

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

Federal STEM Funding Sign-On Letter

As Congress continues to address FY19 funding, it is crucial that supporters of STEM education take action. Organizations can let congressional appropriations leaders know just how vital directing federal funds to STEM programs is by signing on to the STEM Education Coalition's [letter to congressional appropriations leaders](#). The deadline to sign the letter is **Thursday, May 17, 2018**. To show your support for federal STEM funding, click [here](#).

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

Upcoming Event

College Changes Everything Conference

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission's eighth annual College Changes Everything conference will take place on **Thursday, July 19, 2018**. The event will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, located at 18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Summer Brain Games with the Museum of Science and Industry

The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) in partnership with ACT Now is hosting a training that will offer attendees an opportunity to learn about MSI's Brain Games and provide training on doing STEM activities in your program. The session will be held on **Tuesday, June 5, 2018** at INCCRRA in Bloomington, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

Resources

The Role of Afterschool in SEL

The Afterschool Alliance's latest issue brief, "An Ideal Opportunity: The Role of Afterschool in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)," points out the many ways afterschool and summer learning programs are supporting students in their development and makes the case for the need for additional resources. To access the brief, click [here](#).

Teaching Computer Coding without Screens

Computer programming concepts, such as algorithms, logic, tinkering, and debugging can be incorporated into everyday lessons to teach young people the basics of coding. For a list of interactive coding-type exercises, click [here](#).

Apps and Tools for Classroom SEL

Social and emotional learning (SEL) helps students build intrapersonal and interpersonal competencies, which improves school climate. For a list of apps and resources to aid teachers in incorporating SEL into their classrooms, click [here](#).

Summer Stride

Summer Stride is a research-based, bilingual, parent resource to help families prepare for the upcoming school year during the summer break. To access the three-step plan and other resources, click [here](#).

Summer Music Activity Kit

The Music Impact Network's summer "Do It Yourself" kit includes free downloadable resources for music programs. For a list of accessible activities, click [here](#).

How to Talk to Funders about the Quality Standards

In a recent webinar ACT Now provided insight on how providers can share the importance of the ACT Now Quality Standards with their program funders. To view a recording of the webinar, click [here](#).

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

Opportunity for Providers

The Alumni Board Connect

The Alumni Board Connect (ABC) program matches nonprofits with University of Chicago Booth School of Business MBAs who are interested in board service. Chicago nonprofits in good standing are eligible to apply. The application deadline is **Friday, May 25, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Federal STEM, Computer Science Education Grants

The U.S. Department of Education is accepting applications for two FY18 grant competitions that support increasing access to high quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Computer Science education programs. The grants available are as follows:

- [\\$75 million Supporting Effective Educator Development](#) provides funding to increase the number of highly effective educators.
- [\\$120 million Education Innovation and Research](#) provides funding to create, develop, implement, replicate, or take to scale entrepreneurial, evidence-based, field initiated innovations.

Guggenheim Partners

Guggenheim Partners' Network for Social Innovation supports early-stage nonprofits using innovative solutions to solve enduring social problems. Applications are due by **Thursday, May 31, 2018**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Afterschool in the News

World of 7 Billion Video Contest Winner

The World of 7 Billion video contest challenges students to illustrate the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges. Out of 2,733 entries, Illinois' Thalia Kennedy earned second place in the Advancing Women and Girls High School category for her video entitled "Women's Education." To view Thalia's video, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

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

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Contact Us

ACT Now Coalition
One North Dearborn #1000
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Susan Stanton
StantonS@metrofamily.org