



houston
PARKS
& recreation
department

a.s.a.p.
after-school achievement program

2008-2009 Request for Proposals and Application Guidelines

(Serving only elementary school age youth)

Program Description

The Mayor's After-School Achievement Program (ASAP) is designed to expand after-school opportunities for Houston youth. Through ASAP, the City of Houston funds schools and non-profit agencies to provide after-school programming for **elementary school age children** serving a minimum of 30 children per site Monday-Friday, at least three hours daily, generally between 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The After-school Achievement Program Goals are as follows:

- To provide safe, supervised, structured programming for youth during after-school hours.
- To prevent delinquency and reduce crimes committed by/against juveniles.
- To improve participants' school performance, conduct, and attendance.
- To encourage the ongoing involvement of parents and the community in youth programs.
- To motivate youth to develop citizenship, and good health habits.
- To build positive partnerships to create fun – affordable - quality after-school programming for the youth in Houston.

Funded schools and organizations set their own curricula in collaboration with students, teachers and program partners. Each site is required to incorporate activities from ASAP's four component areas:

- **Academic Enhancement** - Activities may include tutorials, homework assistance, subject-specific and technology activities.
- **Skill Development** - Activities may include leadership, team building, conflict management, or other skill-specific or asset-based projects.
- **Enrichment** - Activities may include recreation and sports; arts; dance; writing; and career exploration and technology activities.
- **Community Involvement** - Activities may include citizenship, volunteerism, parental involvement, and community service.

Pending City Council approval, grants will be awarded based upon availability of funds and successful applicants must begin after-school programming **no later than September 2, 2008**. Failure to begin program activities within 30 days of the executed contract will result in immediate cancellation of funding. Awards will be announced by July 7, 2008.

Instructional Guidelines for Faith-Based Organizations

ASAP funds cannot be used for religious instruction, nor can participants or their parents/guardians be required to participate in religious instruction or activities as a condition for participation in after-school programming.

Insurance Requirements

Agencies awarded ASAP funds will be required to carry commercial/general liability insurance (\$500,000 per incident). Agencies proposing to transport youth will also be required to carry automobile insurance (\$1,000,000 per incident).

Mandatory Workshops

All applicants are required to attend one of the following application workshops. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

Friday, February 22, 9 a.m.
After-School Partnership Fair
6300 Irvington

Wednesday, March 5, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, March 19, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 2, 10 a.m.
Wednesday, April 9, 10 a.m.

Judson Robinson Jr. Community Ctr.
2020 Hermann Drive, Assembly Room 1
(Parking is available adjacent to the building.)

Application Forms

The ASAP application is comprised of three parts – an application, narrative and budget. These forms can be accessed electronically at www.houstonparks.org.

Application Deadline

April 21, 2008 at 5 p.m.
City Secretary Office
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby, Public Level

Child Care Licensing

For information about childcare licensing requirements, contact the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) at 713-940-3009. Direct specific questions to Christina Harvey at 713-940-5102.

New for 2008

The Parks & Recreation administration office, including ASAP will be moving in the Spring of 2008. Additional information will be provided at a later date.

Reminder

Schools awarded 21st Century CLC and/or CASE Partnership Project funds for 2008-2009 are ineligible for ASAP funding.

Failure to begin program activities within 30 days of the executed contract will result in immediate cancellation of funding.

Awarded sites must operate at least three hours daily, Monday through Friday.

TDFPS requires a childcare license for all non-profit agencies to operate after-school programs. Exemption from licensing will not be accepted.

Questions?

Contact the Mayor's After School Achievement Program at 713-845-1146.

Are you eligible to apply?

- Did you attend an application workshop?
Is your site located within the city of Houston limits?
Will you serve at least 30 children daily?
Will your program be free-of-charge?
Will your program operate Monday through Friday at least three hours daily from the close of the school day until at least 6 p.m.?
Does your program incorporate all four ASAP component areas?

Eligible applicants

- Public elementary schools
- Charter elementary schools
- Community and faith-based nonprofit organizations that:
 - serve youth in elementary school
 - are incorporated as a nonprofit organization
 - have a volunteer board of directors
 - have maintained 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status for at least one year
 - comply with Ch. 42 of the Texas Human Resource Code regarding child care facilities

Ineligible applicants

- Schools receiving 21st Century CLC funding for 2008-2009
- Schools receiving CASE Partnership Project funding for 2008-2009
- Private elementary schools
- For-profit organizations
- Nonprofits that do not meet the criteria above
- Organizations that charge a fee for participation in after-school activities
- Schools and organizations located outside the City of Houston
- Delinquent City taxes

Maximum Grants & Required Match

Funding is determined based upon a \$1,000 per child rate.

Grant Range

\$30,000 - \$50,000

Required Match

Cash Match \$10,000
In-Kind Match \$10,000

Reporting Requirements

Agencies awarded ASAP funds are required to maintain detailed financial records. Funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis, and grantees must submit a monthly reimbursement request with documentation of all expenses. Monthly program reports due each month include:

1. A narrative description of the month's activities, listing of any commendations, as well as complaints about the program made by staff, students or parents.
2. Client data sheets documenting ethnic, gender and socio-economic characteristics for any new student enrolled in the program.
3. Project status report documenting the number and characteristics of the children that participated in ASAP activities during the month.

Data from all ASAP sites is incorporated into a formal program evaluation conducted by an independent evaluation team. Programs receiving funds will be expected to cooperate with all aspects of the evaluation.

How to Apply

A complete application is required for each existing or proposed ASAP site. Agencies proposing to serve more than one site must submit a separate application for each site.

The application narrative and budget must be prepared using the electronic files available from www.houstonparks.org. **Each proposal and budget must be in 10- or 12-point type on white 8 1/2 X 11" letter-size paper.** Do not staple, use folders or any binding materials such as binder clips. A completed proposal package contains:

1. Signed Application Cover Sheet
2. Application narrative, **not to exceed 5 pages**
3. Proposed Site budget (spreadsheet)
4. Attachments

Attachments

Each application may include up to three letters of collaboration/commitment from primary partners or sponsors. Additional required attachments for **charter schools and non-profit applicants include:**

- A copy of your 501(c)(3) determination letter from the IRS
- A copy of your articles of incorporation
- A list of the agency's board of directors including names, addresses, and telephone numbers
- Evidence of compliance with child care licensing requirements
- A copy of your agency's most recent audit (if agency's operating budget is more than \$100,000) or financial statement documenting one year's fiscal activity, reviewed or compiled by a CPA (if agency's operating budget is less than \$100,000)
- Proof of insurance
- Affidavit of Ownership Form

Deadline and Submission Procedures

Submit **one original and two copies of your proposal.** Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed. Envelopes containing proposals should be marked **"ASAP APPLICATION."** Applications must be received in the City Secretary's Office by **5 p.m. on April 21, 2008.** Proposals not received by 5:00 p.m. will be returned. Deliver proposals to:

**City Secretary's Office
City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, Public Level
Houston, Texas 77002**

Review Criteria

Program Need (15 points)

1. Why do you need ASAP funding to support your after-school programs?
2. What existing after-school programs currently serve your community (including those at your location)? What is the enrollment and capacity of each?

Program Description (45 points)

1. Outline and describe the specific activities that will be offered in each of the four ASAP component areas:
 - **Academic Enhancement**
 - **Skill Development**
 - **Enrichment**
 - **Community involvement**
2. List all paid and volunteer staff that will work on the ASAP program. Describe the responsibilities for each and number of hours that each will work. How will staff be selected? How will volunteers be recruited and screened?

Collaborative Resources (15 points)

1. Describe your agency's experience and qualifications to provide after-school programming.
2. List all non-ASAP funded after-school programming underway at this site. What is the current enrollment/capacity of each? How will ASAP funding expand or supplement these existing programs?
3. Identify all organizations/agencies/schools partnering to implement the project described in this application. List of all collaborative partners including names, organizations and telephone numbers.
4. Describe the types of support available to the project, including facilities, equipment, supplies, and other resources provided by the applicant.
5. For previously funded sites only: What is the source of the cash match you will contribute to the project?

Budget (25 points)

1. Outline proposed expenditures of ASAP, in-kind match and cash match. Be specific in your calculation and justification – how many, how often and for what price. Check your math to assure that your budget balances.
2. Funds may be used for **supplies, part-time personnel, fringe benefits, sub-contractors, mileage, sporting equipment, board games, administrative cost not to exceed 10% of overall budget, etc.**
3. Funds may **NOT** be used for **food, beverages, field trips, utilities, religious items, clothing (uniforms/T-shirts), transportation, equipment valued at \$100 or more, and full-time personnel.** Funds may also not be used to pay Principals or nonprofit Executive Directors.

What to Submit

Include one original plus 2 copies as follows:

- Cover Sheet with certification statement signed by Principal or Executive Director
- Program Narrative – **not to exceed five (5) pages; 10- or 12-inch font and single space paragraphs on 8 1/2 x 11" letter-size paper**
- Budget
- Up to three letters of collaboration/commitment from primary partners or sponsors
- Proof of insurance

Additional Required Attachments for charter schools and non-profit applicants (*one copy only*):

- List of agency's board of directors including names, addresses and telephone numbers
- Evidence of compliance with child-care licensing requirements
- Recent audit or financial statement
- Evidence of non-profit status
- Affidavit of Ownership Form
- **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed**

Review Criteria

A committee of Houston professionals that work with communities, schools, and non-profit agencies will review and score proposals on a scale of 0-100 based on the following criteria:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Program Need | 15 points |
| Program Description | 45 points |
| Collaborative Resources | 15 points |
| Budget | 25 points |

Up to 10 points will be added based on an assessment of the juvenile crime and victimization statistics for the police beat surrounding the proposed ASAP site.

Actual review questions include:

- Is the need for the after-school program explained?
- Are activities outlined and clearly defined to accomplish the four components of the curriculum?
- Is the applicant qualified to provide after-school programming?
- Is it clear that ASAP funds will create a new program, or expand the capacity of an existing program?
- Is the total budget (ASAP, cash, and in-kind match) reasonable to operate an after-school program?

Tips on Collaboration

Understand its purpose. Collaboration is not just a buzz-word or a way for funding agencies to reduce the number of applications they receive. It's a strategy for communities to get together, prioritize their problems and develop solutions.

Tell us what's important. Funding agencies demand collaboration so that we can know that the funds awarded will be spent on the problems that your community has prioritized and is working together to solve.

Define your collaboration. While you may not need to list every single person who is involved in your collaboration, make sure you list all of the key players that are actively involved.

Don't waste letters of support. Use letters to demonstrate the commitment of your collaborative partners to your program. What resources are they committing to the project?

Tips for Proposal Writing

Follow instructions. Your proposal will not be reviewed if it exceeds page limits, if you leave out a required attachment, or if you fail to submit three copies of the narrative and budget.

Plan ahead. Read all of the questions first, and plan your answers accordingly to avoid repetition.

Budget your space. Spend the bulk of your allowable space on the answers that are worth the most points. These are what the reviewers will be most interested in, but don't neglect other questions all together.

Don't assume. The individuals who will review your proposal may have no knowledge of your school/agency or its programs. Make sure to describe existing and proposed programs in detail.

Avoid generalizations. Rather than stating, "We have operated a successful after-school program for the last four years", use numbers to prove your case. Try, "Our agency served more than 150 youth in our after-school program last year, with 90% of first-time students maintaining regular attendance."

Proofread. The best-intentioned application is weakened if it contains typographical errors or responses that fail to address the questions. A good idea is to let a few people read over your narrative before you submit it.

Required Attachments

Up to three letters of collaboration/commitment from primary partners or sponsors. Additional required attachments for **charter schools and non-profit applicants** (*provide one copy only*) include:

- A list of the agency's board of directors including names, addresses and telephone numbers
- Evidence of compliance with child-care licensing requirements
- If agency's operating budget is more than \$100,000, provide a copy of the most recent annual audit
- If agency's operating budget is less than \$100,000, provide a copy of a financial statement documenting one year's fiscal activity, reviewed or compiled by a CPA
- Proof of insurance
- Affidavit of Ownership Form

Deadline and Submission Procedures

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**City Secretary's Office
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby, Public Level
Houston, Texas 77002**



Houston Parks and Recreation Department
2999 S. Wayside Dr.
Houston, TX 77023

Information (713) 845-1000
www.houstonparks.org