

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### Policy

#### Federal Budget Update

On January 22, 2018, President Trump signed a bill ending a nearly three-day government shutdown. The current continuing resolution (CR) passed in the U.S. House with a vote of 266 to 159. It passed in the Senate after it was agreed that stand-alone immigration reform legislation, such as provisions to extend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protection program and border security, would be brought to the Senate floor for an up or down vote before the current CR ends on February 8th. To complete the FY18 appropriations process, Congress must agree to an omnibus spending bill. Once in place, appropriators will negotiate individual funding levels for each government program, including 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). To read more on the CR, click [here](#). To tell Congress to support 21st CCLC funding in 2018, click [here](#).

#### ESSA School Quality/Student Success Indicators

As stated in the ESSA State Plan for Illinois, the Illinois State Board of Education requests feedback on the recommendations provided for the [P-2](#), [Elementary-Middle Grade](#), and the [College and Career Readiness](#) Indicators. Comments must be submitted to [ESSA@isbe.net](mailto:ESSA@isbe.net) by **Friday, February 16, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

### Youth Opportunity

#### A Virtual Reality Experience

Black Girls CODE Chicago is hosting "A Virtual Reality Experience" on **Saturday, February 17, 2018** from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This workshop will introduce girls age 10 to 17 to Unity3D, an industry standard virtual reality game development platform. The event will be held at King College Preparatory High School, located at 4445 South Drexel in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

## Resources

### Staff Investment and Student Success

In a recently published research brief, the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) details how investing in a well-trained staff translates to student outcomes. To access the brief, click [here](#).

### Reducing Crime with Summer Jobs

A study conducted by The Brookings Institution examined whether the Boston summer youth employment program reduced crime. The findings were that participants showed improvements in their skills, attitudes, and aspirations and had fewer arraignments for violent and property crimes. To access the study, click [here](#).

### Tie Dye Dairy

In this STEM Gem, participants will use milk, liquid dishwashing soap, and food coloring to explore the properties of polar and non-polar molecules. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

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

## Opportunity for Providers

### CCE Conference Proposals

The eighth annual College Changes Everything (CCE) conference will be held **Thursday, July 19, 2018** at the Tinley Park Convention Center. As part of this effort, the Conference Planning Committee has issued a call for proposals that cover a wide range of themes related to college access and completion. The submission deadline is **Friday, March 9, 2018**. For more information about the conference and session proposal, click [here](#).

*For archived opportunities for providers, click [here](#).*

## Trainings and Webinars

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

## Funding Opportunity

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](mailto: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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