INTRODUCTION: POLICY UPDATES

It wasn't just COVID-19 vaccines flowing freely this spring; federal relief funds continued to be doled out by Congress. In March, the American Recovery Plan passed, providing an additional $123 billion in education funding, this time with specific set-asides for afterschool and summer enrichment for states to utilize to support expanded programming through 2023. And at the end of May, President Biden released his FY22 budget proposal to Congress, calling for an increase of $52 million for 21st CCLC programs, a roughly $300 million increase to the NSF’s Education and Human Resources program, and numerous other investments in programs that support afterschool. This summer will be busy with infrastructure negotiations and budget appropriations in Congress, so keep a look out in the months ahead.

MATERIALS: NEW TOOLS AND RESOURCES
The Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Annual Conference is one of the premier annual events for science-engagement professionals across North America and around the world. Each year, this event brings together thousands of science and technology center and museum and other professionals working in science communication, STEM learning, informal science education, and the broader intersections between science, technology, and society.

ASTC invites all who are committed to public engagement with science to attend this year’s conference, which will be held virtually October 5–7, 2021.

You are also invited to submit a session proposal for consideration in this year’s program; proposals for Concurrent Sessions, Lightning Talks, Poster Sessions, and Preconference Intensive workshops are due June 18, 2021.

METHODS: UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

NASA Teams Engaging Affiliated Museums and Informal Institutions (TEAM II) is now accepting proposals for two opportunities, including the new Community Anchor Awards for TEAM II (CAAT) to support institutions in establishing themselves as a local NASA STEM informal education community resource. Eligible applicants include U.S. non-profit science museums, planetariums, youth-serving organizations, and libraries. Proposals are due June 17 and July 19, 2021.

RESULTS: IMPACTS OF CORRDINATED ADVOCACY
New report from the Afterschool Alliance’s America After 3PM survey: For many students, summer is a time for family vacations, new friendships, new adventures in camps and summer learning programs, or taking summer classes to catch up or get ahead in school. For families, affordable summer programs and camps can be a lifeline. Yet unmet demand for summer programs is high — for every child in a summer program, there’s another child waiting to get in.

Big takeaways from Time for a Game-Changing Summer, With Opportunity and Growth for All of America’s Youth:

1. Participation in summer experiences is higher than ever, with parents giving programs top marks.
2. Parents have a vision for summer learning.
3. Too many kids, in particular kids from families with low incomes, are missing out on summer programs.
4. Programs stand ready to help kids re-engage, re-charge, and rebound this summer, but face challenges.
5. Parents want summer learning programs funded.

In addition to national data, the Afterschool Alliance has state-specific data live at aa3pm.co/summer. Check out the data dashboards to find your state’s breakdowns of grade level participation, average cost of programs, and demand for summer enrichment opportunities for our kids!

FURTHER READING

Advanced manufacturing is an engine of America’s economic power and a pillar of its national security. Yet, there is a shortage of Americans with the STEM knowledge and technical skills required for advanced manufacturing jobs. Join the Department of Education on June 18th, 2021, 12-1:30pm ET, to learn what some agencies are doing to further develop advanced manufacturing workforce skills.
The call for 2021 Computer Science for All (CSforAll) commitments is now open. Commitments are new, specific, and measurable actions aimed at advancing computer science education for youth in a sustainable and systematic way. Making a CSforAll commitment gives organizations the opportunity to publicly announce their new computer science efforts on a national scale and find potential partners and stakeholders for their work. The early Bird Deadline for 2021 commitments is **July 30, 2021**. Make your commitment to computer science opportunities for all today.