

# ACTNOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### Afterschool in the News

#### **Improving Student Outcomes with Afterschool-School Day Partnerships**

The February 27, 2017 edition of the Illinois Principals Association's PrinciPal Connection blog discusses the importance of partnerships between afterschool providers and school day teachers/administrators in achieving youth success. To read how the Neponset Grade School and the Wethersfield Jr./Sr. High School make their afterschool/school day partnerships work, click [here](#).

#### **Grammy Award Winner Champions Afterschool**

When three time Grammy award winner Chance the Rapper was asked by Katie Couric when the violence in Chicago would stop, he responded when there is "investment in everyone's lives." Chance further explained that "it would be dope if all the politicians on the left and the right could approve a budget that could fund afterschool programs." To watch the entire interview, click [here](#).

### Policy Update

#### **Demanding a Town Hall with Governor Rauner**

Citizen Action Illinois, a member of the Responsible Budget Coalition, is circulating a petition demanding that Governor Rauner hold a public town hall meeting on the state budget. The goal of the public meeting is to provide constituents an opportunity to ask the Governor unscreened/uncensored questions and get answers from him directly. For more information or to sign the petition, click [here](#).

#### **U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee Public Witness Hearing**

The U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies will be holding its public witnesses hearing on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017** at 9:00 a.m. CST. For instructions on submitting written

testimony to be reviewed and included in the public record, click [here](#).

### **Legislation Promoting Women in STEM Fields**

On February 27th, President Trump signed into law the Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship and the Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Acts. The bipartisan bills promote the advancement of women in STEM fields by leveraging existing programs at NASA and the National Science Foundation. To read more, 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.** 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](#). Also, please consider filing a witness slip in support of HB3110. You can indicate your agency's support for this bill without providing testimony by selecting, "Proponent" and "Record of Appearance Only." The hearing is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, March 8th**. You can submit witness slips [here](#) up until that time.

### **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](#). Also, please consider filing a witness slip in support of SB2046. You can indicate your agency's support for this bill without providing testimony by selecting, "Proponent" and "Record of Appearance Only." The hearing is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 8th**. You can submit witness slips [here](#) up until that time.

### **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](#).

## **Youth Opportunities**

### **HERlead Fellowship**

The HERlead Fellowship is a groundbreaking partnership between ANN INC. and Vital Voices to empower young women from across the U.S. to affect global progress, invest in their communities, and begin their journeys as the next generation of leaders. High school girls who are in the 10th or 11th grade are welcome to apply. Applications must be received by **Saturday, March 18, 2017**. For additional details, click [here](#).

### **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**

### **Afterschool Programs Responding to Trauma**

IAN will be conducting a training on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017** entitled "The Impact of Trauma and a Universal Response in our Afterschool Programs." Participants will learn to recognize signs of trauma, identify tools to build a safe and supportive environment, and self-care strategies to prevent and reduce stress. This session will be held at Erie Neighborhood House, located at 1347 West Erie Street, Chicago, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. For more information, click [here](#). Contact Jackie Richie at [ianetwrk@att.net](mailto:ianetwrk@att.net) or call 217-953-4620 to register.

## **Resources**

### **STEM Ready America Compendium**

Developed by STEM Next with support from the Mott Foundation, "STEM Ready America: Inspiring and Preparing Students for Success with Afterschool and Summer Learning,"

provides evidence on how afterschool STEM programs help kids develop skills that are critical to their success in school and the future workforce. To access the collection of articles, click [here](#).

### **It's All about Relationships**

The Search Institute, an organization that utilizes applied research and improvement solutions to identify what kids need to succeed, has released a report entitled "Relationships First: Creating Connections that Help Young People Thrive." The document offers a framework for developing relationships with youth, starting points for action, as well as specific tips for youth program leaders. To download the publication, click [here](#).

### **Supporting Young People in the Wake of Violence and Trauma**

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership in collaboration with the Mental Health Association of New York, have developed a guide to support programs, mentors, and young people in the wake of violence and trauma. To access the brief, 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**

### **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](#).

## **NASA Summer STEM Funding**

The NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) Office of Education is soliciting applications from organizations and formal/informal education institutions serving youth in grades four through nine to implement GRC educational content this summer. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, March 31, 2017**. Click [here](#) for additional program information. To register for the **Tuesday, March 14, 2017** 3:00 p.m. application webinar, 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](#).

## **Employment Opportunity**

Family Focus is seeking to fill the position of Community Schools Evaluation and Data Manager. The manager will support and coordinate the evaluation process for Family Focus' 21st CCLC programs. For more information, click [here](#).

## **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](#).



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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