

ACTNOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Trainings and Webinars

Bridging the Gap Between Afterschool and Workforce

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) will be hosting a webinar on **Tuesday, March 20, 2018**. The session will focus on the AYPF and the Afterschool Alliance's recently published white papers that address afterschool and workforce. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

#MeToo for Teens

Cause the Effect Chicago will be hosting a conversation about standing up to sexual harassment in high school and on college campuses. The event will be held on **Saturday, March 3, 2018** at evolveHER, located at 358 West Ontario, Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Health Matters Advocacy Day

EverThrive Illinois will be hosting a Youth Advocacy Day on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018** in Springfield. Participating youth will have an opportunity to meet with legislators and advocate for improving adolescent health. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Resources

How Learning Happens: Supporting Students' Social, Emotional, and Academic Development

The Aspen Institute National Commission's interim report explores how schools can be more responsive to students' social, emotional, and developmental needs. To access the publication, click [here](#).

Illinois Test Guide for Parents

The GreatSchools' Illinois Test Guide is a free, online tool organized by grade and subject to help parents use their state test scores to support learning at home. To access the instrument, click [here](#).

Elementary School Principals' Afterschool Support Toolkit

The National Association of Elementary School Principals in partnership with the Mott Foundation have developed an online toolkit to help principals and other school leaders expand quality afterschool and summer learning programs for children and youth. To access the resource, click [here](#).

NCASE Resources Available in Spanish

The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) is pleased to share a collection of resources translated into Spanish addressing important topics in school-age care, such as licensing, summer learning, and funding strategies. To access the page, click [here](#).

The ABC's of Family Engagement

In the ABC's of Family Engagement, Byron Garrett, chairman of the National Family Engagement Alliance, provides parents strategies they can employ to empower their children to be their best selves. To access the article, click [here](#).

Engaging OST Programs in Quality Improvement Systems

A recent brief published by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment highlights the work of cross-sector planning teams in building unified systems. To access the document, click [here](#).

Mystery STEM

Mystery STEM is a game that challenges higher-level thinking and encourages peer

discussion and the sharing of ideas. For more information, click [here](#).

DiscoverSpace CLASSROOM

DiscoverSpace CLASSROOM is a comprehensive space science program that is easy for providers to facilitate and implement. For more information, click [here](#).

The Connectory

The Connectory is a free online tool that gives STEM program providers a chance to collaborate, develop partnerships, and share resources as well as connect kids to comprehensive STEM offerings. To access the website, click [here](#).

Strategies to Reduce Food Waste in Schools & Child Nutrition Programs

No Kid Hungry Center for Best Practices highlights some of the most effective ways to help reduce, recover, and recycle food waste from school meals and in other child nutrition programs. To access the resource, click [here](#).

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

Opportunity for Providers

Trauma-Sensitive School Movement

The National Council for Mental Health is accepting applications for its Trauma-Sensitive Schools Learning Community. Learning Community members will receive coaching and other resources over a period of one year. An informational webinar will be held on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018** at 2:00 p.m. To register, click [here](#). Applications to participate in the Learning Community are due by **Friday, May 4, 2018**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Diamond Project Grant

The Cubs Charities Diamond Project provides funding and equipment to nonprofit,

neighborhood-based organizations to support baseball and softball leagues and capital improvement projects. An informational session will be held on **Thursday, March 22, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Good Sports

Good Sports provides organizations serving youth ages three through 18 equipment, apparel, and footwear for a wide range of sports. The proposal submission deadline is ongoing. For more information, click [here](#).

Surdna Foundation

The Surdna Foundation's Thriving Cultures Program funds organizations that connect teens to artistically rigorous and culturally relevant programs. For eligibility and funding guidelines, click [here](#).

Walmart Community Grant Program

The Community Grant Program provides funding ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 to nonprofit organizations to address local community needs. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Spotlight on Afterschool

The University of Illinois Extension 4-H Clubs prepare youth to solve Illinois' problems by producing leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs, stewards, and builders. Mrs. Kerr-Gregory, a mom of three, attributes her children's participation in the Springfield 4-H programs as key to developing their social and leadership abilities. The children ranging in ages from 10 to 15, all serve as officers in their individual 4-H groups and credit the program as not only benefiting them, but also their family and community. Thanks to ACT Now's Afterschool Advocate, Erica Austin, for sharing this spotlight. Pictures of the Gregory's achievements and participation are below.



Policy

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