

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Take Action to Support Afterschool -- Save the Date ACT Now Afterschool Advocacy Initiative

This year instead of holding its traditional April Advocacy Day in Springfield ACT Now is coordinating an in-district advocacy initiative to help get out the message to policymakers about the importance of afterschool from **April 10, 2017 to April 21, 2017**. Legislators will be in their district offices for much of April. We want providers to use this opportunity to meet with legislators, invite policymakers to site visits, and take action to support afterschool. More resources and information will be coming soon, but if you have any questions or are interested in participating, please email Susan Stanton, stantons@metrofamily.org.

FY18 Budget Proposal Eliminates 21st CCLC

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) initiative was not included 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. The Governor's FY18 Budget Proposal did not include Teen REACH. To take action and tell the General Assembly to fund Teen REACH, click [here](#). Additional advocacy opportunities/options, including using social and print media, can be found in our [Teen REACH Advocacy Toolkit](#).

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

Mid States Camp Conference

The Mid States Camp Conference, will be held **April 3-5, 2017** at the Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL. It is designed to be an inclusive, community educational opportunity for camp staff. This year’s event will include educational sessions, an exhibition hall, and a skills lab. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Afterschool Development Work Group

The Afterschool Development Work Group is a self-organized group of afterschool, education, civic, and nonprofit leaders and practitioners working together to amplify the voice of afterschool as a vital resource to improve the lives of Chicago's youth. Their next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 12, 2017**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. For more information and to RSVP, contact Tiffany Jones at tjones@allstars.org.

Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week

Join the National AfterSchool Association in celebrating the heart of afterschool by honoring afterschool professionals the week of **April 24-28, 2017**. This is a great time to show appreciation to the 850,000 providers who provide quality service to more than 10 million kids outside of the traditional school day. Click [here](#) for ideas on how parents, administrators, and communities can acknowledge the afterschool professionals in their programs.

7th Annual STEAM Conference

Northeastern Illinois University and Columbia College Chicago's 7th annual STEAM Conference will take place on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**. This free event will be held on the campus of Northeastern Illinois University, located at 5500 North St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. The conference will provide middle school and high school students, educators, and parents an opportunity to explore activities focused in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Architecture/Agriculture, and Mathematics (STEAM), through student-led, project-based, and career-oriented workshops. Click [here](#) for more information or to register.

Youth Opportunities

One Summer Chicago

One Summer Chicago brings together government institutions, community-based organizations, and companies to offer over 31,000 employment and internship opportunities to Chicago's youth and young adults ages 14 to 24. For additional information or to apply, 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](#).

2017 Impact Youth Conference

The Peace Hub's 3rd annual conference designed specifically for youth and youth advocates, will be held on **May 5-6, 2017** at the Gary Comer Youth Center, located at 7200 South Ingleside in Chicago. For additional information or to register, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Illinois Nonprofit Giving Day

Forefront will be hosting an hour-long webinar on **Friday, March 31, 2017** at 9:00 a.m. that will provide nonprofits guidance on how they can participate in Illinois' first Spring Giving Day. This 24-hour online fundraising event uses the #ILGive platform and will take place from 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30th through 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 31st. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

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](#).

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](#).



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

Was this email forwarded to you? [Sign up for ACT Now Coalition updates!](#)

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.

To stop all emails from the ACT Now Coalition: [Click here to unsubscribe](#)