

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update

Children's Cabinet Update

Governor Rauner's Cabinet on Children and Youth met this past Thursday, March 9th. The Cabinet discussed updates on its three current projects:

- Reducing Childhood Lead Burden: Illinois Math and Science Academy recently held a Hack-a-Thon to brainstorm potential strategies to address this problem.
- Apprenticeships: A panel discussed the importance of apprenticeships and a lively discussion followed that detailed the importance of diversity in STEM and workforce preparedness for middle and high school students. Governor Rauner emphasized that all Illinois high schools should offer not only a diploma but the opportunity for all youth to graduate with a credential.
- Early Childhood Workforce Development: The group discussed the inadequate number of educated and qualified early childhood educators and lack of clear pathways for current workforce to increase career opportunities.

To access the meeting materials, click [here](#). The next Cabinet meeting is **Thursday, June 8, 2017** 1:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Demanding a Town Hall with Governor Rauner

Citizen Action Illinois, a member of the Responsible Budget Coalition, is circulating a petition demanding that Governor Rauner hold a public town hall meeting on the state budget. The goal of the public meeting is to provide constituents an opportunity to ask the Governor unscreened/uncensored questions and get answers from him directly. For more information or to sign the petition, click [here](#).

Support 21st CCLC Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs

The U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Labor, Health and Human Services Subcommittees are working on determining final FY17 funding

levels for the programs that directly support local afterschool and summer learning programs, including the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative and the Child Care Development Block Grant. To call on Congress to maintain or increase funding for these programs, click [here](#).

Tell Policymakers to Release the 21st CCLC RFP

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is in the process of finalizing the next 21st Century RFP. **We need you to tell your policymakers that the RFP needs to be released NOW in order to time the grant start date as much as possible with the start of the fiscal year.** 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.

Social Services Contract Notice

The Social Services Contract Notice Act, [HB3110](#), is on its second reading in the House. This bill was written in response to the Good Friday social services cut that took place in April 2015. The bill would require the state of Illinois to provide the General Assembly and social service providers advance notice prior to reducing, eliminating, or suspending services. The HB3110 fact sheet can be accessed [here](#). To identify your legislator as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

Thriving Youth Fund

The Thriving Youth Fund bill, [SB2046/HB3217](#), establishes the thriving youth income tax check box that allows tax payers to fund non-Medicaid eligible community-based youth programs. The SB2046/HB3217 fact sheet can be accessed [here](#). To identify your legislators as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

Lottery After-School Rescue

The Lottery After-School Rescue bill, [HB0273](#), creates an “After-School Rescue” scratch-off game where the net revenue goes to the making of grants to at-risk schools for the promotion of extracurricular and after-school programs. To identify your legislator as well as retrieve contact information to ask them to support this bill, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

HERlead Fellowship

The HERlead Fellowship is a groundbreaking partnership between ANN INC. and Vital Voices to empower young women from across the U.S. to affect global progress, invest in their communities, and begin their journeys as the next generation of leaders. High school girls who are in the 10th or 11th grade are welcome to apply. Applications must be received by **Saturday, March 18, 2017**. For additional details, click [here](#).

Quest for Excellence STEM Award

The Quest for Excellence STEM Award gives high-achieving, high school juniors from low-income families that have an interest in STEM careers access to residential summer enrichment programs, grants for technology and supplies, funding for college visits, as well as opportunities to engage with industry leaders. These awards are intended to encourage and support students in pursuing and succeeding in a variety of STEM fields in college and beyond. For more information or to apply, click [here](#). Applications must be submitted by **Wednesday, March 22, 2017**.

A Virtual Reality Experience

Black Girls CODE Chicago is hosting A Virtual Reality Experience on **Saturday, March 25, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This workshop will introduce girls age 10 to 17 to Unity3D, an industry standard virtual reality game development platform. The event will be held at the Google Chicago Office, located at 320 North Morgan in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Lights On Afterschool Poster Contest

The Afterschool Alliance invites afterschool programs to enter its 2017 *Lights On Afterschool* poster contest. Qualified entries must be made on an 11" x 14" piece of paper or be no larger than a 2 MB file with a DPI of 350. A \$500 cash prize award will be provided to the afterschool program that submits the winning design. Posters must be received by **Saturday, April 15, 2017**. For additional details or to enter, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Afterschool Programs Responding to Trauma

IAN will be conducting a training on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017** entitled “The Impact of Trauma and a Universal Response in our Afterschool Programs.” Participants will learn to recognize signs of trauma, identify tools to build a safe and supportive environment, and self-care strategies to prevent and reduce stress. This session will be held at Erie Neighborhood House, located at 1347 West Erie Street, Chicago, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. For more information, click [here](#). Contact Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 to register.

Advocacy 101

The Federation for Community Schools is hosting an advocacy webinar on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017**, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will learn the basics of the legislative process, the difference between advocating and lobbying, and the value of building relationships with elected officials. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Professionalizing the Out-of-School Time & School-Age Child Care Workforce

The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment will be hosting a webinar on **Tuesday, March 21, 2017** at 2:30 p.m. that will focus on workforce development in out-of-school time and school-age child care. The session will cover past efforts to professionalize the field as well as the current state of affairs. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

ACT Now Quality Standards

ACT Now is holding free trainings around the state on the Afterschool 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.** A training is scheduled for **Friday, April 28, 2017**, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel Lisle in Lisle, IL. This is a pre-conference session before the Illinois AfterSchool Network Conference. You do not need to register for the conference to participate in the training. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Resources

Supporting Young People in the Wake of Violence and Trauma

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership in collaboration with the Mental Health

Association of New York, have developed a guide to support programs, mentors, and young people in the wake of violence and trauma. To access the brief, click [here](#).

Being Black is Not a Risk Factor

The National Black Child Development Institute has released a report, “Being Black Is Not a Risk Factor: Statistics and Strengths-Based Solutions in the State of Illinois,” which discusses the importance of employing culturally relevant strategies in educational settings and contains data that indicates how Black children and families in Illinois compare to other ethnic groups nationally and in the state. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

Gateways School-Age & Youth Development Credential

The Gateways to Opportunity School-Age & Youth Development Credential (SAYD) is awarded and recognized by the Illinois Department of Human Services Bureau of Child Care and designed for professionals working with children and youth ages five through 16. For more information on how you can obtain your SAYD Credential, click [here](#).

Promoting Parent Engagement in Social Emotional Learning and Development

The Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP) in collaboration with the Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) is seeking funding from the Bright Promises Foundation to promote parent engagement in the area of social and emotional learning and development. Afterschool programs interested in applying to join this collaborative effort can do so by completing and returning the letter of interest by **Monday, March 20, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund

The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund is intended to help small non-profits, with annual budgets of \$1 Million or less. For the calendar year of 2017, the Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will focus grant-making in three categories: Food Programs, Housing, and Workforce Development. Grants will be awarded twice in 2017. Applications will be accepted during two periods, from **February 1, 2017 through March 31, 2017** and from **July 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017**. Grant

applicants located in Illinois Enterprise Zones or similarly depressed economic areas will receive special attention. For more information about eligibility and the criteria, click [here](#).

NASA Summer STEM Funding

The NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) Office of Education is soliciting applications from organizations and formal/informal education institutions serving youth in grades four through nine to implement GRC educational content this summer. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, March 31, 2017**. Click [here](#) for additional program information. To register for the **Tuesday, March 14, 2017** 3:00 p.m. application webinar, click [here](#).

2017 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 **Saturday, April 1, 2017**. For more information or to apply, 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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