



After School Announcements

Bringing together those who serve Maine youth

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Join Maine After School Network and the Afterschool Alliance in celebrating the 8th annual [Lights On Afterschool!](#)

[Lights On Afterschool](#), the nation's celebration of afterschool programs, attracts 1 million Americans to 7,500 events at afterschool programs across the country. With the possibility of afterschool funding increases this year, it's important to show off what afterschool programs can do. Whether you hold an open house or stage a county-wide celebration, your participation in [Lights On Afterschool](#) helps demonstrate the importance of your work, and of afterschool programs nationwide. Help call attention to the need for afterschool resources.

Deb

Quality

SCHIP Reauthorization Deadline Fast Approaching

With the September 30th deadline for reauthorizing the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) looming large, both the House and Senate have passed versions of SCHIP bills that would significantly expand access to the program for many millions of children. The House and Senate versions have a higher price tag than the funding increase proposed by President Bush, and these more costly proposals face a presidential veto.

To learn more about SCHIP policy and its implications, visit PPN's special feature page on SCHIP. This page includes links to evidence-based research information on SCHIP and online video of PPN's recent Policy Forum on Effective State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Policy. The Policy Forum brought together leading experts from around the nation to share lessons from SCHIP's first 10 years in the areas of research, policy, and implementation.

Learn more about SCHIP and view the video:

http://www.promisingpractices.net/events/0706_schip.asp

Advocacy

Boys & Girls Clubs 'Day for Kids' September 15 *By Jodi Legge*

The [Boys & Girls Clubs of America](#) recognizes that unlike other countries, the United States does not have an official day to celebrate its children.

The Boys & Girls Clubs, along with the support of many other youth-serving organizations, is working to change that by establishing the third Saturday of September as [Boys & Girls Clubs Day for Kids](#). This year the celebration will be on Sept. 15, 2007. The day is designed to foster relationships between adults and children and honor American children through the gift of meaningful time. Boys & Girls Club research has shown that when adults spend meaningful time with kids it helps them to develop a positive self-image and a sense of belonging, usefulness and purpose. The Boys & Girls Clubs Day for Kids provides an opportunity for adults to take time from their busy lives and spend some time with kids. For more information, including ways to get involved, visit the web site at <http://www.dayforkids.org>.

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Global Youth Service Day - Lead Agencies Needed

[Youth Service America](#) is looking for organizations to apply to be a lead agency for [Global Youth Service Day 2008](#). Lead agencies are organizations across the U.S., or the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Ontario or New Brunswick, that increase the scope, visibility and sustainability of Global Youth Services Day by leading city, regional or statewide service projects. Past lead agencies have been successful in garnering national media attention, developing new partnerships and engaging elected and public officials in their service and service-learning projects.

Lead agencies receive a \$2,000 planning grant from [State Farm Companies Foundation](#) as well as direct assistance from Youth Service America to ensure a successful Global Youth Service Day. For more information or to complete an application to become a lead agency, visit their [web site](#).

About Youth Service America

[Youth Service America](#) is a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, ages 5-25, to serve locally, nationally, and globally. Founded in 1986, YSA's mission is to expand the impact of the youth service movement with communities, schools, corporations, and governments.

Quick facts about back to school and after school programs: As summer fades into autumn and children return to school, it's important to remember the vital role that afterschool programs play in keeping our kids safe, inspiring them to learn, and helping working families.

For too many parents, the hours between the end of the school day and when they get home from work is a time of anxiety. Are my kids safe? Are they where they should be? Are they learning? Are they getting exercise? Parents of kids enrolled in an after school program can answer "yes" to all those questions.

But we're nowhere near being able to provide afterschool for every kid who needs a program. Part of the reason is that Congress and the President have yet to provide full funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative, the chief federal funding stream for afterschool. Congress is about to vote on the education funding for the coming year. Let's hope our elected representatives remember how important afterschool is to parents and kids!

Discount on School Supplies

The Afterschool Alliance partnership with Discount School Supply gives friends of afterschool a ten percent discount on all school supply orders. To receive the discount, put the code A4A (it stands for Afterschool 4 All) in the pink promotional box when ordering supplies at www.discountschoolsupply.com. Or mention it when you call 1-800-627-2829 to place an order.

Funding

YouthPower Grants support foster care youth (ages 5-18) and transitioning youth (ages 19-25) in conducting community service projects addressing: environment, disaster relief, public health and awareness, community education, hunger, literacy, or other community issues. Youth and Youth-serving organizations are eligible to apply for up to \$1000. Receipt deadline: October 1, 2007. For more information, email YouthPower@ysa.org or visit: www.YSA.org/awards.

Awards Support School and Youth Garden Programs

The Healthy Sprouts Awards recognizes outstanding youth programs that promote youth gardens and teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. Maximum Award: \$500 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply. **Deadline: October 15, 2007.** [Click here](#) for more information.

Department of Early Education and Care, Quality Improvement Grants

Description :EEC is pleased to announce that a new version of the "Quality Improvement Grants Request For Responses (RFR)," funded by revenue from the "Invest in Children" license plate is now posted. The purpose of the grants are to promote school readiness, school success, and positive outcomes for children by supporting and enhancing the quality of services being delivered to children in non-profit early education and out of school time settings across the Commonwealth. Other community-based organizations may also be eligible to apply. [Click here](#) for more information and to view the RFR.

Purpose:

To enable every child to have access to quality, inclusive, affordable after school programming that meets the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Vision:

Every school-age child in Maine will have access to quality; inclusive, affordable programs during out-of-school time that meet the needs of the child, the family and the community.

Network Goals:

- 1. Foster statewide, regional, and local partnerships through clear communication among policymakers and providers, in order to coordinate services across the state.*
- 2. Assist in securing resources needed to develop new after school programs and sustain existing programs.*
- 3. Assist with training, technical assistance and coordination to ensure that programs are inclusive, high quality, and meet the needs of children, families and communities.*