

ACTNOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

FY18 Budget Proposal Eliminates 21st CCLC

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) initiative was not funded in President Trump's FY18 budget proposal. If eliminated, 456 communities serving 52,496 students in Illinois will be affected. To call on Congress to protect funding for afterschool and summer learning programs, click [here](#). To add your organization to a letter written to the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations subcommittees in support of 21st CCLC, click [here](#).

Teen REACH Not Funded in FY18 Proposal

Teen REACH is a cost-effective out-of-school time prevention program that provides safe environments for youth and a unique, comprehensive array of supports including: academic assistance, life-skills building, mentoring, and job preparation. At its height, Teen REACH received \$20 million in funding and served 26,000 youth, meaning that 11,000 fewer students were being served by FY15. It is critical that the state reinvest in quality programs and meet more families' needs. To take action and support Teen REACH, click [here](#).

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](#).

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 limit gaps in funding as much as possible.** 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](#), passed out of the House and is now in the Senate. This bill 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](#), is on its second reading in the Senate. It establishes the thriving youth income tax check box that allows taxpayers 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

University Center of Lake County Open House

The University Center of Lake County will hold a free Open House on **Thursday, March 30, 2017** from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the University Center's Grayslake facility located at 1200 University Center Drive, Grayslake, IL. The event will highlight the more than 130 academic options available in Lake County from 20 Illinois institutions for adults who wish to complete a bachelor's degree, earn a graduate degree or pursue professional certificates. Click [here](#) for additional information.

Mentoring Networking Breakfast

Mentor Illinois is hosting a Networking Breakfast in Rockford on **Wednesday, April 19,**

2017. The event will be held from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Crusader Community Health, located at 1202 West State Street. For more information or to register, 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. 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](#).

Karma for Cara Foundation Microgrants

The Karma for Cara Foundation is awarding youth volunteers ages 18 and under microgrants between \$250 and \$1,000 to complete service projects in their communities. The deadline to apply is **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. For more information, 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](#).

Chicago Freedom School Fellowship

The Freedom Fellowship is a six-month program that brings together 21 youth between the ages of 14 and 17 from across the city of Chicago to explore issues of injustice and gain skills in leadership and activism. Youth interested in applying must submit their application

by **Sunday, May 1, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Afterschool Programs Responding to Trauma

IAN will be conducting a training on **Tuesday, March 28, 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 or call 217-953-4620 to register.

Trauma-Sensitive Program Designs

Up2Us Sports is hosting a training on **Tuesday, April 11, 2017** on designing trauma-sensitive environments for sports-based youth development programs. The workshop will be held at 1700 West 18th Street, Room 322A, Chicago, IL, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

ACT Now Quality Standards

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](#).

Resources

Afterschool STEM Messaging Tools

The *Afterschool STEM Hub* has developed a communications guide on expanding opportunities for effective afterschool STEM learning. To access the materials, click [here](#).

Equity and Inclusion in Afterschool

In the blog article “An Equity Action Agenda for Youth Development Professionals,” Jennifer Siaca Curry, Ed.D. shares how youth programs can meet the social and emotional needs of the young people they serve. She suggests that the field adopt an antidiscrimination framework that works to understand the history of oppression, embrace a philosophy of multiculturalism, and acknowledges in-group bias. To view additional equity actions, 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](#).

The Finish Line Youth Foundation

The Finish Line Youth Foundation funds community-based youth athletic programs and camps that emphasize active lifestyles, especially programs that serve disadvantaged and special needs kids. The foundation awards grants on a quarterly basis for programming, facility improvements, and unforeseen fiscal circumstances. The next grant deadline is **Friday, March 31, 2017**. For funding guidelines or to determine eligibility, 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.

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](#).

Challenge America Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts Challenge America grant offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Matching grants in the amount of \$10,000 are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development. Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, April 13, 2017**. For funding guidelines or to apply, click [here](#).

The Clif Bar Family Foundation

The Clif Bar Family Foundation awards small grants averaging approximately \$7,000 for general organizational support as well as funding for specific projects that align with one or more of the foundation's focus areas: promoting Earth's beauty and bounty; creating a robust, healthy food system; increasing opportunities for outdoor activity; reducing environmental health hazards; and building stronger communities. The deadline for the next application cycle is **Thursday, June 1, 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

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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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