

## Policy Updates

### Illinois Budget

On June 5, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed the Illinois budget for FY 2020, an almost \$40 billion budget package. To read the budget, [click here](#).

### The Higher Education Act

The Higher Education Act is currently going through the reauthorization process where there is potential risk for the elimination of Federal Work Study (IV) 7% Community Service. The past three reauthorization acts have either eliminated or waived Federal Work Study (IV) 7% Community Service. This is a mandatory amount of money set aside for community service activities completed by eligible college students who are paid for that work. A common choice for those community service activities is working at an afterschool program, providing college students jobs and afterschool programs more staff without the financial burden.

### The Child Nutrition Act

Under the Child Nutrition Act, summer and afterschool meal sites qualify if 50% or more of children in the area qualify for free or reduced price school meals as defined by school or census data. This threshold keeps many communities with significant numbers of low-income children, but not a high enough concentration of poverty, from participating. Afterschool advocates are asking to change the area eligibility from 50% to 40% to increase the number of communities served. This is taking form in a bipartisan bill, the Summer Meals Act, [HR 2818](#).

*For a list of previously listed policy updates, [click here](#).*

## Trainings and Events

### Learn about Empatico

Looking for ways to help your students engage with peers from different backgrounds? Check out Afterschool Alliance's webinar on **Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.** to learn about Empatico, an organization that connects students ages 6-11 with peers around the world through a combination of live video and activities. Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up for the webinar. Keep in mind that

for a limited time the Afterschool Alliance is offering \$50 gift cards for sites that sign up and complete an activity on Empatico!

### **2019 College Changes Everything Conference**

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, July 18, 2019, for the 2019 College Changes Everything Conference from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, Illinois.** This year the Conference theme is “Expanding Success for All Students – Every Community’s Responsibility.” The keynote speaker will be Merita Irby, Co-Founder of [The Forum for Youth Investment](#), and also a chief architect of The Forum’s signature initiative, [Ready by 21](#). ACT Now will also be presenting! Registration is \$40 and can be completed by clicking [here](#).

### **Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) for Kids Starts with Adults**

This summer webinar series will dive into studies from the National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development that support SEL in afterschool, offer tips for choosing SEL curriculum, guide leaders on how to assess their own emotional quotient and more. Register for Part 1, taking place on **Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.** To learn more and register, click [here](#).

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

## **Youth Opportunities**

*For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click [here](#).*

## **Opportunities for Providers**

### **ACT Now BioBlitz Event**

On Tuesday, June 4, 2019, ACT Now hosted [National Geographic](#) for a BioBlitz Workshop! Afterschool program professionals learned how to plan a BioBlitz- an activity where youth find as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time.

Together we were reminded of the importance of incorporating STEM into afterschool programs and activities. We even got outside to try a BioBlitz ourselves! Thank you to everyone who came and thanks especially to National Geographic for facilitating the workshop! For more BioBlitz resources from National Geographic, click [here](#).

*To learn how you can plan a BioBlitz and other STEM events, click [here](#).*

*For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click [here](#).*

## Funding Opportunities

### Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Competition

The National Center for Families Learning is seeking applicants for the 2019 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year competition which will provide up to \$20,000 to school or community-based educators. Eligible applicants include educators who have demonstrated a record of success using two-generation strategies, involving multiple generations in the learning process. Applications are due by **Friday, June 14, 2019**. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).

### Grants for Automotive Repair Programs

The RPM Foundation supports and provides funding to programs committed to hands-on education and teaching young people the specialized skills and knowledge needed to maintain cars, motorcycles, and boats. An average first-time grant award is about \$10,000. The next application deadline is **Saturday, December 7, 2019**. To learn more and download the grant application, click [here](#).

### Mazda Foundation Grant

The Mazda Foundation awards grants to programs promoting education and literacy, environmental conservation, cross-cultural understanding, social welfare, and scientific research. Grant applications are due on **Monday, July 1, 2019** and can be found [here](#).

### Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Youth Services Enrichment Request for Proposal

DFSS is looking for high quality afterschool programming that demonstrates the integration of best practices. Contracts will be awarded using selection criteria regarding program locations, the age of the youth to be served, and the type of programming offered. Requests for proposals must be submitted through the online application by 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2019. To learn more and access the application, click [here](#). For more information on the Pre-Proposal process, take advantage of the following events:

- *Pre-Proposal Webinar* – Wednesday, June 12, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please register [here](#).
- *Pre-Submittal Conference* – Friday, June 14, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Malcolm X College, 1900 W. Jackson Blvd, Conference Room C
- *Pre-Submittal Conference* – Wednesday, June 19, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Martin Luther King Center, 4314 S. Cottage Grove

*For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, [click here](#).*

## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

#### The Wallace Foundation's Summer Learning Toolkit

During the summer, low-income students lose ground compared to their wealthier peers. However, summer can also be a time to help level the playing field through high-quality learning that research shows produces measurable benefits in educational, social, and emotional learning. With more than 50 evidence-based tools and resources, the [Summer Learning Toolkit](#) helps educators deliver programs that make a real difference. To access the toolkit, click [here](#).

#### Make Your Summer Program Shine

During the summer months, afterschool professionals and programs continue to play a critical role in keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy. The Summer to Discover 2019 guide is full of resources, top product picks, and discounts from NAA Advocate members and valued partners that will make your program shine. Read the guide [here](#).

#### Transforming Youth Outdoors (TYO)

TYO curates, organizes, and maintains an ever-growing collection of resources including knowledge, best practices, practical tools, and guidance, that help the members of our community deliver impactful outdoor programming to the youth they

service. If you're working with young people who are hoping to establish a career in the outdoors, check out TYO's tips on how to explore opportunities in outdoor recreation and conservation by clicking [here](#).

### **The Children & Nature Network**

The Children and Nature Network offers resources for parents and teachers to learn more about what outdoor education is. Visit the tools and resources page [here](#) to access PDFs, videos, and more that can help create an outdoor educational curriculum.

### **National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment Spanish-Translated Resources**

The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) is pleased to share an expanded collection of resources that have been translated into Spanish for wider access. This collection includes resources that address important issues in school-age care, such as summer learning, quality improvement, licensing, and funding strategies. The audience for these resources includes state afterschool network leads, summer program providers, and 21st Century Community Learning Center leads. To learn more click [here](#).

## **Call for Resources**

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool 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](mailto:KnockeF@metrofamily.org)

**NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).**

*Do you find the ACT Now newsletter to be a quality resource for your program? If so, please consider making a contribution to ACT Now so that we may continue to provide free resources to afterschool program providers, and, in turn, create a brighter future for the state of afterschool programs in Illinois!*

