

ACTNOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

Federal Budget Update

On March 23rd, President Trump signed a \$1.3 trillion FY18 omnibus spending bill that will fund the government through September 30, 2018. The bill funds 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) at \$1.21 billion, an increase of \$20 million over the FY17 level. Other programs vital for children and families were also largely supported in the omnibus, including:

- Funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which supports low-income working families with quality child care, was increased by about \$2.37 billion for a total of \$5.3 billion.
- Funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps VISTA, a volunteer service program used by many afterschool programs, was sustained at \$92.364 million.
- Funding for Title IV Part A Student Support Academic Enrichment Grants, which provides all students with access to a well-rounded education, was allocated at \$1.1 billion, which is a \$700 million increase over FY17.
- Funding for the Youth Mentoring Initiative was increased by \$14 million from FY17 for an allocation of \$94 million.

Updates on other funding streams that can be used to support afterschool and summer learning programs can be found [here](#). With the funding for FY18 secured, Congress will now direct its attention to FY19 - where once again 21st CCLC is proposed for elimination. To call on policymakers to continue to protect funding for afterschool and summer learning programs, click [here](#).

Youth Budget Commission

HB5202 amends the Governor's Office of Management and Budget Act to establish a Youth Budget Commission. This Commission will create a yearly analysis of the State budget across six developmental goals that will be used to advise the administration on youth program policies and spending. The HB5202 fact sheet can be accessed [here](#). Please consider filing a witness slip in support of HB5202. You can indicate your support for this bill

without providing testimony by selecting, “Proponent” and “Record of Appearance Only.” The hearing is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 10th**. You can submit witness slips [here](#) up until that time.

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.

At the Belmont-Cragin Community Schools Initiative (BCS) in Chicago, IL, the Standards booklet serves as a guide for best practices for program staff and administration. As a result of attending a Quality Standards provider training, BCS is more intentional about Core Area 5: Family and Community Partnerships. To read more on how BCS is implementing the ACT Now Afterschool Quality Standards, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

ACT Now Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is holding free trainings around the state on the [Quality Standards](#). The trainings will provide participants a general overview of the Standards and strategies for implementation. Credit for the trainings will be available through the Gateways to Opportunity system and participants can also earn CEUs. For more information on these trainings, click [here](#).

- To register for our Springfield training on **Friday, April 6, 2018**, click [here](#).
- To register for our Mt. Vernon training on **Wednesday, May 2, 2018**, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless Scholarship

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) awards \$2,500 renewable college scholarships to graduating high school seniors who succeeded in school despite coping

personally with homelessness. Students from Chicago and suburban schools as well as CCH youth leaders are eligible. Applications are due by **Monday, April 16, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

Student Advisory Council

ISBE is accepting applications for its Student Advisory Council for the 2018-19 school year. Students attending a public high school in Illinois who are entering the fall semester as a sophomore, junior, or senior are eligible to apply. The application deadline is **Friday, May 25, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Resources

Encouraging STEM in Middle Schoolers

In a recent Orlando Sentinel article, Discovery Education shares how parents and educators can foster interest in STEM. To access the tips, click [here](#).

Frozen Baseballs

In this STEM Gem, participants will use sports balls, sandwich bags, and chalk to learn the concepts of flexibility, movement, and impact recovery. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

Afterschool Math Games

The National AfterSchool Association's afterschool math games guide offers enrichment experiences that build a student's math skill through physical activity and collaboration. To access the resource, click [here](#).

Supporting Students' Social, Emotional, and Academic Development

The Aspen Institute's latest report outlines promising practices that show how students, teachers, parents, and administrators can integrate social, emotional, and academic learning in preK-12 education. To access the report, click [here](#).

Redefining Student Success: Profile of a Graduate

The International Association for K-12 Online Learning's issue brief explores the importance of creating a shared vision for student success in order to improve student outcomes. To access the brief, click [here](#).

Chicago Jobs Council Survey

The Chicago Jobs Council is surveying frontline staff who work directly with job seekers or employers to understand the state of the workforce development field in Illinois. To participate, responses must be submitted before **Saturday, March 31, 2018**. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Summer Learning Literacy Assessments

This resource explores the need for strong cross-sector summer learning systems and provides best practices for building collaboration around data. To access the report, click [here](#).

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

Employment

ISAC Corps

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) is recruiting recent college graduates to join their 2018-19 Corps. Corps members work with middle and high school students and their parents as they navigate the college going process. For more information, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities

The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities will award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to support activities led by Chicago residents in 19 communities that are designed to promote peace, build trust, and strengthen relationships. Applications must be submitted by **Tuesday, April 17, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grants

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is offering grants of up to \$4,000 to schools,

libraries, and nonprofit organizations to help students who are reading below grade level. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, May 17, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

The Clif Bar Family Foundation

The Clif Bar Family Foundation awards small grants averaging approximately \$7,000 for general organizational support as well as funding for specific projects that align with one or more of the foundation's focus areas. The deadline for the next application cycle is **Friday, June 1, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

Bank of America Charitable Foundation Grant

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations that build pathways to economic mobility by addressing issues related to workforce development and education, community development, and basic needs. Applications will be accepted from **June 4, 2018 through June 29, 2018**. For eligibility requirements and funding guidelines, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

For archived opportunities for providers, 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.

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

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