



Policy Updates

Federal Government Shutdown

Each year, Congress must pass a bill to allocate funding for the federal government. The money is used to fund everything from public schools and the Social Security program to the military and our national parks. Funding for the federal government ran out at the end of the day on December 21st and the House and Senate were not able to come to an agreement on how to fund the government beyond that date. Agencies such as the Department of Agriculture are impacted by the shutdown, however Child Nutrition Programs, including School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Child and Adult Care Feeding will continue running throughout the shutdown. Additionally, three-fourths of the federal government remains funded, including the Department of Education. Thus, afterschool programs will not be directly affected by the budget impasse. To learn more about the partial government shutdown, [click here](#).

Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act

On December 13th, sixteen years after last being reauthorized, the House of Representatives passed the Senate's version of a five-year Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) reauthorization bill, sending it to the White House for President Donald Trump to sign. The legislation strengthens and updates the federal law that has been protecting justice-system involved youth since 1974, adding new prevention provisions including grant funding that can provide quality afterschool programming to young people. The law remains the only federal statute that sets out national standards for the custody and care of youth in the juvenile justice system and



provides direction and support for state juvenile justice system improvements. Under the newly passed legislation, the core protections will be strengthened, and critical, research-based improvements will promote the rehabilitative purpose of the juvenile justice system. To learn more, [click here](#).

Farm Bill Update

The reauthorization of the Farm Bill, a subject of intense negotiations, was signed into law on December 12th by the President. While few provisions impact afterschool programs directly, the bill does establish a new Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and recognizes the importance of involving youth in farming and ranching through programs like 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and Farm to School. The Agricultural Youth Organization Coordinator position is intended to promote youth-serving organizations and school-based agricultural education, serve as a resource for assisting youth organizations in agriculture in applying for participation in agricultural programs, and advocate on behalf of youth organizations in agriculture in interactions with employees of USDA. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Webinar: Effectively Communicating the Need for Afterschool

ACT Now will be holding a webinar to provide information on how to effectively communicate the need for afterschool programs. This webinar will cover common communication misconceptions, how to tailor your message to different stakeholders, and evidence-based messaging practices that have been proven to be effective in the afterschool space. Additionally, you will receive access to a messaging tool developed by ACT Now to support you in your communication efforts. This webinar will be held **January 29th from 10 AM to 11 AM**. To register, [click here](#).

Webinar: Trauma Informed Settings in Afterschool

During this webinar, the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) will discuss how to implement the five core principles of trauma-informed care in an afterschool setting. (The webinar is \$15 for IAN members and \$30 for non-members.) This webinar will be held **January 30th from 10 AM to 11:30 AM**. To register, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

IAN Spring Conference



The Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) is pleased to announce its 33rd Annual Afterschool Spring Conference Celebration! The annual conference will be held on **April 27th at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL**. Additionally, there will be a **pre-conference session on April 26th** to discuss STEM topics. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Automotive Repair Grants

Afterschool programs can be critical partners in helping young people access the skills and training they need to pursue jobs of all kinds, including automotive and mechanical careers. The RPM Foundation is offering grants to support programs committed to hands-on education and teaching young people the specialized skills and knowledge needed to maintain cars, motorcycles, and boats. Average first-time grant awards are roughly \$10,000. **2019 deadlines have yet to be announced**. To access the grant application, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Mentoring Month Toolkit

January is National Mentoring Month! The 2019 National Mentoring Month campaign toolkit provides guidance on the most impactful ways you can lend your voice to the mentoring movement. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

Summer Learning Toolkit

It's never too early to think about summer learning! The Wallace Foundation has introduced two new products aimed at helping districts and community-based organizations create high-quality summer programs. The first is a newly updated report by the RAND Corporation—[Getting to Work on Summer Learning](#)—which explains the elements of successful summer programs, offering school districts advice on staffing, recruitment, creating a positive climate and so much more. The second is the accompanying online [Summer Learning Toolkit](#), which is mapped to RAND's findings. The toolkit features more than 50 practical tools and planning resources to help school districts and their partners design and deliver high-quality summer programs.

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

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](#).