

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

April Afterschool Advocacy

Take Action to Support Afterschool--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.

Advocates in Action

Jodee Craven, Grant/Project Manager of [The HUB Project](#), a 21st Century Community Learning Center in Rochelle, IL, is helping to make the case for investing in afterschool. In celebration of ACT Now's in-district April Advocacy Initiative, on Wednesday, April 12th The HUB Project invited Rep. Kinzinger's staff to visit their Central Elementary School location.

The voice of our afterschool community is instrumental in ensuring that all children in Illinois have access to quality, affordable youth development programs. If you have not done so already, please consider taking action today. For information on how you can promote afterschool, click [here](#).

Policy Update

Stopgap Budget Update

On April 6, 2017 the Illinois House passed [HB109, HAM1](#), which amends/repeals appropriations to the stopgap budget covering the first six months of FY17. The total appropriated for After School Youth Support Programs for the second half of FY17 is \$17,917,400. It is unclear at this time if the Senate will be moving forward with this bill.

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](#). 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](#).

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Act, [HB3166](#), calls for the development of new methods and uses of criminal justice information for the improvement of the criminal justice system and the reduction of crime. The bill supports afterschool programs and youth jobs as violence prevention measures, particularly in communities that have been greatly impacted. To identify your legislator as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act

The federal Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017, [S.774/H.R.1757](#), addresses the impact of toxic stress and trauma on childhood development. The legislation would equip adults serving youth with resources to provide evidence-based treatments and interventions. To access the section-by-section overview, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

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.

At-Risk After-School Meals Summit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meals Component provides funding to afterschool programs that serve a meal and/or snacks to children and teens in low-income areas. An At-Risk After-School Meals Summit will be held in Chicago on **Thursday, May 25, 2017** at the YMCA of Metro Chicago, located at 1030 West Van Buren Street. The event will bring Cook County sponsors together with organizations and resources that can help enhance meal programs. For more information or to register, contact Sonianne Lozada at slozada@qcf.org or at 773-843-5492.

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](#).

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 **Monday, 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](#).

Cream of the Crop Photo Contest

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest, sponsored by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, invites youth ages eight through 18 to submit an innovative, scenic snapshot of agriculture in Illinois. All photographs must be the original work of the photographer and submitted in JPG format, 300 dpi, no larger than 5MB. The deadline to enter is **Tuesday, June 27, 2017**. Click [here](#) to view the contest rules or to submit your entry.

Trainings and Webinars

ESSA and Supporting Youth Experiencing Homelessness

The American Youth Policy Forum will be hosting a webinar on **Thursday, April 20, 2017** on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements pertaining to students experiencing homelessness. The session will be held from 1:00 p.m. through 2:15 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](#).

Creating Fun and Engaging SUMMER Hands-On Science Experiences

IAN will be hosting regional trainings to support afterschool professional with creating fun, interactive, and inspiring summer hands-on science activities. For more information or to register for these trainings, click on the links below.

- [Harvard, IL on May 10, 2017](#)
- [Springfield, IL on May 11, 2017](#)

Rev Up Training Institute

The Chicago Freedom School in partnership with the Youth Development Masters of Education Program at UIC are hosting a four-day training institute for youth organizers, youth workers, and educators who seek to incorporate social change practices into their work. The event will be held on **Thursday, May 18, 2017 through Sunday, May 21, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

Resource

Earth Week 2017

Earth Week, a week-long celebration of environmental awareness, will be observed **April 17th through April 23rd**. For resources to help strengthen and grow environmental education in out-of-school time spaces, click [here](#).

Opportunity for Providers

National Afterschool Matters Fellowship

The National Afterschool Matters Fellowship is a two-year leadership training program offered by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College and the National Writing Project. Mid-career out-of-school time (OST), education, or youth development professionals who demonstrate a commitment to the OST field are encouraged to apply. Applications are due by **Wednesday, May 31, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Hoops in the Hood RFP

LISC Chicago Sports Program has an RFP opportunity for Hoops in the Hood, a traveling summer series that involves reclaiming a public space in the neighborhood to create opportunities for youth to compete and play basketball in their communities. The proposal deadline is **Friday, April 21, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Best Buy Foundation Community Grants

The Best Buy Foundation provides one-year grants up to \$10,000 to help afterschool and summer programs bring new technologies to teens who are underserved. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 19, 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.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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