



City of Calgary, AB
2010 Willis Award for Innovation
(Population over 20,000)
Calgary AfterSchool Program

The City of Calgary, AB and various community partners launched the Calgary AfterSchool program in September 2009. It is a new service aimed at boosting the availability and quality of after school programs for youth and children. The program targets the “critical hours” of 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, year-round, when youth and children between the ages of six and 16 are not in school and less likely to be supervised by working parents.

Critical hour programs can help communities combat youth crime, gang involvement, teen pregnancies, drug use, and other negative activities and outcomes. This leads to stronger and safer communities. Kids who participate in such programs tend to have higher self-esteem, interact better with others, do better in school, and are more likely to avoid serious trouble.

Various after school programs already existed in Calgary. However, program providers were working independently and in need of more funding. The range and availability of critical hour programs had also not grown to match Calgary’s population.

By working together, The City of Calgary and partner team were able to redirect funding of \$1.6 million, \$1.3 million from the Province of Alberta and The City of Calgary and \$300K from community groups to support the Calgary AfterSchool program. No new funds were needed. Parents and youth can easily find details about programs that interest them and/or that are close to home or schools by visiting www.calgary.ca/afterschool.