

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### Policy

#### FY19 STEM Funding

President Trump's FY19 Budget Proposal eliminates funding for many initiatives that support out-of-school time STEM work. The administration proposes that increasing the Education Innovation and Research program allocation and adding a competitive grant for STEM-focused career and technical education programs would meet their 2017 STEM and computer science education priorities. However, the congressional support required is not likely, and neither request details how STEM education funds will be spent. The proposed eliminations put STEM teacher training and programs that support STEM learning at risk. To read more, click [here](#). To call on Congress to protect funding for afterschool and STEM education, click [here](#).

#### 21st CCLC Sign-On Letter

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees continue to address FY18 funding and begin work on FY19, it is crucial that supporters of 21st CCLC take action. Organizations can let their members of Congress know just how vital directing federal funds to these programs are to their districts by signing on to the Afterschool Alliance's [letter to Congress](#). The deadline to sign the letter is **Friday, March 9, 2018**.

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

### Quality Standards in Action

The Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards encompass seven Core Areas, which capture practices that research demonstrates lead to quality programs and positive outcomes for children and youth.

Mary's House, a licensed childcare provider in Centralia, Illinois, uses the Quality Standards booklet to help with the planning and implementation of their school-age program. As a result of attending a Quality Standards provider training, Mary's House has been more

intentional about Core Area 1: Indoor and Outdoor Environment. To read more on how Mary's House is implementing the ACT Now Afterschool Quality Standards, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Event

### Afterschool Development Work Group

The Afterschool Development Work Group is a self-organized group of afterschool, education, civic, and nonprofit leaders and practitioners working together to amplify the voice of afterschool as a vital resource to improve the lives of Chicago's youth. Their next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 29, 2018**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. For more information, click [here](#).

## Youth Opportunity

### AeroSTEM Youth Expo

AeroStar, in collaboration with The Illinois Institute of Technology AeroSpace Engineering Program, the Afterschool Alliance, and After School Matters is hosting a free half-day showcase for youth ages 12 and older on **Saturday, March 24, 2018**. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

## Trainings and Webinars

### ACT Now In-District Advocacy and Afterschool Funding Update

ACT Now will be hosting an in-district advocacy initiative to help inform policymakers about the importance of afterschool from **March 27, 2018 to April 5, 2018**. To find out more about our 2018 In-District Advocacy Initiative and to receive afterschool state and federal funding updates, join us on **Monday, March 19th** at 10:00 a.m. for a webinar. To register, click [here](#).

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

## Resources

### Trauma-Informed Practice

In a recent Forum For Thought, Dr. Marnie Curry, a researcher at the Center for Educational Research in the Interest of Underserved Students at UC-Santa Cruz, addresses the need/benefit for a trauma-informed practice that is culturally relevant and sensitive to the vulnerabilities/triggers of trauma survivors. To read the American Youth Policy Forum's blog post, click [here](#).

### **How to Talk with Kids about Terrible Things**

National Public Radio (NPR) ED in partnership with the National Association of School Psychologists and the co-author of the PREPaRE School Crisis Prevention and Intervention curriculum have developed a primer for helping parents and teachers talk with children struggling with fear, confusion, and uncertainty. To access the resource, click [here](#).

### **Easy, Affordable SEL Practices**

The Wallace Foundation's, "Kernels of Practice for SEL: Low-Cost, Low-Burden Strategies," offers afterschool and summer learning programs a valuable approach to lower the barriers they may face when looking to incorporate social and emotional learning (SEL) into their programs. To access the issue brief, click [here](#).

### **Host a Hackathon and Teach Real-Life STEM Skills**

In a recent eSchool News article, Warren Township High School in Illinois shares advice for hosting a hackathon event. To access the tips, click [here](#).

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

## **Opportunities for Providers**

### **Excellence in Mentoring Award**

MENTOR Illinois is inviting organizations that can demonstrate successful use of innovative program practices to apply for a \$2,500 award. To qualify, organizations must complete the pre-qualification survey by **Wednesday, March 7, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

### **NSLA Conference Proposals**

The National Summer Learning Association's (NSLA) annual conference will be held from

**November 12-14, 2018** in Kansas City, Missouri. The call for workshops proposals is now open. The submission deadline is **Thursday, March 8, 2018**. For more information about the conference and submitting proposals, click [here](#).

### **Engineer for the Week**

Engineer for the Week is an afterschool program supported by Facebook engineers that is designed to engage young people in computer science. Only non-required, non-credit, afterschool programs are eligible to participate. For more information, click [here](#).

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

## **Funding Opportunity**

### **Afterschool Meals Grant**

No Kid Hungry Illinois is offering grants up to \$10,000 to help organizations expand access to and participation in United States Department of Agriculture supported summer meals programs. For more information, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Friday, April 13, 2018**.

*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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