



The ELO Network

Join Us for these 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 60 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.

Information ELO members stay informed about the network's activities through an online newsletter distributed quarterly. It includes ELO member 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, professional development, and technical assistance. Your membership shows community collaboration to other funders!

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 benefit from the *Wallace Foundation* grant to support and implement social emotional learning and with the *Heart of West Michigan United Way grant on STEAM* resources. Membership in the ELO Network includes access to the Network-endorsed program quality assessment tool.

Opportunities for Leadership The ELO Network has many opportunities to be involved in leadership in many ways including work on quality and best practices in after school, public policy, parent advocacy, evaluation and outcomes, and youth development.

National and Regional Recognition

The ELO Network has been recognized as a model collaborative by the Michigan After-School Partnership, the National League of Cities, the Children and Nature Network, and the Wallace Foundation for driving system-wide change in afterschool.

Data Collection and Information Sharing

The ELO Network collects and updates citywide, neighborhood-based, afterschool program data for a directory. Additionally, ELO conducts evaluation and research related to afterschool and community indicators and data using their Youth Community Data Center with the Community Research Institute. See www.gryouthdata.org.

Advocacy and Public Education

The ELO Network advocates for funding and legislative policies that positively impact local programs. The ELO Network is a member of the Michigan Afterschool Partnership and is linked to national out-of-school time partners. ELO members can join forces with others in building public support for afterschool programs.

Professional Development Trainings and Resources

The ELO Network provides on-line training and resources and offers members professional learning communities to drive better practice and outcomes for children. The ELO Network will offer numerous *free and reduced cost trainings* for ELO members with opportunities for incentive grants.

Membership Requirements:

- Commitment to vision, mission, and goals of the ELO Network
- Endorsement of the ELO Standards for Quality Care
- If a program provider, completion of the ELO Network-endorsed quality assessment tool
- Regular committee participation
- Payment of annual membership fee



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.

