

MOST Program Locator

MOST is an unprecedented collective impact initiative through which MMSD, the City of Madison, Dane County, and 43 youth-serving organizations have come together in a citywide effort to improve access and quality of afterschool and summer programs. MOST's mission is to ensure that all of Madison's children and youth have access to comprehensive, high-quality, afterschool and summer programs that support positive youth development, educational achievement and/or career and community readiness. To fulfill this mission, MOST is developing an online program finder that enables families and youth to quickly and efficiently find afterschool and summer programs located at schools or community sites that meet individualized needs and interests. The online program finder will, for the first time in Madison, provide a single place where families can find information about all afterschool and summer programs and thereby ensure more equitable access to programs.

The MOST Data and Management Information Workgroup, comprised of members from Dane County Human Services, City of Madison, Goodman Community Center, Kennedy Heights Neighborhood Center, MMSD/MSCR, Madison Public Library, United Way, Urban League of Greater Madison, Wisconsin Youth Company, and the YMCA of Dane County, has researched existing online program finders across the country and identified the key components and desired functionality for Madison's finder. Families will be able to search for afterschool and summer programs using multiple search criteria. They will be able to search by program location and type and be able to sort by age, grade, day, time and dates of the program, distance from an address, free or scholarship programs, and by organization or facility. MOST will have a finder with similar functionality as the city-wide system called Sprockets http://sprocketsstpaul.com developed for St. Paul, MN (see example to right).

The program finder will also provide an interactive map of all programs and will be mobile (smartphone and tablet) friendly so that families and youth can access the information easily on all devices. Further, we are seeking software functionality that allows for display of information in Spanish and is designed in a way that is accessible by individuals with visual impairments.

MOST will engage in a marketing campaign to advertise the finder through public service announcements, post-cards, fliers, posters, billboards, libraries,

Parent-Teacher Organizations, Back Pack News and other merchandise that will be distributed to prospective users. Providers will be encouraged to link to the MOST program finder on their websites as well.

MOST intends to launch the online program finder at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. The City of Madison's IT department in collaboration with MMSD's Strategic Partnerships & Innovation (SPI) Department and Research, Accountability & Data-Use Department (RADU) are in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to purchase software as a service that can be customized to suit Madison's needs. The City of Madison will issue the RFP and be responsible for contractual oversight.

The MOST Coordinator, a full-time staff member of the City of Madison jointly paid and supervised by MMSD and the City Community Development Division, oversees all project efforts and coordination of collaborative work. Sarah Edgerton, City of Madison Webmaster will serve as the project manager for the software as a service contract. To sustain the system, the City of Madison and MMSD will build plans to support ongoing maintenance of the system to ensure that families and youth have access to the program finder 24-hours a day.

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