



## Key Issue Form:

**Instructions:** Each county, program area and specialists as a whole are to identify key issues that their programming activities currently address, or should address. For each issue, craft a 2-3 sentence issue statement that outlines, in brief, what the issue at hand is and why it is important or relevant. The issue statements should be crafted based on objective data, as well as input from Specialists, County Educators, Advisory Councils, and input from other key stakeholders.

**1. In a few words, please come up with a title that succinctly defines the issue:**

Raising the quality of Afterschool programs via staff training.

**2. Please describe the issue in 2-3 sentences** (i.e. craft an issue statement that describes what the issue at hand is and why it is a significant issue):

Hillsborough County has a great many afterschool programs and many children who take advantage of those programs. The staff of afterschool programs experience are not usually trained teachers and have a very high rate of turnover. Due to funding limitations, they usually receive very little training. In order to create a quality learning experience, staff members need training.

**3. In 2-3 sentences, please describe what the public value for Extension to address this issue is/would be.** (The term public value refers to not only the value of our outreach activities to community *participants*, but, more importantly, the value of these activities to those who do not *directly* benefit from these activities. The purpose of the Public Value approach is to secure support for activities with strong public value and identify those activities that do not have strong public value. The following is an example of a public value statement that addresses the issue of loss of rural landscape to development and other growth-related pressures

Helping Hillsborough County's afterschool programs improve how education is delivered will improve in-school success by those students who participate. It will also help UNHCE to create more successful community partnerships and participate in the income stream of those programs.

**4. Identify and summarize key data that help make the case that this is a key issue** (key According to a 2003-2004 study of MA afterschool programs, those programs with higher staff turnover (more staff leaving during the school year) had lower quality ratings in both Youth Engagement and Homework Time ( $p < .05$ ) Indicators. Also, programs with better educated staff had greater gains on the SAYO-S Homework Completion and Effort Indicator, while programs with higher staff turnover had greater losses on this Indicator ( $p < .05$  for each).

**5. How does/would addressing this issue tie into UNH Cooperative Extension's Mission?**

Research based education would enhance the ability of afterschool staff to provide a better educational experience for their students.

**6. What Extension programs/activities, if any, currently address this issue? For each, please succinctly describe how the program/activity addresses the issue.**

4-H – offers NSF grant curricula training to afterschool cohort from around the county. This gives quality activities and curricula for staff to use in their programs. Also, youth development training is offered, but not extensively.

**7. What other organizations/agencies are currently addressing this issue?**

Plus Time NH  
Various school systems

**8. If Extension does not currently address this issue, how might we address this issue in the future? (consider staff capacity, financial resources, volunteer capacity, and what other agencies/organizations might address this issue, etc.).**

Not sure, there is not the capacity among staff to currently address this issue. Unless we could train volunteers to provide the training (very difficult to find volunteers). Another possibility is to charge a fee and make the program pay for itself.