



## QUICK FACTS: Older Adults and After-School Programs

### The Resource

- California has the largest number of residents 65 and older of any state in the country – 10 percent more than Florida, which is number two.
- The percentage of older Californians is steadily increasing. In 2000, nearly 11 percent of Californians (3.6 million) were age 65 or older. By the year 2020, this group will make up 14 percent of the state's population (5 million).
- Retirement is changing. Nearly 80% of those in the Baby Boomer generation intend to keep working after they reach retirement, although the vast majority of them say they will be interested in part-time work.
- Older adults are particularly interested in working with young people. The most frequent response to a survey question about the type of volunteer activity they would enjoy or consider the most appealing was "working with children and youth."
- Research shows that the key qualities found in successful mentors and tutors are easy to find in older adults: patience, taking the time to listen to children while avoiding the impulse to offer quick solutions, and the capacity to show up consistently.

### The Need

- The hours between 3 and 7 p.m. are when juvenile crime is at its peak, when children are most likely to become victims of crime, and when youth are most likely to engage in drug use and sex.
- Students who spend three or more hours at home alone after school are significantly more likely to be depressed, use alcohol and drugs, experience high stress and anger, and perform less well academically.
- Students participating in after-school programs report higher grades and test scores, improved homework completion and fewer school absences.
- Of the 4.4 million elementary and middle school children in California, fewer than 2 million attend after-school enrichment or care programs.
- In California, there are over 1.2 million children ages 5 to 14 in low-income families who need subsidized after-school care. However, fewer than 500,000 after-school slots are subsidized with state and federal funding.
- The involvement of an adult mentor in a young person's life for a single year reduced first-time drug use by 46 percent, cut school absenteeism by 52 percent, and lowered violent behavior by 33 percent – along with positively impacting alcohol abuse, family relationships, and school performance.
- Researchers estimate that the after-school workforce will need to grow by more than 20,000 people to staff new programs created when Proposition 49 is implemented.