



Policy Updates

21st CCLC Funding Increase

On September 13th, a joint House and Senate Conference Committee approved and filed a two-bill major spending package ([H.R. 6157](#)) that funds the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) and Defense for fiscal year 2019 (FY 19). In excellent news for parents, students, and friends of afterschool programs, H.R. 6157 increases funding for the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program by \$10 million, which will further support local afterschool and summer learning programs. The \$10 million increase to Community Learning Centers brings the program up to a record level of \$1.222 billion. This means an additional 10,000 students in grades pre-K through 12th can access quality afterschool and summer learning programs. To read more, click [here](#).

Every Kid Outdoors Act

On Sept 12th members of Congress on both sides of the aisle came together to pass the Every Kid Outdoors Act. The bill ([H.R.3186](#)), introduced by Representatives Niki Tsongas (D-MA03), Scott Tipton (R-CO-03), and Diana DeGette (D-CO-01), would encourage fourth graders and their families to visit America's natural, cultural, and historical treasures by directing the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and the Army to establish the Every Kids Outdoors program to provide fourth graders free access to federal lands and waters to which the public has access. To read more, click [here](#).

Opioid Crisis Response Act

The U.S. Senate is slated to debate an opioid package of more than 70 proposals this week, some of which include essential educational and community resources. It has been proposed that

the Education Department should be able to award four-year grants to educational organizations to increase student access to trauma support services and mental health care. This measure would authorize \$53.9 million annually from fiscal 2019 through 2023 for grants to support the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative and other activities for treating children who experience trauma. The measure also would authorize such sums as necessary from fiscal 2019 through 2021 for the CDC to collect data on adverse childhood experiences. Additionally, the measure would authorize a program through HHS, in consultation with the Education Department, to address substance use disorders among children, adolescents, and young adults. For a section-by-section overview, click [here](#).

To view an archive of past policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Webinar: Lights On Afterschool Toolkit

Join ACT Now to learn about planning and preparing for a Lights On Afterschool (LOA) event, as well as how to utilize our [LOA Toolkit](#). This webinar will take place **Friday, October 5th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.** To register, click [here](#).

Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing free trainings on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. These trainings will:

- Provide participants with a background in the Standards
- Discuss the benefits of the Standards and the research that links quality programming to positive outcomes for youth
- Explore how to align the Standards with other quality tools
 - Assist providers in creating a plan for implementing the Standards and developing strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives
- Discuss how to use the Standards in work with parents, policymakers, funders, and educators

Upcoming Trainings:

Bloomington: October 9th, 2018–9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Chicago: October 15th, 2018–9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Carbondale: October 17th, 2018–9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Chicago: November 12th, 2018–9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Community Schools Coordinators Appreciation Week

Join us for the week of **September 24-28** as we partner with the Coalition for Community Schools to celebrate our Community School Coordinators during Coordinators Appreciation Week! Our Coordinators build relationships between schools and community partners to support families and help students succeed. Coordinators are invaluable and we thank them for all their hard work to ensure every student learns and thrives. To learn more, click [here](#).

DuPage Nonprofit Conference

Giving DuPage invites you to the DuPage Nonprofit Conference. This is a full day of training taking place on **Friday, September 21st** at Bobak's Signature Events in Woodridge, IL. To learn more or register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Knock Your Grantmaker's Socks Off

Writing a compelling grant application can be tricky. Join this webinar for a step by step guide to writing a narrative grant that is not only engaging, but compels grantmakers to advocate for you to receive the grant award. You can join this webinar on **September 20th @ 12 p.m. CDT or September 26th @ 2 p.m. CDT**. To register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Community Schools Superheroes

As we celebrate Coordinators Appreciation Week, hear from Community School Coordinator Leadership Award winner, Hallie J. Atwater of Renaissance Academy High School, as she shares how she kept her school open and ways to build powerful relationships with students. This webinar will be held

Wednesday, September 26th from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CDT. To learn more or register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Learning More About Your School--To Change It!

COFI/POWER-PAC IL, ACT Now, and Partners for Each and Every Child welcome you to join us online and in person for a learning session on Illinois' school report cards, the new ESSA law, and how parents can work with their schools and school districts to improve results for ALL children! This webinar will be held **Wednesday, October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CDT.** To register to participate *online*, click [here](#). To register to participate *in-person*, call COFI: (312) 226-5141

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

Funding Opportunities

Advancing Informal STEM Learning

Through the National Science Foundation, the Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) program is offering grants to advance new approaches to the design and development of STEM learning opportunities for the public in informal environments; provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments; and engage the public of all ages in learning STEM in informal environments. Grant applications are due **November 7th, 2018**. To learn more or apply, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Afterschool STEM Hub

The Afterschool STEM Hub has a new suite of resources available on their website. Developed by the FrameWorks Institute, all of their new materials build off of their in-depth messaging research on the American public's perception of STEM and afterschool and summer learning. With their new resources, you will be even more prepared to advocate the importance of afterschool and summer STEM learning, share

with your colleagues why our messaging works, and spread the word and support for informal STEM. To learn more, click [here](#).

School Health Index Tool

This tool is an online assessment that helps schools understand what best practices are in place, and where they can improve. All schools that complete AFHK's School Health Index by October 31st will be in the running for a prize, including gift cards, AFHK swag bags and more. To complete the Health Index, click [here](#).

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

Community Schools Corner

Community Schools: Call for Best Practices!

Are you a Community Schools leader or program provider that has valuable resources or best practices to share with the field? Please click [here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state! If you have any questions, please contact Faith Knocke (ACT Now! Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.org

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Contact Us

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