

# ACTNOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### Upcoming Events

#### Day of Action

Join the Afterschool Alliance for a national Day of Action. Call or email Congress on **Thursday, April 19, 2018** to share what effect the elimination of federally funded afterschool programs will mean for you. To access the Afterschool Alliance's automated message, click-to-call tool, and talking points, click [here](#).

#### Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week

Join the National AfterSchool Association in celebrating the heart of afterschool by honoring afterschool professionals the week of **April 23rd through April 27th**. For ideas on how parents, administrators, and communities can acknowledge the afterschool professionals in their programs, click [here](#).

### Youth Opportunity

#### STEAM Conference

Northeastern Illinois University and Columbia College Chicago's annual STEAM Conference will take place on **Saturday, May 12, 2018**. This free event will be held on the campus of Northeastern Illinois University, located at 5500 North St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

### Trainings and Webinars

#### Illinois AfterSchool Network

The Illinois AfterSchool Network's upcoming trainings are listed below. For more information or to register, contact Jackie Richie at [ianetwrk@att.net](mailto:ianetwrk@att.net) or call 217-753-4620.

- **May 2, 2018** (Springfield, IL): Five Core Principles to a Trauma-Informed Setting in After School
- **May 2, 2018** (Bloomington, IL): Science and Math Engagement for Youth Practitioners
- **May 16, 2018** (McHenry, IL): Dealing with Behavioral Management in our Afterschool Program

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

## Resources

### Investing in Afterschool to Address Inequality

In a recent blog, the Afterschool Alliance reviews the Center for American Progress' 2018 policy recommendations for closing the growing inequality gaps in the United States. The blogger points out that increasing access to afterschool and summer programs, nutrition, and career and technical education are issues that are embraced by conservatives and progressives as promoting economic growth. To read more, click [here](#).

### Out-of-School Time Toolkit

The Public Health Law Center's out-of-school time toolkit provides resources to support policy efforts for incorporating healthy food and active play into out-of-school time programs as a strategy for preventing childhood obesity. To access the toolkit, click [here](#).

### STEM: What Do Your Young People Actually Know?

Activities that support young people in clarifying their knowledge and feelings about STEM also help educators to fill information gaps, address misconceptions and foster positive STEM attitudes. For a list of exercises for gauging students' perceptions of STEM, click [here](#).

### NAMI SWI Children's Resource Guide

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Southwestern Illinois (NAMI SWI) Children's Resource Guide provides families information to help them understand and advocate for young people dealing with mental illness. To access, click [here](#).

## **Music Impact Network**

The Music Impact Network provides afterschool music programs access to free downloadable resources and a forum to share ideas. For more information, click [here](#).

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

## **Opportunity for Providers**

### **National Practitioners Advisory Group on Using Data to Inspire SEL Practice**

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) is looking to engage educational practitioners to serve on the National Practitioners Advisory Group on Using Data to Inspire SEL Practice. The group's responsibilities include advising and reviewing the efforts of the *Establishing Practical Social-Emotional Competence Assessments of Preschool to High School Students Project*. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, April 25, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

## **Employment**

The ACT Now Coalition is looking to fill the following positions:

- [Youth Development Associate](#) (Full-time): Person is responsible for supporting the work of the ACT Now afterschool coalition. Job duties include drafting the weekly newsletter, maintaining the website, and representing ACT Now on city-and state-level committees/working groups.
- [Fall Policy and Communications Intern](#) (10-20 hours per week): Job duties include conducting research on state and federal policy issues affecting afterschool programs, contributing to ACT Now's social media pages, and working on ACT Now's policy campaigns.

## **Funding Opportunity**

### **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation**

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations

that disseminate knowledge about new or existing organizations/programs benefiting the welfare of children and youth. Applications will be accepted from **May 1, 2018 through July 15, 2018**. For eligibility requirement and funding guidelines, click [here](#).

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

## 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](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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