

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Afterschool in the News

Proponents of Human Services Speak Out

In the August 14, 2017 edition of The State-Journal Register, ACT Now's Network Lead Susan Stanton shares how the lack of contracts for the state sponsored Teen REACH afterschool program has prevented providers from receiving the almost \$20 million in funding appropriated in the FY18 budget. To read the article, click [here](#). To ask your legislators to tell the administration to issue Teen REACH contracts as soon as possible, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Building English Language Learners' Literacy Afterschool

The Afterschool Alliance will be hosting a webinar on **Tuesday, August 22, 2017** at 1:00 p.m. that will provide afterschool programs promising practices for building the literacy proficiency of English language learner students. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Breakfast After the Bell

The Public Policy team of the Greater Chicago Food Depository will be hosting a legislative webinar on the Breakfast After the Bell delivery model on **Thursday, August 31, 2017** at 12:00 p.m. To register, click [here](#).

ESSA: Building Sustainable Bridges Between School Day and Afterschool Programs

The ACT Now Coalition will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, September 20, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. to assist afterschool providers in advocating for afterschool programs incorporation into school districts' Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) implementation plan. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click [here](#).

Resources

Teamwork and STEM

STEM fields often require the collaboration of large and diverse teams. The afterschool environment provides an informal, low stress atmosphere where young people can learn how to work together. For tips on how to be successful when implementing team STEM activities, click [here](#). For a list of STEM icebreakers and team building challenges, click [here](#).

Connecting to Prior Knowledge & Experiences

Click2Science's August learning modules provide out-of-school time staff techniques that can be employed to make STEM learning opportunities more meaningful for students. For more information, click [here](#).

Bringing Older Adult Volunteers into Youth-Serving Organizations

The Generation to Generation campaign is a national effort launched by Encore.org to inspire adults over 50 to make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth. Afterschool programs are prime settings for creating closer-knit and happier communities by bringing senior volunteers into the lives of school-age children. For information on how your program can get involved, click [here](#).

Damage Done: The Impact of the Illinois Budget Stalemate on Women and Children

A recently released report prepared by Voices for Illinois Children and Loyola University Chicago's Center for Urban Research and Learning documents the impact the Illinois budget impasse has had on women and children. Findings indicate that, low-income women of color and their children have been greatly affected by the reduction of social services in areas such as child care and college access. The report can be found [here](#).

For a list of afterschool and youth development related resources collected by ACT Now, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

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 **Saturday, September 30, 2017**. For funding guidelines or to determine eligibility, click [here](#).

Advancing Informal STEM Learning

The National Science Foundation's Advancing Informal STEM Learning program is currently soliciting grant proposals for informal STEM education. The deadline to apply is **Monday, November 6, 2017**. For funding and eligibility guidelines, click [here](#).

Community Impact Grants

The Home Depot Foundation offers grants, up to \$5,000, to IRS-registered 501(c) designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. to support the renovation, refurbishment, retrofitting, accessibility modifications, and/or weatherization of existing homes, centers, schools, and other similar facilities. The next grant deadline is **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. For funding guidelines or to determine eligibility, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, click [here](#).

Policy Update

Previous ACT Now policy updates affecting the afterschool/youth development field, including information about Teen REACH and 21st Century, can be found [here](#).

Provider Opportunities

For archived provider opportunities, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

For archived youth opportunities, 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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