



## **ASES:**

### **The After-School Opportunity for Community-Based Organizations**

The After School Education and Safety Program requires that local education agencies be the fiscal agent of an ASES grant. However, the program's matching fund requirement and emphasis on community partnerships mean there is a place for community-based organizations, such as museums and youth organizations, to participate in providing after-school programs and activities for California's youth. Below are a few ways in which community-based organizations fit into the ASES program and why they should pursue after-school programming.

#### **Where community-based organizations (CBOs) fit into ASES:**

- Even though local education agencies must be the fiscal agent, they are permitted to contract out various program functions, including staffing, curriculum and even complete program operation and management.
- Schools and CBOs need each other. Once a school gets an ASES grant, it will need curriculum, activities, equipment, staff and more. A CBO, on the other hand, might have staff and programming ready but might lack either funds or access to students. All parties benefit when schools and CBOs work together.
- CBOs don't have to run an after-school program to be involved. Programs often need short-term or one-time programming, such as a once-a-week art class. After-school programs also value a number of resources from partners, aside from cash. This includes:
  - Staff and volunteers.
  - Materials.
  - Curricula.
  - Facilities.
  - Transportation.
  - Special events or field trips
  - Experts with specialized training in certain fields (e.g. scientists, artists, gardeners, business owners).
  - Staff training and professional development.
- ASES is an ongoing funding source. Community organizations often have to pull together a variety of funding sources that may or may not be reliable. For example, private dollars are competitive and donor interest/attention can be short-lived. Federal funding is often one-time, also highly competitive, targeted toward a specific purpose (e.g. science education), or gets cut from the budget. ASES funding is much more stable because it cannot be altered without voter

approval, and the program's purpose is broad enough to make a variety of program activities eligible. As long as a CBO maintains a good relationship with the local education agency, ASES can provide a path to sustainability.

**Why CBOs should take the after-school opportunity:**

Many CBOs have a mission or mandate to work with youth, but many can't offer school-day programming. After-school is where the kids are. Working with after-school programs also provides a CBO with the opportunity to:

- Build its capacity to deliver youth-focused programming and services.
- Strengthen its standing in the community.
- Connect with its target population (e.g. school-age, under-served populations, parents and families).
- Expand its audience or increase its public visibility.
- Fulfill its mission.
- Connect to other partners through the school and/or district.
- Make a difference in the lives of youth and the health of the community.