



## Fort Worth SPARC General Description

### Description

The City of Fort Worth was one of fourteen cities selected nationwide to be awarded a \$765,000 grant by the Wallace Foundation. The grant was to be used over a four year period beginning in March 2012 through March 2016. The over-arching goal of the grant is to expand existing efforts by bringing together a wide variety of agencies, institutions, and individuals to work on increasing access and quality of programs for children and youth when they are not in school. The primary focus of Fort Worth SPARC to achieving this goal is through three key building blocks: reliable data, program quality and a coordinating entity.

### Building Block 1: Reliable Data Goals

1. Improve access to quality programming by identifying locations of existing programs and where service gaps occur using geo-mapping tools. *A database of year-long, school term and summer OST programs will be compiled and made available to the public in order to improve access to programming.*
2. Coordinate efforts of OST providers citywide to collect reliable data (including attendance and program effectiveness) utilizing a common record keeping system (MIS). *A geographical map of Fort Worth depicting the location of OST providers will be created and made accessible to the public in order to improve access to programming.*
3. Capture reliable information about the demand for quality OST programs through conducting market research. *A detailed market research study by geographic areas will be made available to OST partners showing the desire and need for OST programs in the city in order to better serve under-served neighborhoods.*
4. Build capacity of individual providers to use a common record keeping system (MIS). *A citywide MIS will be developed and be used by providers to support improved programming. Common measures across programs will be identified and reported on.*

### Building Block 2: Commitment to Quality Goals

1. Improve program quality by defining citywide quality standards. *A list of quality standards will be developed and adopted citywide.*
2. Improve program quality through identification of quality components and the development/adoption of a common program quality assessment tool. *Comprehensive quality monitoring and evaluation tools will be developed and used.*



3. Develop a citywide training system for OST providers for quality programming, evaluation, and business practices. *Develop a training program that supports OST providers for those needing assistance in improving program quality*

### **Building Block 3: Coordinating Entity**

#### **Goals**

1. Establish a sustainable citywide OST coordinating entity. *A cadre of key providers and community providers will meet at least quarterly to identify and address OST needs in Fort Worth, during the grant period and beyond. An identified user group of children, parents, educators and community members will meet annually to help inform decision makers about impact. A 501 (c) 3 organization will be created or an existing one will be named as the coordinating entity for the Fort Worth OST system; this organization will include a coordinating board to provide oversight and community input*