

Fontana to expand after-school choices

Kids benefit from Prop. 49 money

Josh Dulaney, Staff Writer
San Bernardino Sun

FONTANA - The City Council recently injected \$1.3 million of state grant money into after-school programs for elementary and middle schools throughout the school district.

The boost brings total funding to \$3 million.

Fontana Unified School District is eligible for the money under Proposition 49, passed in 2002, which made public elementary and middle schools eligible for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

It provided even more money for schools with mostly low-income students.

The district outsources its programs to the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, and Smart Kids.

The Boys and Girls Club will expand its program into the south side by partnering with Don Day Neighborhood Center to serve about 120 students from Southridge Middle School.

The club organizes enrichment programs such as its Career Launch, which helps middle-school students pick and plan a career path, according to Terrie Schneider, executive director.

"We're really excited about the partnership," Schneider said.

The YMCA serves 84 kids at each of six elementary-school campuses. Executive Director Dianna Lee said the money will go a long way toward helping students with homework from the time the last bell rings until 6 p.m.

"We're here to enhance what the schools do and build on what they're doing," Lee said.

The money will also provide for an additional coordinator to organize new Smart Kids sites.

"It's really an amazing program," said Councilwoman Janice Rutherford. "We have thousands and thousands of kids who have structured programs after school.

"America's Promise Alliance placed the city in its Top 100 Best Communities for Young People. The city is rated 24 in Best Life magazine's Top 100 communities to raise a family.

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