

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

ACT Now Quality Standards

Trainings

ACT Now is holding free trainings around the state on the Quality Standards. The trainings will provide participants a general overview of the Standards and strategies for implementation. **Credit for the trainings will be available through the Gateways to Opportunity system and participants can also earn CEUs.** For more information on these trainings, click [here](#).

- To register for our Carbondale training on February 7, 2017, click [here](#).
- To register for our Springfield training on February 8, 2017, click [here](#).

Policy Update

21st CCLC RFP Recommendations

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is in the process of finalizing the RFP for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) FY18 grants. **We need you to tell your policymakers that the RFP needs to be released in order to time the grant start date as much as possible with the start of the fiscal year.** Timing the RFP this way allows for schools and partners to engage in shared planning before the start of school, leading to stronger programs and stronger partnerships. It also means that there will not be a gap in programs or services, and that grantees do not need to lay off staff. Click on this [link](#) to share this message with legislators asking them to tell ISBE to release the RFP. You can also use this [form letter](#) to send a message to ISBE.

Social & Emotional Screening Bill Passes

Public Act [099-0927](#) was signed into law on January 20, 2017. It amends the school code with respect to the developmental and the social and emotional screenings. The revised regulation is intended to create additional and regular opportunities for children to have access to preventive and early intervention mental health resources.

Upcoming Events

Higher Education: Collateral Damage in the Budget Battle

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability is hosting a series of panel discussions across the state examining Illinois' budget cuts to higher education. For more information or to register for these webinars, click on the links below.

- [Charleston on February 2, 2017](#)
- [Macomb on February 14, 2017](#)

Summer Meals Information Sessions

The Illinois State Board of Education in partnership with No Kid Hungry Illinois is seeking nonprofit organizations to serve as sponsors and sites for the federally-funded Summer Meals program that serves kids age 18 and younger. Information sessions are being held statewide. For a list of the 2017 dates and locations, click [here](#). For more information or to register for the Summer Food program, click [here](#).

2017 NAA Convention

The National AfterSchool Association's (NAA) 2017 Annual Convention will be held **March 19th to March 22nd** in Dallas, TX. More than 200 learning opportunities will be offered with topics ranging from tools for implementing a top-notch STEM curriculum to effectively identifying and dealing with bullying. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

EngineerGirl Essay Contest

The 2017 EngineerGirl essay contest is open to female and male students in grades three through 12. Participants will create and submit an original essay describing how engineering might improve life of a species on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List. First place winners in each grade category will receive \$500. All entries must be received by **Wednesday, February 1, 2017**. The contest guidelines and entry form can be viewed [here](#).

Tech Immersion Day

Black Girls CODE Chicago in collaboration with Twitter is hosting a Tech Immersion Day on **Friday, February 3, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. This workshop will allow girls age 12 to 18 to explore the tech industry. The event will be held at the Twitter Chicago Office,

located at 111 North Canal. Space is limited. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

2017 ProjectCSGIRLS Competition

The ProjectCSGIRLS Competition challenges middle school girls in grades six through eight to use computer science and technology to build something that can help solve an imminent social problem under one of three themes: global health, a safer world, and intelligent technology. Registration must be completed by **Wednesday, February 15, 2017**. For more details, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

ESSA, Title IV, Part A

The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students, in collaboration with the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments, is hosting a webinar series entitled “ESSA, Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Non-Regulatory Guidance.” For more information or to register for these webinars, click on the links below.

- [February 9th: Allowable Activities to Support Well-Rounded Educational Opportunities, Safe and Healthy Students, Effective Use of Technology](#)

IAN Educational Leadership Symposium

The Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) is sponsoring an Educational Leadership Symposium on **Thursday, March 2, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Eastland Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, IL. The workshop will assist front line staff and program coordinators with integrating social and emotional learning into their afterschool programs. For more information and application details, click [here](#). The deadline for submission is **Friday, February 17, 2017**.

Advancing Youth Development Certification Training

Advancing Youth Development (AYD) is a nationally acclaimed course designed for front-line youth workers who interact with adolescents on a daily basis. The 21-hour course is comprised of six sessions and will be held at Gary Comer Youth Center, 7200 South Ingleside Ave., in Chicago from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., beginning **March 7, 2017**. For additional information contact, Annette Kelly at akelly@4usyouthdevelopment.org or click [here](#).

ESSA and Research Evidence: Opportunities and Challenges for States

The American Youth Policy Forum is holding a webinar on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017**, from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. that will focus on the opportunities and challenges states have faced in establishing systemic use of research evidence under ESSA. In the session teams from Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Michigan will share the successes they have experienced as well as the roadblocks they have come up against during this process. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Resources

Leadership Matters

In the second installment of the American Youth Policy Forum's (AYPF) eight part blog series on using research evidence under ESSA, AYPF's Executive Director Betsy Brand shares how the local/state leader's commitment to collecting and using research data establishes a culture that ensures that evidence and data are used to inform important education decisions. To access the post, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

Help Grow Afterschool - Become an Afterschool Advocate

ACT Now's Afterschool Advocates act as champions and spokespeople for afterschool programs. This opportunity is open to program supervisors, staff members, parents, educators, and community leaders who have a love of afterschool and a willingness to talk to others about afterschool. To sign-up or for more information, click [here](#).

Call for Sports-Based Youth Development Partnerships

Up2Us Sports harnesses the power of sports to reduce youth violence, promote health, and inspire academic success. They are currently accepting Calls For Partnerships (CFP) to host coaches, VISTAs, or trainings. For more information, click [here](#). The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 31, 2017**.

New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award and the Founder's Award

Both the New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award and the Founder's Award recognize outstanding summer programs or models that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for young people between pre-kindergarten and twelfth grade. The winning program will receive national

exposure and a monetary award of up to \$10,000. All program applicants will receive a feedback summary outlining strengths and areas for improvement. Applications are due **Wednesday, February 1, 2017**. For additional information, click [here](#).

NAA Next Generation of Afterschool Nominations

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) is accepting nominations for its Most Influential in Health & Wellness recognition. This honor is bestowed upon individuals and organizations who are strong advocates and supporters of health and wellness in afterschool. Honorees will be featured in the Spring 2017 issue of AfterSchool Today magazine, as well as online and on NAA's social media platforms. Nominations will be accepted through **Friday, February 3, 2017**. To submit a nomination, click [here](#).

2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award

The President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is inviting applications for the 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Each of the 12 award-winning programs will receive \$10,000 and an invitation to accept their award at a ceremony in Washington, DC. Afterschool and out-of-school arts and humanities programs are encouraged to apply. Completed applications must be submitted electronically by **Wednesday, February 8, 2017**, 7:00 p.m. CST. To view eligibility criteria or to apply, click [here](#).

Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois. Awards will be presented to one youth, one adult, and one retiree/senior in each of the five service regions across the state. Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on **Friday, February 17, 2017**. For additional information, click [here](#).

CCE Call for Proposals

College Changes Everything (CCE) is making a call for interest session proposals for its seventh annual conference. The event will be held on **Thursday, July 20, 2017** at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Proposals covering a wide range of themes related to college access and completion and career readiness are encouraged. For more information or to submit a proposal, click [here](#). Priority consideration will be given to forms completed by **Friday, March 17, 2017**.

Funding Opportunity

New York Life Foundation Aim High RFP

The New York Life Foundation has created a new \$1.95M fund to assist afterschool and summer learning programs with helping their middle school students make a successful transition from 8th to 9th grade. Aim High will provide \$750,000 to support 18 awards nationwide with technical assistance, enhancing direct service activities, and/or program expansion. Applications are due by **Friday, February 17, 2017**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the grant program, funding guidelines, and how to apply.



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to StantonS@metrofamily.org

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The ACT Now Coalition brings together afterschool and youth development stakeholders from across Illinois to work towards ensuring that all young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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