

ACTNOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Upcoming Events

Afterschool Development Work Group

The Afterschool Development Work Group is a self-organized group of afterschool, education, civic, and nonprofit leaders and practitioners working together to amplify the voice of afterschool as a vital resource to improve the lives of Chicago's youth. Their next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 24, 2017**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. For more information, click [here](#).

IAN Spring Conference

IAN's 32nd Annual Spring AfterSchool Conference will be held on **Saturday, April 7, 2018**, at the Bank of Springfield Center, located at 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Training

Hands-on Full STEAM in Action

IAN is offering a training that will assist afterschool providers with integrating Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) in their curriculum. The workshop will be held on **Tuesday, December 5, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at Chicago Youth Centers - Elliott Donnelley located at 3947 South Michigan in Chicago. To register, email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620.

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

Resources

Arts Integration Research Through the Lens of ESSA

The American Institutes for Research latest report examines programs that qualify for Every

Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) funding by integrating art into their curriculum. To read more on what arts integration efforts may be eligible, click [here](#).

Employer-Driven Innovations in CTE: Promise, Practice, & Opportunities for Policy

In a recent Capitol Hill Forum, the American Youth Policy Forum hosted a panel of thought leaders to discuss the leading research on career and technical education (CTE) pathways and the subsequent strategies for meeting future workforce needs. A summary of the meeting can be found [here](#).

Building Workforce Skills in Afterschool

The Afterschool Alliance's recent issue brief highlights the ladder of supports afterschool and summer learning programs provide to help students develop the skills and gain the experience that will benefit them in the workforce. To read more, click [here](#).

Bridging the Soft Skills Gap

"Bridging the Soft Skills Gap" makes the case for partnerships between the business and education sectors and outlines strategies already being used successfully across the country. The report can be accessed [here](#).

RPP: Five dimensions of Effectiveness

In "Assessing Research-Practice Partnerships (RPP): Five dimensions of Effectiveness" RPP members outline elements that are essential to their work. To read the report, click [here](#).

Joint Polar Satellite System

SciJinks is an educational website about weather, satellite meteorology, and Earth science geared toward middle and high school aged kids and their educators. Their recently launched Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) collects information on the weather and environment around the globe. The site can be accessed [here](#).

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

Opportunity for Afterschool Providers

2018 Youth Development Practitioner Award Nominations

The US Play Coalition in partnership with Clemson University's Youth Learning Institute is accepting nominations for the 2018 Youth Development Practitioner Award. The award recognizes outstanding performance in the creation and implementation of youth development programs or services. Nominations will be accepted through **Friday, December 15, 2017**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Policy

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

Funding Opportunities

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

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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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