

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 sign up for our webinar on October 26, 2016, click [here](#).
- To register for our Rockford training on October 27, 2016, click [here](#).

Policy Update

Teen REACH Update

Applications for Teen REACH funding were due to DHS on October 11, 2016. DHS anticipates that funding notices will go out prior to October 31, 2016. Despite the stopgap deadline of December 31, 2016, DHS has indicated that they will provide full payment to programs through June 30, 2017.

The FAQ for the Teen REACH Notice of Funding Opportunity states, “The stopgap funds eligible Teen [REACH] services through June 30, 2017. Therefore, Grantees should expect DHS to issue payment to cover reported expenditures (November 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017 and Pre-award costs may be authorized back to July 1, 2016 per the NOFO guidance).” Programs should expect advance payment for services, possibly receiving full payment in December for the grant period, with continued program monitoring from DHS. This more recent language in the FAQ updates is a departure from the previous language, which stated that funding was subject to appropriation. Click here for the full [FAQ](#).

ACT Now is incredibly excited that programs will receive eight months of funding and

thanks all the providers that participated in tireless advocacy on this subject. However, after June 30, 2017, Teen REACH may be in jeopardy once again if it is not included in the budget. It is important the programs continue to send messages to legislators and the administration about the importance of this program. If you have any questions, please contact ACT Now's Network Lead Susan Stanton at sstanton@voices4kids.org or 312-877-0725.

221st CCLC Payments

ISBE has recently released the continuing application for 21st Century programs, which will allow programs to obtain their continued funding. This funding will be back dated to July 1, 2016. Thank you to all of the programs that reached out to ISBE and their legislators. Your action helped to speed up the process in getting the application out to providers. 21st Century providers should note that they must submit the application by **Friday, October 21, 2016** in order for their funding to be back dated to July 1st. Submissions received on or after October 22nd will be assigned a start date on the day the initial application is received. If you have any questions, please contact ACT Now's Network Lead Susan Stanton at sstanton@voices4kids.org or 312-877-0725.

Child Care and Development Fund

The [Child Care and Development Fund](#) (CCDF) final rule was finalized on September 30th. The 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 includes provisions that establish a baseline for health, safety, and quality; ensures that parents have specific information on provider options and available services; lengthens eligibility periods for subsidies; and requires that states invest funds in improving the quality of its child care as well as its workforce. It also recognizes the importance of school-age afterschool programs, noting its impact on closing the achievement gap, improving children's behavior and school performance, and reducing absenteeism. For more information on the CCDF final rule, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Lights On Afterschool

Lights on Afterschool (LOA) is a national celebration of the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families. On **Thursday, October 20, 2016**, more than one million Americans will attend more than 8,000 Lights On Afterschool events in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. If you are considering hosting an activity, click [here](#) to visit the Afterschool Alliance LOA webpage. There you

will find tips for planning an event and engaging the community as well as marketing resources. For more advocacy and program planning resources, check out ACT Now's [Lights on Afterschool 2016: Elections and Civic Engagement Advocacy and Planning Toolkit](#).

Breakin' It Down Conference

Breakin' it Down is hosting its 12th fundraising and nonprofit management conference on **Friday October 21, 2016**. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Columbia College, located at 1104 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago. Through workshops and a panel discussion participants will learn how their nonprofit's diversity, or lack thereof, impacts funding decisions and what steps they can take to improve diversity for long term sustainability. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Bullying: How Schools Can Respond

Northern Illinois University (NIU) is hosting a conference on bullying behavior on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016**. This event will inform and educate administrators, teachers, counselors, and staff members about how they can respond to the issue of bullying in their schools. It will be held on the campuses of NIU and the University Center of Lake County. Click [here](#) for more details or to register.

Thrive Chicago Organizational Support Training

Thrive Chicago in conjunction with Youth Guidance will be hosting a free training entitled "Parent and Community Engagement" on **Friday, October 28, 2016**. The event will be held at the Chicago History Museum, located at 1601 North Clark St, Chicago, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

United Way of Metropolitan Chicago 2016 Education Summit

The United of Way of Metropolitan Chicago will convene a one-day education summit highlighting innovative efforts in K-12 education on **Thursday, November 3, 2016**. The event will be held at the UIC Forum, located at 725 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The keynote address will be delivered by former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

College Changes Everything . . . Continuing the Conversation

Inspired by the College Changes Everything Conference, the “College Changes Everything . . . Continuing the Conversation” event offers more in depth discussions around College and Career Readiness and Success topics. The first event will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. at ISAC’s Deerfield office, located at 1755 Lake Cook Rd. This free workshop will focus on the importance and impact of students’ attendance during their Pre-K-12 school years. To register, click [here](#).

NAA16 Virtual Convention

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) will be hosting its second virtual convention **November 6-20, 2016**. This online resource features the top-rated workshops from the annual convention in a convenient format that allows afterschool providers access to professional development opportunities on their own time. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

12th Annual Community Schools Forum

The Federation of Community Schools will convene its 12th Annual Community Schools Forum on **Thursday, November 10, 2016**. The event will be held at The Hilton Lisle/ Naperville, located at 3003 Corporate W Drive, in Lisle, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Webpage Workshop

Black Girls CODE Chicago is hosting a one day webmaking workshop on **Saturday, October 29, 2016**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This workshop uses fun games and activities to introduce girls age 7 to 17 to HTML, CSS, and basic web structure to build their own webpage. The event will be held at Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL, located at 300 East Randolph in Chicago. Space is limited. For additional details or to register, click [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

Developmentally Appropriate Practice & Successful Room Arrangement in Afterschool

IAN will be conducting a training on **Tuesday, October 25, 2016** that will assist afterschool teachers and support staff with scheduling/planning developmentally appropriate activities. The workshop will be held at Children's Home + Aid, located at 2133 Johnson Road, Granite City, IL, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. To register, call Kate at 1-800-467-9200 x116.

Quality Standards Webinar

ACT Now will be hosting a webinar on its Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The session will provide participants a broad overview of the Standards, an introduction into how to use the Standards resources, and an opportunity to ask questions about implementation and ACT Now's next steps. To sign up for the webinar, click [here](#).

ESSA's Non-Academic Measure

The American Institutes for Research is holding a webinar on **Tuesday, November 1, 2016** from 11:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. entitled "ESSA's Non-Academic Measure: What States Should Know About School Climate and SEL." In the session, a panel of state educators, researchers, and a journalist will offer suggestions for the non-academic indicator based on their research and field experience. AIR will also present findings from a new policy brief, "When Districts Adopt Social and Emotional Learning: Findings from an Ongoing Evaluation of Districtwide Implementation of Social and Emotional Learning." Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Engaging Youth in Civic Engagement & Service Learning

Join IAN on **Thursday, November 3, 2016** for a training entitled "Engaging Youth in Civic Engagement & Service Learning." In this session, afterschool teachers and

support staff will learn how to integrate character development throughout their curriculums. The workshop will be held at John A. Logan College, located at 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. To register, email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620.

Prioritizing Social Emotional Learning

The American Youth Policy Forum is holding a webinar on **Wednesday, November 30, 2016** from 2:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. entitled “Bringing Social and Emotional Learning to the Forefront: What Happens When Districts Prioritize SEL?” The session will feature a panel of researchers and practitioners who will share what coordinated and purposeful SEL looks like in practice. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Paper Tigers: Screening and Discussion on Trauma Informed Schools

Warren Township Youth Services is hosting a screening and panel discussion on the documentary “Paper Tigers.” The film follows an alternative high school’s journey to becoming trauma-informed utilizing the science and framework of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. The event will be held on **Thursday, December 1, 2016** from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 17801 West Washington Street, Gurnee, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Resources

Cultivating Creativity and Curiosity Through Questions

Intentional questioning can stretch a young person’s curiosity, reasoning ability, imagination, and independence. In the latest edition of Talk Tuesday, the National AfterSchool Association provides afterschool professionals tips on how they can use open ended questions to foster thinking that is inventive and critical. Suggestions for cultivating creativity and curiosity include, setting expectations that promote a safe space for the sharing of ideas, modeling effective listening, and probing for deeper understanding. For more tips, click [here](#).

ESSA Evidence Based Provisions

In the American Youth Policy Forum’s latest Forum for Thought, Policy Associate Carinne Deeds addresses the lack of clarity and cohesion around ESSA’s evidence-based provisions. While questions remain on whether there are enough high-quality educational program studies to reference or if proven interventions are replicable in

different contexts, Deeds provides insight on how moving from an evidence-based practice to an evidence-based system allows states and localities to use evidence and data to promote and support continuous improvement. To read more, click [here](#).

Talking with Schools and Families About Afterschool STEM

The National AfterSchool Association has developed a guide to assist afterschool educators in effectively communicating with families and schools about why the afterschool environment is a powerful space for STEM learning. The manual provides front line staff conversation starters, sample tweets and Facebook posts, and framing for a newsletter or blog entry. To access, click [here](#).

Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative Landscape Survey

The Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative is conducting a STEM out-of-school time (OST) landscape survey on programs offered in Chicago between January 1 and December 31, 2015. The findings will help the Cooperative understand how the Chicago STEM OST community is serving youth and families, identify gaps in service, and inform future work to better meet community needs. The survey must be completed by **Saturday, December 31, 2016**. Participants will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card as a thank you for filling out the survey. To take the Assessing Chicago OST STEM Opportunities 3.0 survey, click [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Afterschool Meals Grant

No Kid Hungry Illinois is offering mini-grants up to \$2,500 that can be used by schools, child care centers, and eligible non-profit or for-profit organizations to help maximize their ability to serve full supper meals through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk After-School Meals Program. Grants may be used toward staffing, equipment, outreach materials, transportation, and other program costs. To apply for funding you will need to first create an account using the access code: ILCACFP2017. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, November 18, 2016**. The grant portal can be accessed [here](#).

School Breakfast Grant

The No Kid Hungry Illinois Breakfast Grant provides schools with up to \$5,000 for the purchase of approved equipment, materials, and initiatives facilitating alternative

breakfast models such as Breakfast in the Classroom, Grab N Go or Second Chance Breakfast. To apply for funding you will need to first create an account using the access code: ILBREAKFAST2017. Applications must be submitted by **Friday, November 18, 2016**. The grant portal can be accessed [here](#).



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to SStanton@voices4kids.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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