member Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool team will assist staff at the four sites to customize training based on local input and Wisconsin materials adapted to support the three booklets in National Council's *4-H Afterschool in a Box*. For more information on the Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Logic Model Plan go to <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/4h/planning/planning.html> . Training will be put to immediate use to reach 2,000 youth in 50 4-H Afterschool clubs and programs by January 1, 2005.

Results:

Vos and staff created training notebooks, seven skillathon stations and seven teaching kits that were used at the four workshops to actively engage participants in the experiential learning process. Wayne Brabender took photos of all the skillathon stations and teaching kits so that this can be part of the Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool website, along with over 40 activity plans. This Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool website will be featured at the Feb. 17, 2005 Wisline Web program for all Wisconsin 21st Learning Center Site Coordinators.

Workshop participants indicated they had greatly improved their ability to:

- Help Afterschool program staff and/or volunteers provide quality hands on experiences for youth. [79%]
- Adapt 4-H curriculum and help staff and/or volunteers use it with youth involved in Afterschool programs. [66%]
- Facilitate activities that help youth improve their communication, decision-making, teamwork and other life skills. [71%]
- See the value of UW- Extension's role in Afterschool programs. [81%]
- Start and/or support 4-H Afterschool Programs. [61%]

82 % of workshop participants indicated that the best part of the training was the "Hands on activities, followed by 10 % who mentioned learning youth development concepts and 10 % that thought opportunities to network was most helpful. 31 % indicated that access to more resources such as lesson plans, curriculum and websites is what they need most from Extension.

Participants indicated they intended to use the following teaching kits: Visual Arts (55 mentions); Aerospace (46 mentions); Electricity (37 mentions); Natural Science (24 mentions); Theatre Arts (23 mentions); Reading (22 mentions) and Plant Science (7 mentions).

Evidence:

All participants completed a post-workshop survey designed to measure learning and intend to use 4-H Afterschool curriculum. Extension educators plan a follow-up survey in spring 2005 to see if participants who say they intend to use the curriculum actually do so.