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
February 26, 2018: Workforce Webinar, STEM Resources, and Spotlight on IL 4-H

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 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.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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