After School Programs (ASP)

Improving the schooling attainment, reducing youth violence, and improving the health and long-term life outcomes of disadvantaged youth are top policy priorities. A growing body of research in psychology, sociology and economics suggests that social-cognitive skills are learned through experience. Youths who live in high-crime areas face additional challenges in developing these skills, since fighting and self-defense are sometimes adaptive strategies in addressing community-based threats to personal safety. These state-funded after-school programs focus on social-cognitive skill development intervention in an effort to help youths develop these skills.