

Policy Updates

Illinois Budget

On May 31, 2019, the Illinois Senate passed the budget for FY 2020. The budget has passed both houses and is currently waiting for the Governor's signature. The budget includes \$20 million for the Healthy Communities Investment Grant (HCIG) - a \$5 million increase. It includes \$14,237,300 for Teen Reach - about a \$400,000 increase, which could mean a possible new small grant competition for Teen REACH later this summer. It also includes \$430,599,000 for Child Care - about a \$30 million increase. To read the budget, [click here](#).

Fair Tax Amendment

On Monday, May 27, 2019, Illinois legislators voted to put the Fair Tax Amendment on the November 2020 ballot, giving every voter in Illinois the opportunity to weigh-in on whether the Fair Tax is right for Illinois. Under the Fair Tax Plan, 97 percent of Illinoisans would not see an income tax increase, with only those making more than \$250,000 a year paying more and the largest increases going to those making more than \$1 million a year. Thank your legislators for supporting the Fair Tax Amendment by clicking [here](#).

Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act

On May 29, 2019, the Illinois Senate approved the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, which legalizes marijuana for adults 21 and older. The bill was passed by the Illinois House on May 31, 2019 and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. The bill includes the creation of a Restore, Reinvest, and Renew Program and a Restore, Reinvest, and Renew Program Board. It contains various provisions regarding a low-interest loan program for social equity applicants, investment in communities that have suffered because of drug policies, and the promotion of cannabis business ownership by individuals who have resided in areas of high poverty and high enforcement of cannabis-related laws. The Restore, Reinvest, and Renew Grants will be used to address economic development, violence prevention services, re-entry services, youth development, and civil legal aid. To read the entire bill, click [here](#).

CCDBG - Child Care Development Block Grants

The Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) is a block grant to states for subsidized quality child care to eligible, low-income families. Currently, the President's FY 2020 Budget indicates the same level of funding as last year. The

U.S. House has proposed a \$2.4 billion increase, and the U.S. Senate has taken no action yet. To learn more, click [here](#).

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Proposed Changes to the Poverty Measure

On May 7, 2019, the Executive Office of President Trump and the OMB issued a notice of a proposed rulemaking that would change how the poverty line is adjusted for inflation. The proposal would switch to an alternative inflation measure such as the Chained Consumer Price Index for adjusting the poverty line annually. Over time, this would reduce the number of people who qualify for health care, nutrition, and other aid, and in some cases the amount of aid qualifying individuals can receive. Read the Proposed Rule [here](#). OMB will accept comments from the public regarding the rulemaking until June 21, 2019.

New Research on Public Charge

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) released a new paper titled, [“Trump Administration’s Overboard Public Charge Definition Could Deny Those Without Substantial means a Chance to Come to or Stay in the U.S.”](#) The paper examines the impact of the proposed Public Charge policy on U.S. citizens, if it were applied to them, and includes but is not limited to these findings:

- If one considers benefit receipt of U.S.-born citizens over the 1997-2017 period, some 43 to 52 percent received one of the benefits included in the proposed public charge definition.
- In just a single year, 3 in 10 U.S.-born citizens received a benefit included in the proposed public charge definition.

For more information on how immigrant families engage with Public Benefit Programs, check out this article from the Urban Institute [here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Peace Basketball Tournament and Resource Fair

Join [All Stars Project of Chicago](#) on **Saturday, July 27, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for the Peace Basketball Tournament and Resource Fair. This unique

opportunity allows afterschool and youth organizations in Chicago to introduce their programs to young people and their families. The event will be located at **Christ the King College Prep High School** – 5088 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60644. To register your organization click [here](#).

CS for ECO Webinar: Broadening Participation in Computer Science (BPC): Community Advice and Resources

Join STEM Learning Ecosystems on **Monday, June 10, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.** for a webinar discussing how higher education and K-12 can collectively increase opportunities for underrepresented populations in learning experiences in computer science. To learn more click [here](#). To RSVP for the webinar click [here](#).

Starting an Afterschool Program: Research & Planning

Join us for the first installment of our *Starting an Afterschool Program* webinar series: **Research & Planning**. During this webinar, you will learn about assembling a planning task force, conducting needs assessment surveys, establishing your organization's mission and objectives, and more! We will also be launching and providing an overview of our *Starting an Afterschool Program* **toolkit!** This webinar will be held on **June 25, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Please also consider forwarding this webinar information to anyone you know who may be interested in starting their own program!

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

Summer Learning Week

Led by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), **July 8-13, 2019**, the country will unite in advocacy efforts and celebrations hosted by hundreds of partner organizations to promote awareness of the importance of keeping kids healthy and engaged during the summer. [Register](#) your summer learning event or [find one](#) near you today.

America SCORES Resource Coordinator Position

Job Posting! [America SCORES Chicago](#) is hiring for a Resource Coordinator at the Pilsen Community Academy. America SCORES is a sports-based youth development organization providing programs improving health, academic achievement, and well-being of at-risk youth in Chicago. Position responsibilities would include but is not limited to program management and compliance, community outreach and development, and staff management and training. Applications are due on **June 12, 2019**. Read more about the position and how to apply [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

National Community Transformation Block Grant

The U.S. Department of Education is continuing to accept applications for the [Innovation & Modernization discretionary grant program](#). This program is designed to identify, support and rigorously evaluate evidence-based and innovative strategies and activities to improve and modernize career and technical education (CTE). ED will give preference to projects focused on STEM and computer science and those that prepare students for in demand careers in manufacturing and health care. Applications are due **June 14, 2019**.

Engineer for the Week Program

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) is looking for programs interested in participating in Facebook's Engineer for the Week (EFTW) program for the Summer Sprint Season. EFTW is an immersive, week-long, program that introduces students to the fast-paced world of engineering. If you complete EFTW activities with your students and share your opinion with Afterschool Alliance, you will receive \$500 --

and the chance for you and four students participating in EFTW to travel to the Facebook campus in CA.

The Summer Sprint season will run from June 17 to August 23, 2019. Learn more about the Engineer for the Week program and check your eligibility for participation [here](#).

Interested? Let Afterschool Alliance know [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

ACT Now STEM Follow-Up Survey

Students across the country are exploring STEM in a variety of exciting and innovative ways. We want to hear from you on how that looks in your program! Provide ACT Now with information on how you are currently using STEM in your programming. Knowing what providers currently do to support STEM will help us better advocate for and inform the field of afterschool program providers on best practices. Take the short survey [here](#).

Family & Community Partnerships

Guiding SEL Questions for Quality Partnerships

These guiding questions can help school staff and out-of-school time providers to think intentionally about how to fully partner with one another to promote school-wide social and emotional learning (SEL). 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

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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