



FRAC: Model Afterschool and Summer Advocacy Efforts

Model Program

Local Foundation Sponsors Afterschool Snack Program for Grantees **Family League of Baltimore City, Baltimore, MD**

The Family League of Baltimore City, a foundation that provides funding to local afterschool programs, plays a pivotal role in increasing participation in afterschool nutrition programs in the Baltimore area by sponsoring the afterschool snack program for its grantees.

The Family League became approved to sponsor an afterschool snack program through the Child and Adult Care Food Program 3 years ago and now works with 15 afterschool programs in the Baltimore area to provide healthy snacks to more than 800 children. Many of these programs do not have the administrative capacity to participate on their own.

"Utilizing the At-Risk Snack Program helps each of our afterschool programs maximize their dollars, and allows the funding they would have normally spent on food to be used for additional programming for the students," explains Jennifer Blount, Contract Manager at the Family League.

"We enjoy offering this service to our grantees because we see the positive impact it has had on our students and the overall quality of our programs", said Blount. "The afterschool snack program has also introduced nutrition models to our staff and students that may not have otherwise been present at our programs."

The Family League strongly encourages all its grantees to use the federal nutrition programs and will not fund a line item for snacks if they qualify for federal nutrition programs that can meet their needs.

The Family League handles all of the paperwork for the afterschool snack program and uses internet-based software to track participation rates and calculate the reimbursements. Staff at all participating sites are responsible for entering their site data online and Blount uses the software to keep track of the monthly claims. "The technology has been beneficial in allowing us to hold each site accountable for entering their meal counts and it helps us stay organized so that every site gets their appropriate reimbursement," she noted.

Blount's experience with the afterschool snack program has made her an advocate for the federal nutrition programs. "The afterschool snack program helps our organizations and the children and families they serve. I encourage every afterschool program that qualifies to use it."

For more information, contact: Jennifer Blount, Family League of Baltimore City, 410-662-5500