



Illinois
Collaboration
On Youth



Illinois Center for
Violence Prevention
Creating a safe environment
for every stage of life



ACT NOW
COALITION



PRESERVE TEEN REACH AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS ***Co-sponsor SR 88 & HR 162 calling for continued funding***

SR 88

(Hutchinson-J. Collins-Munoz-Maloney, Jacobs, Delgado, Millner, Noland, Frerichs, Link, Schoenberg, A. Collins)

HR 162

(Gordon-Verschoore-G. Harris-Howard-Chapa LaVia, Zalewski, Davis, Dunkin, Thapedi, Jones, Osterman, Mell, Acevedo, Hernandez, Eddy, Cunningham, Farnham, Soto, Mayfield, Turner, Pritchard, Golar, Yarbrough, Colvin, Lilly, Burns, Jefferson)

Proposed cuts would effectively eliminate Teen REACH in FY12. At-risk youth are in danger of immediately losing services that keep them from dropping out of school and engaging in risky behavior, including criminal activity.

Teen REACH serves over 20,000 youth in over 200 communities throughout the state, with an emphasis on at-risk youth. Teen REACH is a cost-effective, proven prevention program with a track record of providing youth, primarily those aged 11-17, with safe environments when they are out of school.

The program is unique in providing a comprehensive array of supports, including academic support, life-skills building, mentoring and job preparation to ensure youths' future success in school and on the job.

Teen REACH has been independently evaluated and the results chosen for inclusion in the Harvard Family Research Project After-school Evaluation Database. Teen REACH includes key program components recognized as being part of a quality after-school program. The program has a 12-year track record of success and a strong infrastructure. It is driven by performance measurements and includes detailed program standards, technical assistance and compliance monitoring of providers.

ELIMINATION OF TEEN REACH WOULD:

Immediately and drastically reduce quality after-school services throughout the state, leaving 20,000 youth without a safe place to go during out-of-school-time hours.

Reduce supports for at-risk youth. Teen REACH serves youth facing multiple barriers to success, including living in poverty, having been victims of violence, having family members involved in substance abuse, and living in single-parent households.

Hamper efforts to address crime and risky behavior. Youth are more likely to become victims of violent crime or use drugs between the hours of 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Research has shown that crime can decrease with the help of after-school programs, and indicates that students who spend time in extracurricular activities are less likely to use drugs or become teen parents.

Limit students' academic assistance. Youth engaged in quality after-school activities demonstrate improved academic success and workforce skills compared with youth who do not participate. Youth with high levels of participation in quality after-school programs show better achievement in math and reading and other subjects, and have lower drop-out rates and higher graduation rates.

Harm working families and negatively impact Illinois' workforce:

- Approximately 20,000 families will be forced to find affordable, high-quality, out-of-school alternatives. Statewide demand for services already far exceeds current supply, with shortfall estimates between 60 and 70 percent. About 70 percent of Teen REACH youth surveyed indicated that, without the program, they would not have after-school services.
- Low- and middle-income parents' job security may also be compromised, as parents may be forced to decide between keeping their-much needed jobs and staying home with their children to ensure they are safe.
- Studies demonstrate after-school programs are an important work support and are good for business: 54 percent of parents surveyed by the After-school Corporation said such programs allowed them to work more hours. Concerns for after-school care – which fuel decreased employee productivity and increased rates of absenteeism – cost businesses between \$496 and \$1,984 per employee per year, depending on the employee's salary.

For more information, contact Kelley Talbot at Voices for Illinois Children/ACT Now Coalition: 847.372.8582

4.14.11

Organizations Supporting the ACT Now Campaign

Advance Illinois
After School Matters
Alternative Schools Network
Alternatives, Inc.
America SCORES Chicago
Applied Scholastics International
Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center
Better Boys Foundation
Boys and Girls Club of Chicago
Brain Hurricane
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
BUILD
Building Better Youth through Sports (BBY Sports)
Casa Central
Centro Romero
Center of Halsted
Center for New Horizons
Charles Hayes Center
Chess Academy LLC
Chicago Area Project
Chicago Department of Family and Support Services
Chicago Housing Authority
Chicago Metropolis 2020
Chicago Out-of-School Time Project
Chicago Police Department
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago Urban League
Chicago Training Centers
Chicago Youth Centers
Chinese American Service League
Child Care Resource and Referral
Child Link
Children's Home and Aid
Community Assistance Programs
Comer Science and Education Fd.
Family Network - After School Activity Program
Decatur Area Education Coalition
Donors Forum
Elijah's House
Erie Neighborhood House and the Erie Elementary
Charter School
Farther Foundation
Federation for Community Schools
Fight Crime Invest in Kids Illinois
Fleetwood - Jourdan Community Center
Family Focus
FOUS Youth Development Services
Gary Comer Youth Center
Golden Apple Foundation
Hull House Association
Hyde Park Neighborhood Club
ICARE Ministries
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention
Illinois After-school Alliance
Illinois After-school Network
Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Illinois Association of Park Districts
Illinois Center for Violence Prevention
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs
Illinois Task Force on African American Males,
IDHS
Intonation Music Workshop
Latino Policy Forum
Lawyers Lend-A-Hand to Youth
Marillac Social Center
Marion Stamps Youth Center
Metropolitan Family Services
Mikva Challenge
Mujeres Latinas En Acción
Murphysboro Youth & Rec Center
MWAH! Performing Arts Troupe
No Idle Hands
Onward House
Paul Revere Elementary
Phalanx Family Services
RBC Community Service Center
Robert Emmet School
Sankofa Safe Child Initiative
SES OF ILLINOIS
St. Vincent de Paul Center
Sunlight African Community Center
UCAN
Union League Boys & Girls Club
Urban Initiatives
Voices for Illinois Children
West Town Academy
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Street Intervention
Program
Youth Guidance
Youth Organizations Umbrella (Y.O.U.)
Youth Outreach Services
Zam's Hope CRC