

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Resource

ACT Now Website and STEM Survey

ACT Now is seeking feedback on its website and the accessibility of STEM resources. Your responses will help us to improve and better meet the needs of afterschool providers. The survey should not take more than 10 minutes to complete. You can contact [Susan Stanton](#), ACT Now Network Lead, with any questions. Please complete the survey by **May 23rd**. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

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

Afterschool in the News

C.S. Mott Foundation National Network Meeting

During the week of April 16th, ACT Now sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to discuss the power of afterschool and learn from the affiliate statewide afterschool networks around the country. One of the keynoters for this national convening was Illinois State Board of Education Superintendent Tony Smith. In his weekly address, Dr. Smith shared that the meeting was energizing and acknowledged the work of ACT Now and afterschool providers in Illinois who have utilized Coalition resources, such as the Quality Standards, to maximize positive outcomes for students and advocate for continued funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Superintendent Smith's reflections can be found [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Cream of the Crop Photo Contest

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest, sponsored by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, invites youth ages eight through 18 to submit an innovative, scenic snapshot of agriculture in Illinois. The submission deadline is **Tuesday, June 26, 2018**. Click [here](#) to view the contest rules or to submit your entry.

Anti-Defamation League Essay and Art Contest

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in partnership with NIE Chicago Tribune have announced the 2018 student essay and art contest on the First Amendment. Students in grades seven through 11 are invited to submit an essay or create a work of art that best addresses how one or more of the five freedoms in the First Amendment personally affects their daily life. All entries must be postmarked by the spring deadline **Friday, June 29, 2018** or fall deadline **Friday, September 28, 2018**. The contest guidelines and entry form can be viewed [here](#).

Breakthrough Junior Challenge

Students ages 13 to 18 are invited to create/submit an original video explaining a complex scientific idea in no more than three minutes. The grand prize is a \$250,000 college scholarship. The submission deadline is **Sunday, July 1, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Trainings and Webinars

Mt. Vernon Quality Standards Training

ACT Now's Quality Standards training scheduled for **Wednesday, May 2, 2018** in Mt. Vernon, IL has been **CANCELLED**. Please contact Susan Stanton with any questions or if your program's staff is interested in setting up a free training.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Illinois Teaching Policy Fellowship

The Teach Plus Illinois Teaching Policy Fellowship trains teachers to engage with state legislators and advocate for change at the state level. Applications are due **Sunday, May 20, 2018**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Summer Food Service Program

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking partnerships with public/private non-profit organizations or government entities to serve as sponsors and sites for the federally funded Summer Meals program. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund

The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund is intended to help small nonprofits, with annual budgets of \$1 Million or less, with their workforce development, food programs, and housing efforts. Applications will be accepted from **July 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

My Macy's District Grants

The My Macy's District Grants program supports local nonprofit organizations and initiatives that focus on arts and culture, education, the environment, HIV/AIDS, and women's issues. For more information, click [here](#).

Captain Planet Foundation

The Captain Planet Foundation offers material and monetary support to high-quality, solution-based programs that embrace STEM learning and empower youth to become local and global environmental change-makers. For more information, 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](#).

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