

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**. Our [advocacy toolkit](#) has resources to help you take action in a variety of ways on issues affecting 21st Century, Teen REACH, Child Care Funding, and expanding funding for afterschool. For additional information, click [here](#). 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 before the April 5th deadline, click [here](#). For additional advocacy resources, 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](#). To access the Teen REACH fact sheet, 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

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.

NPO's Sharing Back Office Services

The Association of Consultants to Nonprofits will be hosting a discussion entitled "Sharing Back Office Services to Add Significant Values for NPO's" on **Thursday, April 20, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The event will be held at Lumity, located at 55 West Van Buren, Suite 420 in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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.

IAN Spring Conference

IAN's 31st Annual Spring AfterSchool Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 29, 2017**, at the Sheraton Lisle Hotel, located at 3000 Warrenville Road in Lisle, IL. The 2017 spring conference will include professional development sessions for front line staff and seasoned professionals, an interactive market, and a public policy meeting sponsored by ACT Now. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

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](#).

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

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 Impacts Database

The Afterschool Alliance's new database allows you to search evaluation summaries on the impact of afterschool by program type, grade level, areas of interest, and more. In addition, the site contains information on the basics of evaluation and resources on how to collect and work with data. To access the database, click [here](#).

Why Illinois Needs Adequate Revenue

The Responsible Budget Coalition has developed a fact sheet documenting the harm the budget impasse has afflicted on Illinois residents. Included is the impact on children and youth, working families, and college students. To view their findings, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunity

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

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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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