

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

Children's Cabinet Update

On March 8, 2018, the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth met in Chicago. You can find details and materials from the meeting [here](#). The Cabinet provided updates on its three current initiatives: reducing lead burden; increasing the early childhood workforce; and improving readiness for work through apprenticeships. The Cabinet also reviewed proposals and adopted the following projects: collecting data on childcare subsidies' effects on family self-sufficiency; greater cross-agency collaboration for systems involved youth; college & career readiness through transitional math and alternative high school equivalency (HSE) credentials; and statewide community-based mentoring network. Project leads and teams are forthcoming. In addition, the Cabinet approved the motion to develop the Governor's Cabinet Youth Commission that will be comprised of persons ages 14 to 25 representing the youth voice of the state agencies involved. The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 7, 2018**.

ACT Now policy updates affecting the afterschool/youth development field, including information about Teen REACH and 21st Century, can be found [here](#).

Quality Standards in Action

The Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards encompass seven Core Areas, which capture practices that research demonstrates lead to quality programs and positive outcomes for children and youth.

Galva Jr./Sr. High School in Galva, Illinois, uses the Quality Standards booklet as a guide for helping to assess where their quality improvement efforts should be directed. As a result of attending a Quality Standards provider training, the 21st Century Community Learning Center at Galva Jr./Sr. High School is more intentional about Core Area 5: Family and Community Partnerships. To read more on how Galva Jr./Sr. High School is implementing the ACT Now Afterschool Quality Standards, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

National Youth Violence Prevention Week

Strengthening Chicago's Youth will be hosting an educational event and discussion in recognition of National Youth Violence Prevention Week on **Thursday, March 22, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

ACT Now Afterschool Advocacy Initiative

ACT Now will be coordinating an in-district advocacy initiative to help get out the message to policymakers about the importance of afterschool from **March 27, 2018 through April 5, 2018**. Our [Spring 2018 Afterschool Advocacy Toolkit](#) has resources to help you take action in a variety of ways on issues affecting 21st Century, Teen REACH, Child Care Funding, and expanding funding for afterschool. For additional information, click [here](#). If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please email Susan Stanton, stantons@metrofamily.org. To register for our **Monday, March 19th** In-District Advocacy and Afterschool Funding Update webinar, click [here](#).

Resources

Building Relationships for STEM Learning

Click2Science's March learning module provides afterschool professionals strategies to support and encourage youth when working on STEM activities. For more information, click [here](#).

STEAM Classroom Resources

In a recent eSchool News article, high school educators offer advice for helping students succeed in advanced education classes, training programs, and the workforce by coupling art with strong STEM skills. To access the tips, click [here](#).

Snow Wonder

In this STEM Gem, participants will use salt, water, and disposable diapers to explore the properties of superabsorbent polymers. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

Mental Health Conditions and the Illinois Juvenile Justice System

The Illinois Mental Health Opportunities for Youth Diversion Task Force's most recent

report contains recommendations to divert youth living with mental health conditions from the juvenile justice system. To access the report, click [here](#).

Exercise and Academic Achievement

The Walking Classroom is an award winning program that combines listening with exercise to strengthen the physical, mental, and academic health of students. For more information, click [here](#).

For a list of afterschool and youth development related resources collected by ACT Now, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Lagunitas Community Grant Program

The Community Grant Program provides funding up to \$5,000 to nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations in Cook County, Illinois that focus on the arts, animal welfare, and music education. Proposals will be accepted from **May 4th through June 8th**. For more information, click [here](#).

Invest For Kids Grants

Invest For Kids provides support for children in Chicago who are facing social and economic challenges by directing funds to smaller organizations that have been in existence for three years and who have an annual operating budget of \$1 to 3 Million, excluding government or agency funds. The application deadline is **Sunday, April 1, 2018**. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).

Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation awards grants to community-based nonprofit organizations located in the United States. For funding guidelines or to apply, click [here](#).

The Duke Energy Foundation

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to programs with a focus on education, environment, and community impact. For funding guidelines or to apply, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

For archived youth opportunities, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

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

Opportunities for Providers

For archived opportunities for providers, 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

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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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