

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS! JOIN WORKING TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

For many youth, afterschool and summer programs are where early sparks of interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) begin to take shape. But interest alone isn't enough. Without clear guidance or opportunities to imagine what future career pathways could be, many young people lose momentum before realizing their full potential in STEM. **STEM Next Opportunity Fund** created the **Career-Connected Learning Framework for Out-of-School Time Providers** to help out-of-school-time programs embed career awareness, exploration and preparation into their activities in ways that are practical, age-appropriate, and grounded in both research and real-world relevance.

We are seeking afterschool program providers who are interested in joining Working Together for Tomorrow Community of Practice. This community of practice is an initiative of STEM Next in partnership with Iowa Afterschool Alliance designed to build the capacity of program providers and their staff to integrate career-connected learning strategies in afterschool and summer STEM.

This community of practice will focus on four proven strategies:

- Building Broad Skill Development
- Career-Connected STEM Learning
- Family and Community Engagement
- Connected Pathways and Partnerships

Selected programs will:

- Participate in five training sessions on a Career-Connected Learning Framework facilitated by IAA from November 2025 to February 2026.
- Participate in monthly coaching calls with Iowa Afterschool Alliance (Times TBD)
- Facilitate six one-hour career-connected learning STEM lessons with youth - winter/spring 2026
- Participate in youth and educator surveys at the conclusion of the Community of Practice - May 2026

In return, selected programs will:

- Receive coaching and support to make their OST programming more relevant and engaging for youth
- Receive a stipend of \$1000 for their participation and upon successful completion of youth and educator surveys
- Connect with high needs industries and careers to strengthen career-connected STEM learning at your program

Interested?

Apply by October 9th, 2025!

