



Membership Benefits

Membership in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Network provides afterschool organizations, community stakeholders, and parents access to our member benefits.

Network Connections The ELO Network has grown from its beginnings in 2001 to a collaborative of over 100 partners and 40 member organizations, including afterschool providers, business partners, nonprofits, government, elected officials, and parents. The ELO Network’s collaborative model brings many voices around the table to plan and promote afterschool.

Monthly Updates ELO members stay informed about the network’s activities through an online newsletter distributed monthly. It includes ELO updates, as well as national afterschool research, funding opportunities, and training resources.

Funding Opportunities Members are kept up-to-date about upcoming local, regional, and national funding opportunities, as well as granted access to quality improvement, program development, and technical assistance.

Resources for Quality Programming The ELO Network, in partnership with the Grand Rapids community and United Way, has created the ELO Standards for Quality Care. Members will also benefit from the *Quality Counts!* grant to support and implement quality afterschool programming with resources from national partners. Membership in the ELO Network will include access to the Network-endorsed program quality assessment tool.

Opportunities for Leadership The ELO Network has many opportunities to be involved in leadership including the following committees: *Quality/Best Practices, Public Education/Marketing, Public Policy, Leadership Council, Parent Advocacy Group, High School Subcommittee, and Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Subcommittee.*

National and Regional Recognition The ELO Network has been recognized as a model collaborative by the Michigan After-School Partnership and the National League of Cities for driving system-wide change in afterschool. In its eight years of existence, the ELO Network has become a regional center for excellence in afterschool practice, policy and education.

Data Collection and Information Sharing The ELO Network collects and updates citywide, neighborhood-based, afterschool program data. Additionally, ELO conducts evaluation and research related to afterschool and community indicators (i.e. juvenile crime).

Advocacy and Public Education The ELO Network advocates for funding and legislative policies that positively impact local programs. Parents are also invited to join the Parent Advocacy Group to advocate for afterschool funding. ELO members can also participate in group marketing to build public support for after school programs.

Professional Development Trainings and Resources The ELO Network partners with the Youth Development Network (YDN) to provide trainings in workforce capacity to enhance the relationship between standards and program practices. In 2009/2010 the ELO Network will offer *free trainings* on the Network-endorsed quality assessment tool, *free* Methods training through the YDN, and reduced registration fees for the Advancing Youth Development trainings through YDN.

- Membership Requirements:**
- Commitment to vision, mission, and goals of the ELO Network
 - Completion of the ELO Network-endorsed quality assessment tool
 - Payment of annual membership fee
 - Regular committee participation
 - Annual Renewal of commitment to ELO Network



By becoming a member of the **Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Network** you are supporting standards of quality for afterschool programs and ensuring that youth in the Greater Grand Rapids community will have brighter futures.



