

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### ACT Now Quality Standards

#### Trainings

ACT Now is holding free trainings around the state on the Afterschool 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.** A training is scheduled for **Friday, April 28, 2017**, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel Lisle in Lisle, IL. This is a pre-conference session before the Illinois AfterSchool Network Conference. You do not need to register for the conference to participate in the training. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

#### Post-Training Feedback

ACT Now welcomes feedback from its Quality Standards training attendees. To share your thoughts on how we can better meet your program's needs in implementing the Standards, click [here](#).

#### Provider Handbook

We have just updated our Provider Handbook. The Handbook is informed by participants of ACT Now's Quality Standards trainings throughout the state. To find out how fellow providers maneuver around challenges when striving for quality, click [here](#).

### Policy Update

#### Governor Rauner's FY18 Budget Address

Governor Rauner delivered his FY18 budget address on February 15, 2017. The proposed budget does not allocate any funding for Teen REACH or the Healthy Communities Incentive Fund, but it does increase funding for child care providers. Please contact your legislators letting them know about the importance of Teen REACH and the Healthy

Communities Incentive Fund and why they should be funded in FY18. To locate your legislator, click [here](#). To access the governor's budget proposal, click [here](#). The Illinois Department of Human Services FY18 Budget Request Agency Briefing materials can be accessed [here](#).

### **ESSA State Plan Draft**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released its [third draft](#) of its Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation plan. The plan has been shared with Governor Rauner for his review. You can still submit comments to ISBE via this [link](#). To see ACT Now's comments from the last round of the ESSA listening tour, click [here](#).

### **House Resolutions of Disapproval and ESSA Implementation**

On February 7, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to overturn Obama administration regulations under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) due to the regulations conflicting with the spirit of the law, which was intended to give state and district leaders more power. If the regulations are overturned in the Senate, it is unclear how the U. S. Department of Education would proceed as far as issuing guidance or new regulations. However, such changes could impact the ESSA April 3rd or September 8th submission deadlines. To read more, click [here](#).

### **FY17 and FY18 Congressional Budget and Appropriations**

The president's budget proposal is traditionally released in February. Although that time is typically pushed back when there is a change in administration, President Trump is expected to release a condensed budget within the next month that prioritizes increasing defense, building a border wall, and infrastructure. In the meantime, Congress has until April 28th to make a decision on FY17 spending and will begin its work on FY18 budget and appropriations bills this spring. Due to the competing priorities and uncertainty around the appropriations process this year it is crucial that supporters of afterschool let their members of Congress know just how vital directing federal funds to these programs are to their districts. For additional methods in which you can keep the importance of afterschool at the forefront among legislators and communities, click [here](#).

### **Support 21st CCLC Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs**

The U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittees are working on determining final FY17 funding levels for the programs that directly support local afterschool and summer learning programs, including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative and the Child Care Development Block Grant. To call on Congress to maintain or increase funding for these programs, click

[here](#).

### **Tell Policymakers to Release the 21st CCLC RFP**

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is in the process of finalizing the next 21st Century RFP. **We need you to tell your policymakers that the RFP needs to be released NOW 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 Services Contract Notice**

The Social Services Contract Notice Act, [HB3110](#), was written in response to the Good Friday social services cut that took place in April 2015. The bill would require the state of Illinois to provide the General Assembly and social service providers advance notice prior to reducing, eliminating, or suspending services. The HB3110 fact sheet can be accessed [here](#). To identify your legislator as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

### **Thriving Youth Fund**

The Thriving Youth Fund bill, [SB2046/HB3217](#), establishes the thriving youth income tax check box that allows tax payers to fund non-Medicaid eligible community-based youth programs. The SB2046/HB3217 fact sheet can be accessed [here](#). To identify your legislators as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

### **Lottery After-School Rescue**

The Lottery After-School Rescue bill, [HB0273](#), creates an “After-School Rescue” scratch-off game where the net revenue goes to the making of grants to at-risk schools for the promotion of extracurricular and after-school programs. To identify your legislator as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Opportunity Youth Summit**

Thrive Chicago in partnership with Mayor Emanuel and the Department of Family and Support Services, will be leading an Opportunity Youth Summit on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center. The summit will include an overview of new research focused on opportunity youth, a panel discussion with experts and practitioners, and new citywide recommendations for connecting out-of-school and out-of-work youth ages 16 to 24 to jobs and education. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **Ten80 Education VIP Coffee & Conversation**

Ten80 and Partners in STEM, a 501(c)3 dedicated to promoting best practices in STEM and STEAM education, are facilitating conversations to build collaborations that expand access and participation to better serve students, educators, and employers who count on a strong workforce. They are hosting a VIP Coffee & Conversation event on **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the UIC Forum, located at 725 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago. For more information or to RSVP, click [here](#).

## **Youth Opportunities**

### **Quest for Excellence STEM Award**

The Quest for Excellence STEM Award gives high-achieving, high school juniors from low-income families that have an interest in STEM careers access to residential summer enrichment programs, grants for technology and supplies, funding for college visits, as well as opportunities to engage with industry leaders. These awards are intended to encourage and support students in pursuing and succeeding in a variety of STEM fields in college and beyond. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

### **A Virtual Reality Experience**

Black Girls CODE Chicago is hosting A Virtual Reality Experience on **Saturday, March 25, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This workshop will introduce girls age 10 to 17 to Unity3D, an industry standard virtual reality game development platform. The event will be held at the Google Chicago Office, located at 320 North Morgan in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **Lights On Afterschool Poster Contest**

The Afterschool Alliance invites afterschool programs to enter its 2017 *Lights On*

*Afterschool* poster contest. Qualified entries must be made on an 11" x 14" piece of paper or be no larger than a 2 MB file with a DPI of 350. A \$500 cash prize award will be provided to the afterschool program that submits the winning design. Posters must be received by **Saturday, April 15, 2017**. For additional details or to enter, click [here](#).

## Trainings and Webinars

### Micromessages and Underrepresented Youth

SciGirls CONNECT, a national outreach effort that encourages formal and informal educators to engage girls in STEM, will be hosting a webinar entitled "Understanding the Impact of Micromessages" on **Tuesday, March 7, 2017** at 11:00 a.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

## Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

### Gateways School-Age & Youth Development Credential

The Gateways to Opportunity School-Age & Youth Development Credential (SAYD) is awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and designed for professionals working with children and youth ages five through 16. For more information on how you can obtain your SAYD Credential, click [here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### Violence Prevention, Recidivism Reduction, and Restorative Justice Grants

The Cook County Justice Advisory Council is accepting proposals for Violence Prevention, Recidivism Reduction, and Restorative Justice Grant opportunities. To download the request for proposal you must enroll in Cook County's online vendor's list [here](#). Requests for proposals must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017**.

### Science Everywhere Innovation Challenge

The Science Everywhere initiative challenges public school teachers to submit creative, hands-on projects that inspire students to explore math and science outside the classroom. Five \$5,000 prizes will be awarded to the teachers who submit the best ideas on DonorsChoose.org. In addition, the Overdeck Family Foundation and the Simons Foundation are providing nearly half a million dollars to match donations from the public to support ideas submitted by educators to the DonorsChoose.org platform. Qualifying

projects must be presented by **Friday, March 24, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund**

The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund is intended to help small non-profits, with annual budgets of \$1 Million or less. For the calendar year of 2017, the Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will focus grant-making in three categories: Food Programs, Housing, and Workforce Development. Grants will be awarded twice in 2017. Applications will be accepted during two periods, from **February 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017**, and from **July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017**. Grant applicants located in Illinois Enterprise Zones or similarly depressed economic areas will receive special attention. For more information about eligibility and the criteria, click [here](#).

### **2017 Invest For Kids Grants**

Invest For Kids provides support for children in Chicago who are facing social and economic challenges by directing funds to smaller organizations that have been in existence for three years and who have an annual operating budget of \$1 to 3 Million, excluding government or agency funds. The application deadline is **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

### **Illinois Action for Healthy Kids Grants**

Action for Healthy Kids is helping schools become healthier through its Game On or School Breakfast grants. The grants provide funding and technical assistance to increase physical activity opportunities, improve nutrition initiatives, engage parents in school wellness, or increase breakfast participation for the 2017-2018 school year. The deadline to apply is **Friday, April 7, 2017**. For more information, 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](mailto: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.

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