



Policy Updates

Illinois to Appoint Youth Budget Commission

On Saturday August 11th, Governor Bruce Rauner signed HB5202 into law. HB5202 establishes a Youth Budget Commission, which will be comprised of a diverse group of experts in the needs of youth and young adults ages 8-25 across the state, including members of the state legislature. The first of its kind in Illinois, the Youth Budget Commission will oversee an annual fiscal scan of the State budget across six core areas that are essential for youth to thrive: *stability, safety, health, education, employability and connectedness*. By categorizing funding according to the six intended outcomes of these core areas, state agencies can focus on where their work connects and view funding for youth programs according to its intended purpose. For more information, click [here](#).

Summer Learning & Meals Act

On July 31st, Wyden (D-Oregon), Merkley (D-Oregon), and Blumenthal (D-Conn.) introduced the Summer Learning and Meals Act of 2018. The new legislation aims to help close the summer learning gap by keeping school libraries open at schools that already serve free summer meals. For more information, click [here](#).

Restructuring Underutilized Resources for Advancing Learning (RURAL) Act

On July 25th, Rep. Loeb sack (D-Iowa) re-introduced the RURAL Act. In addition to establishing an Office of Rural Education at the federal Department of Education, the legislation would “enhance afterschool programs in rural areas by helping communities establish afterschool programs and improve existing programs by overcoming barriers to service.” For more information, click [here](#).

For an archive of previously discussed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Webinar: Grant Writing Workshop

The Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) is hosting a grant writing webinar to support agencies and programs in developing high-quality applications. These workshops will focus on developing a winning application, navigating the DHS GATA and application process, and securing funding from other private and corporate sources. (Because the state has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for Teen REACH programming in

August, this workshop will focus on how to secure immediate funding to support afterschool programs in Illinois through DHS.) This workshop will be held **Wednesday, August 22nd, 2018 @ 11am CDT**. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

CPS Back 2 School Bash

Join classmates, educators, and families to prepare for a strong start to the school year. With food, music, games, school supplies and CPS resources – these celebrations are the perfect chance to reconnect with your school community for the year ahead. This event is ongoing and will be held at the following locations from **2pm-5pm**:

8/21: Ashburn (Durkin Park ES, 8445 S. Kolin, 60652)

8/22: Englewood (Earle ES @ Lindblom Park, 6054 S. Damen, 60636)

For more information, click [here](#).

STEMfest

Attend the Midwest's premier festival for celebrating science, technology, engineering and math. Northern Illinois University STEM departments, student groups, regional corporations, museums, educators, and national labs are joining forces to present hundreds of activities that range in complexity to entertain people of all ages, and admission is FREE. This event will be held **Saturday, October 27th, 2018, 10am-5pm @ the NIU Convocation Center**. For more information, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed youth opportunities, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Providers

Children & Family Fellowship

This 21-month Fellowship program brings together leaders in nonprofit, philanthropic and public organizations working to improve outcomes for children and families. The goal of the Fellowship is to increase the pool of diverse, visionary leaders with the confidence and competence to lead and sustain major system reforms and community change initiatives. Applications are due **Monday, September 17th, 2018**. To learn more, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed opportunities for providers, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Program Development Grant

Service Year Alliance (SYA) will award small program development grants to a select number of afterschool providers that want to start a new service year program. SYA is requesting that we nominate one high-quality afterschool provider that wants to start a service year program in Chicago, Illinois. If you are interested in having your program nominated, **email KnockeF@metrofamily.org by Wednesday, August 29th**. To learn more about Service Year Alliance, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Family Engagement Toolkits

Many organizations have documented their family engagement programs through toolkits, designed to help others create high-impact family engagement initiatives. For more information, click [here](#).

Lesson Plans: Women in Tech

One of the primary challenges that girls face in pursuing computer science as a career is a lack of female role models. Girls are likely to grow up to be innovators only if they have access to female innovators, underscoring the importance of role models and self-image. The Women In Tech Lesson Plans introduce middle school students to female role models and spark the interest of girls to pursue computer science. For a copy of the lesson plans, click [here](#).

Science of Adolescent Learning

This report examines how body and brain development affect student learning and recommends ways education practitioners and policymakers can support adolescent learning for all students, including historically underserved populations. To read the full report, click [here](#).

Using Behavioral Science to Encourage Postsecondary Summer Enrollment

This brief presents findings from The Encouraging Additional Summer Enrollment (EASE) Phase 1, a project that uses insights from behavioral science to encourage more students to enroll in summer courses. To read the full report, click [here](#).

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

Afterschool in the News

Harvesting the Potential of Rural Afterschool Programs

Parents in rural communities are overwhelmingly supportive of public funding for afterschool programs, citing job security and peace of mind as key reasons for afterschool in their community. However, while the demand is clearly documented, only 13 percent of rural youth participate in afterschool programming. Additionally, for every rural child enrolled in afterschool, three were willing and unable to join a program. To read the full article, click [here](#).

Afterschool Spotlight

Shine On, Chicago: Photo Safaris

This summer, Shine On, Chicago partnered with The Chicago Public Library and The Chicago Public Schools to teach teens how to operate a DSLR cameras while encouraging them to capture the beauty in different neighborhoods and museums around Chicago. One goal of the program was to help teens find beauty and self-expression through the photos they take in different Chicago neighborhoods; at the same time, to help them build a Digital Portfolio they can use to pursue higher ed and career-building opportunities. For more information, click [here](#).