

ACTNOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy

Prompt Payment Act Reform Bill

On November 8, 2017 the Illinois General Assembly voted to override Governor Rauner's August veto of the Prompt Payment Act, [HB3143](#). The legislation amends the State Prompt Payment Act to include vendors providing prevention, intervention, or treatment services and supports for youth on behalf of the state. The Prompt Payment Act requires the state to provide payment in a timely manner for services rendered or compensate the contractor for prolonged delays.

FY18 Appropriations

To prevent a temporary government shutdown in December 2017 Congress will have to either pass a FY18 budget or another continuing resolution, which may extend into February 2018. Due to the uncertainty around the appropriations process it is crucial that supporters of 21st Century Community Learning Centers take action. Organizations can let their members of Congress know just how vital directing federal funds to these programs are to their districts by signing on to the Afterschool Alliance's [letter to Congress](#). The deadline to sign the letter is **Friday, November 17, 2017**.

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

The Afterschool Alliance identifies several possible harmful impacts of the House Republicans Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on the afterschool field. They include:

- Cuts to a wide range of mandatory and discretionary spending including federal funding for afterschool programs
- Elimination of the state and local tax deduction (SALT-D), which may result in decreased revenue to fund K-12 and higher education, health care, and other services
- Increases to the child tax credit will not benefit low income, working families
- Elimination of the Dependent Care Assistance Plans and employer-provided child care tax credit

- Decreases in charitable giving deductions for many middle and upper middle class families, which could decrease donations to many non-profits

For more information on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, click [here](#).

ED Withdraws Outdated Subregulatory Guidance

As a result of the Regulatory Reform Task Force's findings, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced it will withdraw nearly 600 out-of-date pieces of subregulatory guidance on its books. ED intends that by removing these materials it will make it easier for schools, educators, parents, and the public to understand what guidance is still in effect. The Task Force's findings can be found [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

STEM Career Panel

Black Girls CODE Chicago will be hosting a panel to help young tech divas and their parents learn about careers in STEM. The event will held on **Thursday, December 7, 2017**, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Kenna Security, 800 West Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunity

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

The World of 7 Billion video contest challenges middle and high school students to illustrate the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: advancing women and girls, feeding 10 billion, or preventing pollution. Participating teachers can receive free curriculum resources and student winners will receive cash prizes up to \$1,000. All entries must be submitted by **Thursday, February 22, 2018** to be considered. Contest guidelines and resources can be accessed [here](#).

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

Webinar

SEL and Traditionally Underserved Populations

The American Youth Policy Forum will be hosting a webinar entitled “Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) for Traditionally Underserved Populations” on **Monday, December 4, 2017** at 2:00 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

Resources

Wrapping Up Lights On Afterschool 2017

This year Lights On Afterschool was celebrated by 8,000 programs nationwide and involved more than one million participants. Thanks to supporters an unprecedented 4,000 tweets used #LightsOnAfterschool and many across the country met the "My Light's On Afterschool" lightbulb challenge. To view highlights from Lights On Afterschool 2017, click [here](#).

Promoting SEC in the Middle and High School Years

Pennsylvania State University's recent issue brief provides an overview of frameworks that define social emotional competence (SEC), and reviews the current landscape of universal school-based programs designed to promote its growth in middle and high school students. It can be accessed [here](#).

The Value of OST Programs

A new study conducted by RAND examines the value and effectiveness of out-of-school-time (OST) programs. Researchers conclude that OST programs are generally effective at producing the primary outcomes, but those benefits are often understudied or underreported. To access the report, click [here](#).

Implementing High-Quality Arts Programs

The Wallace Foundation's recent commissioned report entitled “Raising the Barre & Stretching the Canvas: Implementing High-Quality Arts Programming in a National Youth Serving Organization” shows that with funding, time, and effort, existing multidisciplinary programs can successfully implement high-quality arts programming. The report can be accessed [here](#).

Making Summer Last

The RAND Corporation's report on integrating summer programming examines the efforts and impacts of summer leaders in promoting program sustainability in public school districts. The resulting strategies and key findings can be accessed [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Professional Learning Community

The One Sky Institute is a 14-month professional learning community that is looking for mid-career professionals from organizations that engage the public of all ages to explore new approaches to implementing and evaluating equitable STEM programming. Applications are due by **Sunday, December 10, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

TechGirls Grants

The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announces an open competition for the FY18 TechGirls program. Eligible organizations may submit proposals to conduct a three to four week exchange program in the United States in summer 2018 for approximately 28 high school girls from the Middle East and North Africa. The deadline to apply is **Wednesday, December 27, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation

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

American Honda Foundation Grants

The American Honda Foundation supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM, the environment, job training, and literacy. Non-profit charitable organizations, public school districts, and private/public elementary and secondary schools are eligible for grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$75,000. For more information, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, 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

Was this email forwarded to you? [Sign up for ACT Now Coalition updates!](#)

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.

To stop all emails from the ACT Now Coalition: [Click here to unsubscribe](#)