

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Update.

Sec. DeVos Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing

On June 6th, Education Secretary DeVos testified in front of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) on the U.S. Department of Education FY18 budget proposal. Sec. DeVos justified the elimination of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers on the grounds that the program lacked evidence. In response, LHHS Subcommittee members expressed support for the initiative. For more information on the hearing, click [here](#).

Federal Budget Update

On May 23rd, the Trump administration released its full FY18 budget. The proposal eliminates or cuts funding to programs that are vital for children and families.

- Funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), the only federally sponsored afterschool program, was proposed for elimination.
- Funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), which supports low-income working families with quality child care, was reduced by \$99 million. The \$5 million increase reported in the proposal is an error due to using the FY17 Continuing Resolution as the baseline rather than the FY17 Omnibus level.

Other programs that support children and families identified for elimination or funding cuts in FY18 can be found [here](#).

21st CCLC Funding

The 21st CCLC initiative serves 52,496 students in 456 communities in Illinois. Be advised of the following updates and opportunities to take action:

- The FY17 federal omnibus spending bill, [H.R. 244](#), that includes a \$25 million increase for 21st CCLC was passed on May 5th.
- The President's FY18 full budget proposal proposes the elimination of 21st CCLC. To call on Congress to protect funding for afterschool and summer learning programs in FY18, click [here](#).

- ISBE is documenting how proposed cuts in federal funding for FY18 will affect Illinois schools and communities. Current 21st CCLC grantees are encouraged to share their programs' impact stories, data, and talking points for letters of support with their district superintendents.

Illinois Budget Update

- The Illinois General Assembly adjourned its regular legislative session on May 31st without approving a state budget for the third consecutive year. The current fiscal year, FY17, ends on June 30th. The General Assembly will now require a three-fifths majority vote, which will require bipartisan support, in order to pass a budget.
- On April 6th the Illinois House passed [HB109, HAM1](#), which amends/repeals appropriations to the stopgap budget covering the first six months of FY17. The total appropriated for After School Youth Support Programs for the second half of FY17 is \$17,917,400. It is unclear at this time if the Senate will be moving forward with this bill.
- The Illinois Senate's \$36.5 billion FY17 supplemental spending plan and FY18 budget, [SB6](#), passed on May 17th. The bill makes appropriations to agencies for costs incurred prior to July 1, 2017 and includes roughly \$13.5 million in funding for Teen REACH. To read more about the Senate's legislation, click [here](#).
- The Governor's FY18 budget proposal does not include funding for the Teen REACH afterschool program. To take action and tell the General Assembly to fund Teen REACH, click [here](#). Additional advocacy opportunities/options, including using social and print media, can be found in our [Teen REACH Advocacy Toolkit](#). To access the Teen REACH fact sheet, click [here](#).

Social Services Contract Notice

The Social Services Contract Notice Act, [HB3110](#), passed in both chambers on May 25th. 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. To share your opinion on HB3110 with the Governor, click [here](#) or call him in his Chicago (312-814-2121) or Springfield (217-782-0244) office. To access the HB3110 fact sheet, click [here](#).

Prompt Payment Equity Act

The Prompt Payment Equity Act, [HB3143](#), passed in both Houses on May 25th. The bill amends the State Prompt Payment Act to include state vendors providing prevention, intervention, or treatment services and supports for youth on behalf of the state. To share your opinion on HB3143 with the Governor, click [here](#) or call him in his Chicago (312-814-2121) or Springfield (217-782-0244) office.

Thriving Youth Fund

The Thriving Youth Fund bill, [SB2046](#), passed in both Houses on May 31st. It establishes the thriving youth income tax check box that allows taxpayers to fund non-Medicaid eligible community-based youth programs. To share your opinion on SB2046 with the Governor, click [here](#) or call him in his Chicago (312-814-2121) or Springfield (217-782-0244) office. To access the SB2046 fact sheet, click [here](#).

Child Protection Improvements Act

The federal Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017, [H.R.695](#), which would provide no/low cost national background checks for youth serving organizations passed out of the U.S. House of Representatives on May 22nd.

Juvenile Justice Reform Act

The federal Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2017, [H.R.1809](#), that provides funding for delinquency prevention programming passed out of the U.S. House of Representatives on May 23rd.

Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, [H.R.2353](#), updates the Perkins career and technical education (CTE) legislation. The bill recognizes and supports the work afterschool and summer providers are doing to help students enter the workforce prepared and ready for well-paid, in-demand careers.

Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act

The federal Trauma-Informed Care for Children and Families Act of 2017, [S.774/H.R.1757](#), addresses the impact of toxic stress and trauma on childhood development. The legislation would equip adults serving youth with resources to provide evidence-based treatments and interventions. To access the section-by-section overview, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Fighting Back FY18 Budget Tele-Town Hall

The Afterschool Alliance, American Federation of Teachers, and the Coalition for Community Schools will be hosting a special event looking at the implications of the budget on education and health on **Monday, June 12, 2017** at 6:00 p.m. To register for the tele-town hall, click [here](#).

National Summer Learning Day

Afterschool programs, educators, policymakers, businesses, schools, and families can all make this summer a season of learning by being a part of Summer Learning Day on **Thursday, July 13, 2017**. For more information and to access resources, click [here](#).

College Changes Everything Conference

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission's seventh annual College Changes Everything conference will take place on **Thursday, July 20, 2017**. The event will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, located at 18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park from 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Parent-Daughter Circuits and IoT Workshop

Black Girls CODE Chicago is hosting "We Create" on **Saturday, June 17, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The workshop is designed for girls age six to 13 and their parents/guardians. The event will be held at the Allstate Innovation Hub, located at 222 West Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 875 in Chicago. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Cream of the Crop Photo Contest

The Cream of the Crop Photo Contest, sponsored by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, invites youth ages eight through 18 to submit an innovative, scenic snapshot of agriculture in Illinois. All photographs must be the original work of the photographer and submitted in JPG format, 300 dpi, no larger than 5MB. The deadline to enter is **Tuesday, June 27, 2017**. Click [here](#) to view the contest rules or to submit your entry.

Anti-Defamation League Essay and Art Contest

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, in partnership with NIE Chicago Tribune and The Mash have announced the 2017 student essay and art contest on the First Amendment. Students in grades seven through 11 at the time of entry are invited to submit an essay or create a work of art that best addresses how one or more of the five freedoms in the First Amendment personally affects their daily life. First place winners in each grade category will receive \$3,500. All entries must be postmarked by **Friday, June 30, 2017**. The contest guidelines and entry form can be viewed [here](#).

Resource

Community Schools: An Evidenced-Based Strategy for School Improvement

The National Education Policy Center and the Learning Policy Institute's recently published

report demonstrates the efficacy of implementing the community schools model as an equitable school improvement strategy under the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA). To access the brief, click [here](#).

Afterschool for All Challenge Day of Action

On June 7th, more than 160 advocates from 46 states and DC participated in 200 meetings with members of Congress and/or their staff on Capitol Hill in support of federal afterschool funding. Outside of Washington, Congress received a total of 3,700 meetings, calls, and emails. Thanks to all the afterschool providers, students, educators, and parents in Illinois for your participation.



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.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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