

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

ACT Now Quality Standards

Trainings

ACT Now is holding free ongoing 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 passing of the Every Student Succeeds ACT (ESSA) provides the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) an opportunity to revise its 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) process.

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.

Upcoming Events

Economic Inequality and School Performance

Continuing Ed. is a yearlong, statewide series working with parents, schools, and communities in Chicago, Decatur, Elgin, and southern Illinois to move the conversation

about public education back to parents. Join them on **Friday, January 20, 2017**, from 6:30 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. for an evening dedicated to talking about the relationship between poverty and education. This event will be held at the Kelly High School library, located at 4136 South California, Chicago, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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. The first of these panels will be held on **Friday, January 27, 2017** beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the campus of Loyola University in Chicago. For more information, click [here](#).

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](#).

Youth Opportunities

Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest

The 41st Annual Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest will be held on **Tuesday, January 24, 2017** on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology. The competition is open to high school physics and science students who have placed in the top four of a bridge building contest at their school. For more information, click [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

Population Education, the only national program with a strong emphasis on curriculum and professional development for K-12 educators that focuses on human population issues, is hosting the *World of 7 Billion* video contest. The competition challenges students in grades six through 12 to illustrate, in 60 seconds or less, the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: climate change, ocean health, or rapid urbanization. Participating teachers can receive free curriculum resources and student winners will receive cash prizes up to \$1,000. All entries must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. CST on **Thursday, February 23, 2017** to be considered. Contest guidelines and resources can be accessed [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Learning from Summer

The Afterschool Alliance will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017** at 12:00 p.m. that will explore findings from a recent study on the impact of voluntary summer learning programs on youth who are from urban low-income communities. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Partner Collaboration Impacts Youth Collaboration

Join Click2Science on **January 18, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. for their upcoming Webinar Wednesday entitled “Partner Collaboration Impacts Youth Collaboration.” During the session participants will learn best practices for connecting with STEM partners and how these collaborations can help foster an interactive environment for youth. Click [here](#) for more information or to register for this event.

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.

- [January 26th: Role of State Educational Agencies, Local Application Requirements, Implementing Effective SSAE Program Activities](#)
- [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**.

Resources

Connecting with Newly Elected Officials

January begins a new legislative session. It is also an ideal time to reach out to newly elected officials to share with or remind them of the vital role afterschool plays in your community, district or state. To help you get started, the Afterschool Alliance's recent blog post provides four basic tips for reaching out to your legislators. For more on how you can build partnerships with newly elected officials, click [here](#).

How to Talk About a Responsible Budget

The Responsible Budget Coalition has developed a messaging guide containing suggested words, phrases, and concepts that can be used in advocating for a responsible budget. To access the guide, click [here](#).

Using Research Evidence Under ESSA Blog

The American Youth Policy Forum has launched a nine-part weekly blog series entitled "Using Research Evidence Under ESSA." Guest bloggers will share lessons learned, resources, and insights on how states and districts can best use research evidence in their efforts to plan for and implement ESSA. 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](#).

Digital Learning Challenge

SCE, a social investment organization that connects talent and innovation with market forces to drive social change, is accepting applications to identify afterschool program partners for their Digital Learning Challenge. Over the next two years, the Challenge will bring together a community of afterschool programs, researchers and evaluators, HR professionals, and digital product developers/distributors to explore what it means to be a prepared and skilled 21st century citizen. The application deadline is **Friday, January 20, 2017**. 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**.

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](#).

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. To register for the

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 1:00 p.m. “Tips to Apply for the New York Life Foundation Aim High Grant” webinar, click [here](#).



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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