

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Illinois Budget Update

- On June 14th Republican legislators introduced [The Capitol Compromise](#), a package of budget/financial reform bills that includes funding for Teen REACH and youth employment programs. [SB2214](#) includes \$13,486,500 for grants and administrative expenses for After School Youth Support Programs in FY18. Grants associated with child care services are funded at \$400,000,000 in FY17 and \$476,790,900 in FY18.
- On May 31st the Illinois General Assembly adjourned its regular legislative session without approving a state budget for the third consecutive year. The current fiscal year, FY17, ends on June 30th. The General Assembly will now require a three-fifths majority vote, which will require bipartisan support, in order to pass a budget. Governor Rauner has called the General Assembly back to Springfield for a 10-day special session that begins on June 21st and lasts through June 30th.
- On May 17th the Illinois Senate's \$36.5 billion FY17 supplemental spending plan and FY18 budget, [SB6](#), passed. The bill makes appropriations to agencies for costs incurred prior to July 1, 2017 and includes roughly \$13.5 million in funding for Teen REACH. To read more about the Senate's legislation, click [here](#).
- On April 6th 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.
- The Governor's FY18 budget proposal does not include funding for the Teen REACH afterschool program. 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](#).

Federal Budget Update

On May 23rd, the Trump administration released its full FY18 budget. The proposal eliminates or cuts funding to programs that are vital for children and families.

- Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), a federally funded afterschool program, was proposed for elimination.
- Funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which supports low-income working families with quality child care, was reduced by \$99 million. The \$5 million increase reported in the proposal is an error due to using the FY17 Continuing Resolution as the baseline rather than the FY17 Omnibus level.

Other programs that support children and families identified for elimination or funding cuts in FY18 can be found [here](#).

21st CCLC Funding

The 21st CCLC initiative serves 52,496 students in 456 communities in Illinois. Be advised of the following updates and opportunities to take action:

- On May 5th the FY17 federal omnibus spending bill, [H.R. 244](#), that includes a \$25 million increase for 21st CCLC was passed.
- The President's FY18 full budget proposal proposes the elimination of 21st CCLC. To call on Congress to protect funding for afterschool and summer learning programs in FY18, click [here](#).
- ISBE is documenting how proposed cuts in federal funding for FY18 will affect Illinois schools and communities. Current 21st CCLC grantees are encouraged to share their programs' impact stories, data, and talking points for letters of support with their district superintendents.

Bills Passed in the Illinois Legislature

The following bills passed in both chambers of the General Assembly and have been presented to Governor Rauner:

- May 25th: Social Services Contract Notice, [HB3110](#)
- May 25th: The Prompt Payment Equity Act, [HB3143](#)
- May 31st: The Thriving Youth Fund, [SB2046](#)

To share your opinion on these bills with the Governor, click [here](#) or call him in his Chicago (312-814-2121) or Springfield (217-782-0244) office.

Child Protection Improvements Act

The federal Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017, [H.R.695](#), which would provide no/low cost national background checks for youth serving organizations was received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on May 23rd.

Juvenile Justice Reform Act

The federal Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017, [H.R.1809](#), that provides funding for delinquency prevention programming was received in the U.S. Senate on May 24th.

Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, [H.R.2353](#), updates the Perkins career and technical education (CTE) legislation. The bill recognizes and supports the work afterschool and summer providers are doing to help students enter the workforce prepared and ready for well-paid, in-demand careers.

Upcoming Events

Strengthening Chicago's Youth's Quarterly Meeting

Strengthening Chicago's Youth's next quarterly meeting will focus on the Illinois' Health and Human Services Transformation initiative. The event will take place on **Thursday, June 22, 2017**, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. It will be held at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, located at 225 East Chicago Ave, Chicago. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

National Summer Learning Day

Afterschool programs, educators, policymakers, businesses, schools, and families can all make this summer a season of learning by being a part of Summer Learning Day on **Thursday, July 13, 2017**. To register your event, click [here](#). For more information about the importance of summer learning in Illinois, click [here](#). For more advocacy resources, check out our [summer learning advocacy toolkit](#).

College Changes Everything Conference

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission's seventh annual College Changes Everything conference will take place on **Thursday, July 20, 2017**. The event will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, located at 18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

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.

Anti-Defamation League Essay and Art Contest

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in partnership with NIE Chicago Tribune and The Mash have announced the 2017 student essay and art contest on the First Amendment. Students in grades seven through 11 at the time of entry are invited to submit an essay or create a work of art that best addresses how one or more of the five freedoms in the First Amendment personally affects their daily life. First place winners in each grade category will receive \$3,500. All entries must be postmarked by **Friday, June 30, 2017**. The contest guidelines and entry form can be viewed [here](#).

Resources

Strategies for SEL in Afterschool

The Wallace Foundation has released a new guide, “Navigating Social and Emotional Learning from the Inside Out,” that provides those working with elementary-aged youth an in-depth view on a broad selection of evidence-based SEL programs. To access, click [here](#).

2017 KIDS COUNT Data Book

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2017 *KIDS COUNT Data Book* provides state-by-state rankings of child well-being using four domains. The data shows that key investments in health and early education have reduced racial disparities, but that more than two-thirds of the half a million Illinois children living in poverty are children of color. To view the *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, click [here](#).

CACFP Meal Pattern Training Tools

The US Department of Agriculture's updated Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal patterns take effect on October 1, 2017. Training tools that will help providers, operators, menu planners, and others to meet the new CACFP guidelines are available in English and Spanish. The tools can be found [here](#).

Reflecting and Processing STEM Experiences

Click2Science's June learning modules are designed to assist out-of-school time staff with helping youth understand the science and engineering process. For more information, click [here](#).

Summer Brain Games

Registration for the Museum of Science and Industry's "Summer Brain Games" includes eight at-home science experiments and a voucher good for a FREE Museum Entry ticket. 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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