

MetLife and National 4-H Council Afterschool Training Funds Request  
Lincoln County 4-H Youth Development

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Training Partners:

Nancy Beyersdorf, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Coordinator, Washington Elementary School  
Tara Snethen, "After the Bell" Coordinator/Supervisor, Prairie River Middle School  
Lori Ogden, "After the Bell" Parent Supervisor, Prairie River Middle School

Brief historical description:

As a result of the growing number of requests for after school programming, we applied and were awarded an \$800 training grant in the fall of 2006 to hold two trainings. One to provide training to area staff currently working with or who are interested in starting after or before school program and a second training for the 4-H Ambassadors to train them to utilize "Character Education" program in after and before school programs. This grant was sponsored by UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development, the Department of Public Instruction on behalf of the Wisconsin Afterschool Network.

As a result of requests at the staff training, an e-mail distribution list composed of participants at the training was initiated and is being utilized to share additional resources and information on afterschool programs as it becomes available. Through this method have recruited individuals to attend additional afterschool trainings, such as the "Motivating the Hopeless, Uninterested, and Uninvolved Learner" workshop held in Hayward on March 30<sup>th</sup>, (three people attended), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Afterschool Toolkit workshop held in Wausau on April 19<sup>th</sup> (three people attended) and Northeast Regional "Building Partners and Advocates for Afterschool Programs – A Train the Trainer Workshop" held on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Wausau (five people attended). Individuals attending these trainings will be part of a team to plan local workshops to share this information with other afterschool staff, school administrators and staff, "After the Bell" Steering Committee members and other potential community partners. By sending individuals who have the flexibility in their position to these trainings and then involving them in sharing this with a larger group we can expand the support for starting and maintaining after and before school programs throughout Lincoln County and the surrounding area.

One of the biggest obstacles for starting new and maintaining current after and before school program is finding the necessary funding. Lincoln County is a small, rural county of a little over 30,000 people. The City of Merrill is the county seat with just over 10,000 followed by the City of Tomahawk with just over 3,700 people. There are two school districts in the county. The school district of Merrill has an enrollment of 3,117 students in six elementary schools scattered throughout the lower half of the county with one in the community of Gleason scheduled to close at the end of this school year, a middle school and a high school. Tomahawk School District has an enrollment of 1,540 in one elementary, middle and high school that are all in one complex. In addition, Merrill has three parochial K-8 grade schools and Tomahawk has one.

Only one school, Washington Elementary School in the Merrill School District, meets the income qualification to apply and has received a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Grant (median household income in Lincoln County is \$41,780 compared to Wisconsin of \$46,538). None of the other schools meet the income requirement for this grant which severely limits their options for funding after school programs in Lincoln County. (Many professionals and school administrators believe that many more families qualify for free and reduced lunches but do not apply for them for various reasons.)

Schools, law enforcement, social services, parents, businesses and community members all recognize the need for positive after school opportunities for young people throughout the county. Currently, afterschool programs are being operated at Washington Elementary School through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant which will end with the 2007-08 school year and at the Prairie River Middle School through the support of community organizations and businesses. There are no YMCA's, Boys and Girls Clubs or Youth Centers anywhere in Lincoln County so the community has looked to other resources such as UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development and schools to offer and expand after school programs.

Funds from this grant will be utilized to facilitate local training(s) for individuals who were unable to attend the trainings in Hayward and Wausau. These trainings will be planned by the team of individuals who attended trainings and coordinated by UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent, Debbie Moellendorf. It is my hope that as a result of training more individuals on the needs, how to advocate and building partnerships, we will be able to expand the funding and support to continue current programs at Washington Elementary School and Prairie River Middle School. As well as start new after school programs at the Tomahawk Elementary and/or Middle Schools and other Elementary Schools within the Merrill School District.

#### Planned Training Goals and Objectives:

- As a result of their participation in these training(s), after school staff, school administrators and other staff, "After the Bell" Steering Committee members, and other potential partners will become familiar with the need for after school programs in Lincoln County.
- As a result of their participation in these training(s), after school staff, school administrators and other staff, "After the Bell" Steering Committee members and other potential partners will enhance their skills in advocating and building partnerships to support existing and to start new after school programs in Lincoln County.
- As a result of their participation in these trainings, after school staff will be prepared to handle challenging behaviors by participants more appropriately.
- As a result of these trainings, more resources will be secured to support the expansion of after school programs throughout Lincoln County.

#### Training Outline and List of Potential Training Resources:

Training will include:

- Introduce/Review WAN Guiding Principals for Afterschool Programs
- Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development - Belonging, Mastery, Generosity and Independence (utilize resources from "Strengthening Positive Youth Development Environments – Research Based Frameworks for Extension Educators")
- Ages and Stages of Youth Development (utilize resources from "New 4-H Volunteer Orientation")
- Information from "Motivating the Hopeless, Uninterested, and Uninvolved Learner" workshop held in Hayward (Lori, Nancy and Tara)
- DPI Afterschool Training Toolkits and 4-H Afterschool Resources (Nancy, Lori and Debbie)
- Building Advocates and Partners for Afterschool Programs Training (Debbie, Nancy, Lori, Mary and Ron)
- Evaluation (utilize UW-Extension evaluation resources to assist program staff in developing evaluation tools can use to evaluate their programs, such as Program and Activity Assessment Tool and evaluation tools have developed for middle school program)
- Planning Time – allow teams of staff from each program to develop action plans for how they will utilize the resources received during the training and/or develop an action plan as a group on how we can secure funding for current and to expand afterschool programs throughout Lincoln County. In the development of their plans, teams will identify how they will incorporate the four essential elements (including generosity) and the WAN Guiding Principals into their efforts.

#### Proposed Project Timetable:

March-April

- Three individuals attended the "Motivating the Hopeless, Uninterested, and Uninvolved Learner" workshop (6 hours) held in Hayward on March 30<sup>th</sup>
- Three individuals attended the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Afterschool Toolkit workshop (6 hours) held in Wausau on April 19<sup>th</sup>
- A team of five individuals attended the Northeast Regional "Building Partners and Advocates for Afterschool Programs – A Train the Trainer Workshop" (4.5 hours) held on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Wausau

May

- UW-Extension 4-H Youth Development Agent will facilitate a planning meeting with individuals who attended the March and April trainings to plan local training(s) (approximately 2-3 hours for planning meetings and 2-3 additional hours for presenters to plan/prepare individually)
- Send out invitation/registration information to afterschool distribution list (includes after school staff and other individuals who attended prior training conducted from Merrill Public Schools, Tomahawk Public Schools and Athens School District). In addition, will invite members of the "After the Bell" Steering Committee, Community Organizations

and Businesses who are currently supporting after school programs, and School Principals from Merrill and Tomahawk Schools to attend trainings in hopes of expanding network of individuals advocating and building more partnerships to support existing programs and start new programs.

Late May – September:

- Conduct training(s) (minimum of 8 hours of training offered) and collect evaluations
- Submit training expenses for reimbursement and post training documents (participant evaluation forms, participant roster and training materials)

September thru May:

- Serve as a resource to program participants as they implement the plans developed during the training
- Provide additional information and resources to program participants via expanded e-mail distribution list

May/June:

- Collect post-training evaluations from program participants about the usefulness of the training and how they utilized the training materials provided to them
- Prepare Success Story about the training

Proposed Budget Expenditures:

Travel	\$100
Training materials	\$300
Food/Refreshments	\$100
Total Request	\$500

Travel: This money would be utilized to reimburse individuals who attend the trainings outside of the county who will be part of the local training team.

Training materials: This money would be utilized for producing training materials to be distributed to participants.

Food/Refreshments: Funds utilized to provide lunch and/or break refreshments for each training.