



February Funding Tip

The Finance Project is pleased to announce the next installment in a series of [monthly funding tips](#) for youth programs. These tips cover different financing strategies to help programs finance and sustain their work.

Tip: Tap Existing Networks to Fund Out-Of-School Time Programs in Rural Communities

Many national, state, and regional networks can provide program support or infrastructure for state and local leaders wanting to build out-of-school time programming in rural communities. Networks such as state extension offices, boys and girls clubs, or YMCAs sometimes partner to provide programming in areas without services. Alternatively, they provide support to existing programs that may include staff, supplies, curriculum, facilities, staff training, and programming resources.

Working with existing networks can also help program leaders overcome some elements of isolation they might experience working in rural communities. Successful rural program leaders find a way to share information and learn from their peers despite their remote location. For example, many existing networks can help disseminate best practices, lessons learned, and interesting innovations and even facilitate collaborations among rural programs serving children and youth. Some networks that support rural out-of-school time programs include:

- Boys and Girls Club in Indian County (www.bgca.org)
- Public Education Network (www.publiceducation.org)
- Statewide Afterschool Networks (www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net/index.html)

For more information on this financing strategy and the various strategies used to finance and sustain out-of-school time programs in rural communities, see the Finance Project's publication, *Financing and Sustaining Out-of-School Time Programs in Rural Communities*.

http://www.financeproject.org/publications/RuralYouth_PM2.pdf

Within the [Youth Programs Resource Center](#) you will also find an [online clearinghouse](#), jointly developed by The Finance Project and The Forum for Youth Investment. The clearinghouse contains a wealth of information and resources for supporting and sustaining youth programs and initiatives. It is designed to help you learn about data, tools, policies, practices, financing strategies, coordination efforts and technical assistance resources developed by organizations in the field that aim to improve the lives of youth.