

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### ACT Now Quality Standards

#### Trainings

ACT Now is holding free ongoing trainings around the state on the Quality Standards. The trainings will provide participants a general overview of the Standards and strategies for implementation. **Credit for the trainings will be available through the Gateways to Opportunity system and participants can also earn CEUs.** For more information on these trainings, click [here](#).

- To register for our Carbondale training on February 7, 2017, click [here](#).
- To register for our Springfield training on February 8, 2017, click [here](#).

### Policy Update

#### 21st CCLC RFP Recommendations

The passing of the Every Student Succeeds ACT (ESSA) provides the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) an opportunity to revise its 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) process.

**We need you to tell your policymakers that the RFP needs to be released in order to time the grant start date as much as possible with the start of the fiscal year.** Timing the RFP this way allows for schools and partners to engage in shared planning before the start of school, leading to stronger programs and stronger partnerships. It also means that there will not be a gap in programs or services, and that grantees do not need to lay off staff. Click on this [link](#) to share this message with legislators asking them to tell ISBE to release the RFP. You can also use this [form letter](#) to send a message to ISBE.

#### New CCDF FAQs Post

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is the primary federal funding source devoted to improving the quality of care for all children and to helping low-income families obtain child care. The final rule was finalized on September 30th and includes several new

provisions. To provide clarity to the reauthorization and new regulation, the Office of Child Care has published a frequently asked questions page that is organized by key topic areas. To access the site, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### **Economic Inequality and School Performance**

Continuing Ed. is a yearlong, statewide series working with parents, schools, and communities in Chicago, Decatur, Elgin, and southern Illinois to move the conversation about public education back to parents. Join them on **Friday, January 20, 2017**, from 6:30 p.m. through 8:30 p.m. for an evening dedicated to talking about the relationship between poverty and education. This event will be held at the Kelly High School library, located at 4136 South California, Chicago, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

## Youth Opportunities

### **Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest**

The 41st Annual Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest will be held on **Tuesday, January 24, 2017** on the campus of the Illinois Institute of Technology. The competition is open to high school physics and science students who have placed in the top four of a bridge building contest at their school. For more information, click [here](#).

### **EngineerGirl Essay Contest**

The 2017 EngineerGirl essay contest is open to female and male students in grades three through 12. Participants will create and submit an original essay describing how engineering might improve life of a species on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List. First place winners in each grade category will receive \$500. All entries must be received by **Wednesday, February 1, 2017**. The contest guidelines and entry form can be viewed [here](#).

### **World of 7 Billion Video Contest**

Population Education, the only national program with a strong emphasis on curriculum and professional development for K-12 educators that focuses on human population issues, is hosting the *World of 7 Billion* video contest. The competition challenges students in grades six through 12 to illustrate, in 60 seconds or less, the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: climate change, ocean health, or rapid

urbanization. Participating teachers can receive free curriculum resources and student winners will receive cash prizes up to \$1,000. All entries must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. CST on **Thursday, February 23, 2017** to be considered. Contest guidelines and resources can be accessed [here](#).

## Trainings and Webinars

### Partner Collaboration Impacts Youth Collaboration

Join Click2Science on **January 18, 2017** at 1:00pm for their upcoming Webinar Wednesday entitled “Partner Collaboration Impacts Youth Collaboration.” During the session participants will learn best practices for connecting with STEM partners and how these collaborations can help foster an interactive environment for youth. Click [here](#) for more information or to register for this event.

### IAN Educational Leadership Symposium

The Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) is sponsoring an Educational Leadership Symposium on **Thursday, March 2, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Eastland Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington, IL. The workshop will assist front line staff and program coordinators with integrating social and emotional learning into their afterschool programs. For more information and application details, click [here](#). The deadline for submission is Friday, February 17, 2017.

## Resources

### Crystal Snowflakes

In this month’s National AfterSchool Association STEM Gem activity, participants will use a mason jar, pipe cleaner, and borax to help them understand the properties of crystals. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

### Encouraging Collaborative STEM Work

Click2Science’s January learning modules are designed to assist out-of-school time staff with facilitating and supporting youth interaction during STEM experiences. Program elements include modeling effective collaboration and providing youth opportunities to teach and learn from each other in a safe space. For more information, click [here](#). Click [here](#) to register for the January 18th, “Partner Collaboration Impacts Youth Collaboration,” webinar.

### **Building Strong Relationships with Families**

Family engagement has a life-long impact on the lives of children. In the latest edition of Talk Tuesday, the National AfterSchool Association provides afterschool professionals tips for building strong relationships with the families of the kids they serve. Suggestions include, training front line staff to use simple strategies, such as saying something positive about the child's experience at the program, to make meaningful connections. To read more tips on how to increase family engagement in afterschool, click [here](#).

### **SEL: Feedback and Communications Insights from the Field**

The Wallace Foundation has released its market research findings on Policymakers, K-12 Public School Leaders, and Afterschool Leaders opinions on social and emotional learning (SEL). Research indicates that SEL is a familiar term that is well received across stakeholder groups when framed as a concept that speaks to “gains” for children. However, despite agreement that it should be a priority, there is still concern from the field regarding adequate training being available and from parents regarding whether school/afterschool are overstepping their bounds. To read more, click [here](#).

### **Governor's Volunteer Service Awards**

The Governor's Volunteer Service Awards highlight the importance of volunteerism and community service in the State of Illinois. Awards will be presented to one youth, one adult, and one retiree/senior in each of the five service regions across the state. Nominations are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on **Friday, February 17, 2017**. For additional information, click [here](#).

## **Opportunities for Afterschool Providers**

### **Digital Learning Challenge**

SCE, a social investment organization that connects talent and innovation with market forces to drive social change, is accepting applications to identify afterschool program partners for their Digital Learning Challenge. Over the next two years, the Challenge will bring together a community of afterschool programs, researchers and evaluators, HR professionals, and digital product developers/distributors to explore what it means to be a prepared and skilled 21st century citizen. The application deadline is **Friday, January 20, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Call for Sports-Based Youth Development Partnerships**

Up2Us Sports harnesses the power of sports to reduce youth violence, promote health, and inspire academic success. They are currently accepting Calls For Partnerships (CFP) to host coaches, VISTAs or trainings. For more information, click [here](#). The deadline for submission is **Tuesday, January 31, 2017**. The Up2Us Sports staff will be hosting a CFP webinar on **Friday, January 13, 2017** at 11:30 a.m. to go over the CFP process and answer questions. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

## Funding Opportunities

### Springboard Foundation Afterschool Funding

The Springboard Foundation funds small nonprofits that provide critical afterschool programs in under-resourced neighborhoods in Chicago. First year grantees receive between \$5,000 to \$10,000 plus funds to help build capacity. The ideal Springboard grantees are youth development organizations located in Chicago who provide afterschool enrichment sometime Monday through Friday between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the Chicago Public Schools academic year. Grant proposals are due **Tuesday, January 17, 2017**. All interested prospective grantees should schedule a phone conversation with Springboard Foundation's Executive Director Sejal Shah-Myers via email at [sejal@springboardfoundation.org](mailto:sejal@springboardfoundation.org) or phone at 312-447-6553. To learn more about Springboard Foundation, click [here](#).

Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to [StantonS@metrofamily.org](mailto:StantonS@metrofamily.org)

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The ACT Now Coalition brings together afterschool and youth development stakeholders from across Illinois to work towards ensuring that all young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

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