

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Illinois Budget Update

- 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 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 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.
- To call on Congress to protect funding for afterschool and summer learning programs in FY18, click [here](#).

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

Bills Passed in the Illinois Legislature

The following bills passed in both chambers of the General Assembly:

- 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. It passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on motion to suspend the rules without objection on June 22nd.

Upcoming Events

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](#).

Trainings & Webinars

Summer Meals

The Public Policy team of the Greater Chicago Food Depository will be hosting a legislative webinar on summer meals on **Thursday, June 29th, 2017** at 12:00 p.m. To register, click

[here](#). To access the meeting online, click [here](#). To join by phone dial (786) 535-3211 and enter access code 359-515-501.

Resource

Free Summer Meals

Free healthy and nutritious summer meals are available for all children 18 and under when school is out. To find a summer meal site close to you, call (800) 359-2163, text FoodIL to 877877, or visit SummerMealsIllinois.org.

Funding Opportunities

Go Innovate Challenge

Chicago Beyond is a venture philanthropy fund that was created to transform the lives of young people by focusing on youth safety and educational attainment. The Go Innovate Challenge is designed to find and invest up to \$2 million in innovative programs, ideas or approaches that disrupt chronic challenges facing young Chicagoans. The invitation to apply is open to organizations inside and outside Chicago. All submissions must be received by **Friday, July 7, 2017**. Click [here](#) to learn more about funding guidelines and how to apply.

Environmental Service-Learning Grant

Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! is offering grants up to \$1,000 to assist schools and youth organizations with environmental service-learning projects that link the classroom to the real world. The deadline to apply is **Saturday, September 30, 2017**. For more information about the grant program, funding guidelines, and how 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](#)