

In **Cincinnati, Ohio**, the Cincinnati Public School District is using \$1.5M of Title I ARRA funds to support a new expanded learning effort, enabling 13 elementary schools to offer a "fifth quarter" of extended learning during the month of June for students in grades K-8. The effort is also tapping other federal funds (21st CCLC, Title I) in addition to funds from the City of Cincinnati, the United Way and from private entities. The program includes meals and transportation, academic instruction and enrichment activities provided by community partners, including art, music, physical education, environmental education, technology and more. To date, the project has the largest participation of school staff including physical education teachers and school nurses, all of whom are participating in the fifth quarter with the costs underwritten by the school district.

Some of the key challenges that the project faced included:

- *Meeting enrollment goals.* The Network noticed that sites that offered both pre-sessions and after school sessions had the highest enrollment. Parents are most attracted to a continuum of services for their children; particularly those dealing with transportation issues.
- *Budget cycles.* Many community-based organizations' budget cycles had already closed by the time the summer plans were developing.
- *Lack of a snack program for the summer.* Although there is a food program for breakfast and lunch, the Network is challenged to find resources to provide an afternoon snack.

Program leaders point to some key elements that have made the initiative successful:

- *The Fifth Quarter was a "shovel ready" program.* The initiative was already in development under the leadership of school, private, public and community partners prior to the release of stimulus funds. The stimulus dollars helped to fast track the Fifth Quarter's expansion to serve more students.
- *Strong collaboration among key partners.* Regional members of the Ohio Afterschool Network collaborated with key partners including the Cincinnati Public Schools' Title I Administrative Officer; the CPS Director of Operations; the Superintendent and staff, and key community champions, such as Strive, the local P16 Council, which supported the initiative and secured buy-in from key leaders and school partners. School decision-making committees also helped to facilitate partnerships with principals and resources coordinators were available to liaise with community groups. The Superintendent helped to communicate the vision and commitment for the project to the broader community.
- *Avoiding the funding cliff.* The Fifth Quarter will be sustainable beyond summer 2009 because of the additional community funds that have been leveraged.