



Building Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Afterschool Programs

Resource Guide

Below are resources to help afterschool providers facilitate relationships with law enforcement, given the positive impact these relationships have on students, law enforcement officials, and communities at large. Most existing resources are focused on partnerships between schools and law enforcement—however, a number of the principles are applicable to afterschool programs as well. The guide identifies components of successful collaboration, best practices, and program examples. This is a working document; please email info@afterschoolalliance.org if there are additional resources you have found to be helpful and believe should be included in this resource.

Why Build Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Afterschool?

- [Afterschool & Law Enforcement: Partners in keeping kids and communities safe](#) - An Afterschool Snack blog post that outlines the positive effects fostering stronger police and youth relations have on youth, the officers involved, and the community as a whole.
- [Afterschool-law enforcement partnership gives justice-involved youth a new path](#) - A blog by the Kansas Enrichment Network shares how a partnership between Emporia High School and the Fifth Judicial District Community Corrections in Emporia, Kansas, has provided high school youth involved with the judicial system, truant, or on probation, the opportunity to participate in the Spartan Explorers afterschool program, where they engage in elective activities while building positive relationships with adults.
- [Police chiefs: Our communities need afterschool!](#) - An Afterschool Snack blog post highlighting statements from police chiefs around the country lending their voices to why it is important to support afterschool and summer learning programs.
- [Afterschool & Law Enforcement: Motivations for partnerships](#) - An Afterschool Snack blog post that features conversations with the Santa Ana Police Department, the District Attorney's Office of Nassau County, and the Burlington Police Department discussing the benefits behind initiatives working to strengthen partnerships between afterschool programs and law enforcement.

How to Forge Partnerships:

- [Afterschool & Law Enforcement: Building Community between Police and Youth recap](#) - An Afterschool Snack blog post recapping recommendations by two afterschool programs, PIECES After School Program and the Police Athletic League, on how to establish and maintain partnerships with law enforcement.

Recommendations to build a partnership with local law enforcement include:

- Think broadly
- Create a shared vision
- Start small
- Sell your program
- Reach out with specific ideas
- Follow up

Recommendations to maintain a relationship with law enforcement include:

- Look for opportunities to give back
- Keep a consistent schedule
- Establish a tradition
- Involve your law enforcement partner in program planning and design

- [Afterschool & Law Enforcement: Building relationships and trust](#) - An Afterschool Snack blog post providing multiple examples of developing partnerships between afterschool programs and law enforcement, ranging from the formation of basketball teams to the creation of a youth advisory group.

- [Wyoming Afterschool Alliance's Juvenile Justice web page](#) - In April 2017, the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance hosted a "Statewide Summit on Juvenile Justice". Visit their [website](#) for resources derived from the summit, including a PowerPoint presentation on why afterschool is a system of support to reduce the school-to-prison pipeline and a presentation by Dr. Adrienne Freng from the University of Wyoming's Department of Criminal Justice regarding what works and what does not when supporting at-risk youth in afterschool programs.

- [Collaboration Toolkit: How to Build, Fix, and Sustain Productive Partnerships](#) - A guide by the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for law enforcement agencies and their partners to develop, fix, and sustain productive law enforcement/community partnerships in support of advancing community policing efforts. It identifies and delves into the nine components of a successful collaboration:

1. Stakeholders with a vested interest in the issue
2. Trust among and between the partners
3. A shared vision and common goals
4. Expertise among partners to solve community problems
5. Teamwork strategies
6. Open communication
7. Motivated partners
8. Sufficient means to implement and sustain the collaborative effort
9. An action plan

- [School/Police Partnerships: Best Practices and Lessons Learned](#) - A resource guide by Northeastern University's College of Criminal Justice that describes the history and best practices associated with partnerships between schools and police in the United States. It shares lessons learned, identifies common challenges, and offers recommendations. *Note: This is very school-day focused.

Lessons learned:

- Obtaining early buy-in
- Home visits
- Communication and information sharing

Recommendations:

- Clarify school resource officers' (SRO) mission and job description
- Select officers based on substantive criteria
- Train new SROs on working in school environments

■ [A Guide to Juvenile Detention Reform: Forging Partnerships with Law Enforcement](#) - A resource guide by the Annie E. Casey Foundation for juvenile justice reformers that shares examples and advice aimed at helping Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) sites form effective partnerships with law enforcement agencies to reduce the use of unnecessary detention. Highlights include:

- JDAI works better when law enforcement agencies are active partners and “law enforcement leaders are increasingly recognizing that improving relations with youth and other community residents is crucial to public safety”
- By actively partnering with law enforcement agencies, JDAI stakeholders can help ensure that law enforcement practices toward youth are more equitable and effective
- A promising strategy is offering training to help law enforcement commanders and patrol officers appreciate differences between youth and adults

■ [Building Community between Police and Youth](#) - An Afterschool Alliance webinar covering the ways in which communities can come together through afterschool and police partnerships.

Examples of Program Partnerships:

■ [Afterschool Spotlight: PIECES After School Program & Burlington Police Department](#) - An Afterschool Snack blog post detailing how the partnership between the PIECES After School Program and the Burlington Police first developed and has since grown.

■ [Stop Locking Up So Many Kansas Kids](#) - A joint blog post by the Kansas Enrichment Network and Kansas Appleseed, an anti-poverty nonprofit advocacy organization. This blog post showcases how afterschool program providers and networks can work together with other nonprofit organizations that have relationships with law enforcement, as well as highlights the role that partnering with legislators can play to develop relationships with law enforcement or the Department of Corrections.



■ [The National Association of Police Athletic/Activities League \(PAL\)](#) - A national organization with the mission of preventing juvenile crime and violence by building relationships among kids, cops, and community through positive engagement. PAL has a number of different types of programs across the country, including:

- [NYC PAL Afterschool Programs](#) - A comprehensive afterschool program that provides K-8th graders with academic enrichment, arts learning, and physical education
- [Dunn PAL](#) - Located in Dunn, North Carolina, this PAL afterschool program serves students in grades K through 12 and provides arts, STEM programming, and opportunities for physical activity.

■ [St. Louis CHESS \(Cops Helping Enhance Student Skills\) Cops](#) - This program is a collaborative effort between the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of St. Louis, and St. Louis Public Schools. It pairs St. Louis police officers with inner city students to teach them the game of chess, fostering positive relationships between the police and the community they serve.

Helpful Perspectives:

- [Police Perspectives Series](#) – By the Vera Institute for Justice, the “Police Perspectives” series, written for police by police, is intended to improve the relations between police and the communities they serve. The three-part series (“How to Increase Cultural Understanding,” “How to Serve Diverse Communities,” and “How to Support Trust Building in Your Agency”) highlights practical, field-informed approaches to building trust with multiracial and multi-ethnic communities.
- [Police and Youth Engagement: Supporting the Role of Law Enforcement in Juvenile Justice Reform](#) - The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) launched the Police-Youth Engagement initiative to promote collaboration between youth and law enforcement professionals.
- [Rebuilding Trust Among Communities, Teens and Law Enforcement](#) - A Boys & Girls Club of America blog post about its work establishing mentoring relationships between males of color and law enforcement officials, creating a safe space for workable solutions among youth and law enforcement, and increase the presence of law enforcement within Clubs.

Organizations:

- [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), which works to improve the lives of children, families, and communities across the country, has a project called the “Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative,” a site-based effort to reduce the use of detention and uncover more effective interventions. Resources include practice guides, issue briefs, case studies, and start-up materials.
- [Council for a Strong America](#) works to secure strong communities and juvenile justice and youth-police interactions are significant portions of that work. Visit the “[Youth-Police Interactions](#)” to find reports, videos, and blogs on the subject.



- **International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)** is a professional association for law enforcement worldwide. Its website includes a [Youth Focusing Policing Resource Center](#), which features a program directory for active youth programs and services provided by law enforcement agencies, training and technical assistance, an extensive resource library.
- **The National Association of Police Athletic/Activities League (PAL)** works with its PAL chapters nationwide to promote the prevention of juvenile crime and violence by building relationships among kids, cops, and community through positive engagement.
- **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)** at the U.S. Department of Justice supports states, local communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for juveniles; they sponsor research, program support, and [technical assistance](#).
- **Vera Institute of Justice** is a national non-profit research and policy organization that is working to improve justice systems that ensure fairness, promote safety, and strengthen communities.

Law Enforcement/Community Engagement Programs

- **Police Athletics for Community Engagement** is focused on building relationships between neighborhoods and patrol officers through sports activities, such as baseball, cross-fit, soccer, and flag football.
- **Police Explorer program** allows children to learn more about law enforcement, while giving them a sense of belonging and service to their communities. Contact your local law enforcement agencies for participation details.
- **Youth Citizens Police Academy** offers youth an inside look at local law enforcement, helping increase police and community understanding and rapport through education and interaction. Contact your local law enforcement agencies for participation details.
- **Adopt a Unit** is focused on youth that are currently incarcerated and in need of help with re-entry into their communities. This is done through mentoring and educational resources within in the facilities. Contact your local Juvenile Detention Facility for participation details.



For more information visit afterschoolalliance.org