

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

FY19 Teen REACH Funding

Teen REACH is an Illinois program that provides afterschool services to at-risk youth ages six to 17. Due to the budget impasse Teen REACH providers received no funding in FY16. In FY17 and FY18, not having Teen REACH in the Governor's budget lead to youth being without services for almost a quarter of the school year. ACT Now is asking that organizations consider joining us in signing a letter urging Governor Rauner to include Teen REACH in his FY19 budget. The letter can be viewed [here](#). If you are interested in signing on, please fill in this [form](#) by **Wednesday, January 17, 2018**.

Afterschool Supporting School Meals

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) interim [School Meal Flexibility Rule](#) weakens the school nutrition standards regarding milk, whole grains, and sodium requirements. Afterschool programs that serve snacks and/or a meal have the potential to be impacted. Afterschool leaders can voice their opinions on these changes by submitting comments by **Monday, January 29, 2018**. The USDA's feedback form can be accessed [here](#).

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

Upcoming Events

National Mentoring Month

Each January, mentoring programs leverage National Mentoring Month to initiate a dialogue on the importance of quality programs and to recruit volunteers. The online engagement guide consisting of sample social media posts, advocacy tips, and key campaign dates can be found [here](#).

Youth Opportunity

Research Science Institute

The Research Science Institute is a six-week summer program sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education and Massachusetts Institute of Technology that is open to 11th grade students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The deadline to apply is **Friday, January 12, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Trainings and Webinars

New York Life Foundation's 2018 Aim High Grants

The Afterschool Alliance will be hosting an informational webinar on **Thursday, January 11, 2018** to assist afterschool programs with applying for the 2018 New York Life Foundation's Aim High grant program. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Introduction to Logic Models for Community Organization Program Evaluation

Northwestern University will be hosting a workshop on **Tuesday, January 16, 2018** that will introduce participants to the logic model concept. The session will be held at Wieboldt Hall located at 340 East Superior, Chicago, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Strategies for Building and Financing the Supply of High-Quality Child Care

The National Center on Early Childhood Quality Assurance (ECQA Center) is hosting a five-webinar series about increasing the supply of and improving the quality of child care services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive care during nontraditional hours. The upcoming webinar schedule is as follows:

- [January 17th](#): Building the Supply of High-Quality Child Care: An Overview
- [February 13th](#): Identifying, Mapping, and Alleviating Child Care Deserts
- [March 6th](#): Innovation in State and Local Finance
- [May 1st](#): Using Grants and Contracts, Payment Rates, and Financial Incentives to Increase Supply and to Improve Quality
- [June 4th](#): Innovative Models to Build, Expand, and Sustain Quality Facilities and Services in High-Need Communities

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

Resources

Research-Practice Partnerships

Research-practice partnerships involving academic institutions and community based organizations provide practical insight on how to best support the afterschool field and assess its contribution. To read more on how these partnerships can evolve to connect multiple stakeholders, click [here](#).

The Afterschool Environment and Academic Performance

Education Week's article entitled "The Role of After-School Environments in Students' Academic Performance" emphasizes the importance of research-practice partnerships by highlighting the work of Good Shepherd Services and the Institute of Human Development and Social Change. Findings from the collaboration suggest that youth in positive, responsive, and organized afterschool classrooms experience greater academic development and that these results may be even more significant for low-income youth with and without social-behavioral challenges. To read more about this project, click [here](#).

Using ESSA Funds to Amplify Summer Learning

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides opportunities for schools to combine federal and state investments to help drive student success with targeted summer activities. For examples on how ESSA funds can be used to protect and expand summer programming and partnerships, click [here](#).

Embedding SEL into Everyday Interactions

In a commentary published by The 74, Bridget Laird, CEO of WINGS, a national nonprofit that teaches social emotional skills to elementary age students, shares tips on how districts and school leaders can create a system that infuses social emotional learning (SEL) into all student-teacher and student-staff interactions. To access the editorial, click [here](#).

Connecting SEL During and Beyond the School Day

The Partnership for Children & Youth has created a two-page infographic that outlines the connection between high-quality expanded learning programs and improved social and emotional learning (SEL) outcomes. The graphic can be viewed [here](#).

SEL Research Report

In the “Future of Children” journal, leading experts examine the possible impact of social and emotional learning (SEL) on public health, the need for SEL both inside and outside the classroom, and policies to improve teacher preparation and assessment. The publication can be accessed [here](#).

Afterschool STEM Partnership with Chambers of Commerce

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) in partnership with the Mott Foundation and STEM Next has developed resources to support chambers in their work to partner, collaborate, and lead community workforce development efforts through afterschool STEM. To access the portfolio, click [here](#).

Mini Ice Rink

In this month’s National AfterSchool Association STEM Gem activity, participants will use quarters, an aluminum pan, and water to explore the properties of friction. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

What Afterschool Leaders Need to Know

The National Afterschool Association in partnership with The Wallace Foundation have created a downloadable resource that provides detailed tips that support afterschool leaders in building strong programs. To access the one-pager, click [here](#).

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

Employment

Mikva Challenge seeks to hire a Chief Program Officer. The job description can be found [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Community Partners Program

The MENTOR Network Charitable Foundation’s Community Partners Program accepts

grant requests ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 from 501(c)(3) organizations that are either delivering innovative care or developing new ideas and models for doing so. The deadlines for submission is **Thursday, February 15, 2018**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Youth Literacy Grants

The Dollar General Youth Literacy Grants provide funding up to \$4,000 to schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help students who are below grade level or experiencing difficulty reading. The deadline for applying is **Thursday, May 17, 2018**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, 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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