

August 6, 2019

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

FY20 Appropriations Update

Last week the White House, Senate leadership, and House leadership announced that they had come to an agreement to increase spending caps for FY2020 and FY2021. The spending deal paves the way for the Senate to join the House in passing their FY2020 appropriations bills with the new fiscal year scheduled to begin October 1, 2019. While the House bill included a \$100 million increase for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding for local afterschool and summer learning programs, we will likely not know the Senate proposed allocation for Community Learning Centers until September.

SNAP Rule Change

On July 23, 2019, the Trump administration issued a proposed rule that would take food assistance away from 3 million people by making them ineligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Because free and reduced price school meal eligibility is automatic for SNAP families, the change could mean fewer children receive free/reduced price meals – which impacts afterschool and summer meals, and Title I and 21st CCLC formulas.

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

Trainings and Events

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Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Webinar: Integrating Coding with Drones

Join [NextWaveSTEM](#) to learn how to expand youth paradigms in computer science using drone technology. NextWaveSTEM will guide you through the impact of using Scratch coding to transform students from consumers of technology to creators through intentional and specific experiences with cutting edge technology. This [webinar](#) will be held on **August 7th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** To 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

Coordinators Appreciation Week

[IEL's](#) Coalition for Community Schools invites you to celebrate the Community School Coordinators in your community! Join them **September 23-27, 2019** for [Coordinators Appreciation Week](#) to celebrate and lift up the amazing work Coordinators do to help students and families thrive. Be on the lookout for the Coordinators Appreciation Week Toolkit coming soon.

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

Funding Opportunities

ecoTech™ Grants

[ecoTech™ Grants](#) are working to end the idea that youth "need to choose between 'the screen' or 'the green.'" Instead, youth can combine the two to combat today's challenges. Applicants should have youth-led projects that tackle environmental problems through the use of technology. **Applications are accepted year-round in two cycles. Cycle #1 opens September 15th.**

Social Venture Partners Chicago

[Social Venture Partners Chicago](#) is looking for a strategic funding relationship over the next 3 years with a nonprofit organization that is working to break the cycle of poverty in the Chicagoland area. Letters-of-Intent (LOIs) for the upcoming investment cycle are due on **September 5th**. *Organizations that intend to submit an LOI are required to participate in a briefing call on **August 20th**.* For more information, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Professional Development & Qualifications

Journaling for Development

Writing provides a way to clarify the daily jumble of triumphs, stumbles, joys, and challenges that providers experience. Once we write down the intense experiences, ideas, and questions that frame our professional lives, we can disentangle them and reflect on our daily practices. Check out [this article](#) for more inspiration!

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

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Trauma-Informed & Culturally Responsive Service Learning

Most established forms of youth services model the norms and values of the dominant Western culture. To best engage with a complete spectrum of youth, we must be trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and mindful of serving the whole community. [This article](#) demonstrates how these salient frameworks informed a partnership between service-learning university students and Puerto Rican youth who were displaced by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

SEL Blog Series

Are you interested in getting more intentional about strengthening your program's social-emotions learning (SEL) practices? [Search Institute](#) released a series of blog posts in which they discuss the steps and guiding principles of getting intentional about SEL. Topics include: [Who Does the Work?](#), [Continuous Quality Improvement](#), and [Measuring and Setting Priorities](#).

Report: Rural Informal STEM Education

The 2018 Rural Informal STEM Conference (RISC) was the first of its kind to bring together key innovators and experts in rural STEM learning outside of school. The conference addressed questions about the overall status of informal STEM learning in rural places, including the following: How do we define rural places? What are promising practices in diversity, equity, and inclusion in these places? How can STEM programs build community support for their work? How can such programs assess their impacts appropriately? To read the subsequent report, [click here](#).

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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

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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

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!



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