Before and afterschool programs in New York State are partnering with Playworks to bring safe, fun, healthy play to kids and group management strategies to the adults who work with them. Playworks is a national nonprofit that has been creating a movement for play for over 20 years. Through hands-on professional development workshops, collaborative consultation, and online learning, Playworks teaches staff at schools and youth serving organizations how to tap into the transformative power of play.

The Greater Rochester YMCA recently hosted a Playworks Pro training for 130 staff from 28 sites, impacting 1,447 youth in before and after school programs across the greater Rochester region. Staff of the Greater Rochester YMCA participated in two trainings: Power of Play and Game Facilitation.

“Playworks has changed my site and made the kids more excited and interactive towards new games and attention getters,” said Jensen Van Norstand, site coordinator at the YMCA of Greater Rochester. “The trainings were always exciting and Dan was always engaging us all night.” The trainings were complemented by Consultation Visits at selected sites for customized planning and support. All staff were invited to a follow up webinar to answer questions and help with implementation. As a result of the trainings, staff are better equipped to facilitate a range of age-appropriate games both indoors and outdoors and to infuse play into every aspect of their program from transitions to conflict resolution.

Playworks is currently booking Playworks Pro trainings for 2020. Are you Interested in bringing a Playworks training to your organization? Get in touch by submitting your information on the Playworks website or reach out to Jessica Schaeffer, Regional Partnership Director at Playworks NY/NJ by phone (609) 851-6233 or email jessica.schaeffer@playworks.org.
2 Days Left to Sign up for Advocacy Day!

Join students, parents, program providers, and supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs like yourself to advocate for New York's children and families. Come meet with your state representatives and share with them why afterschool programs are important to you! Click here to register.

Federal Afterschool Funding Increases!

The U.S. House and Senate passed two spending bills to fund the government and prevent a government shutdown past the December 20 deadline. The final bi-partisan bill provides $1.25 billion (an increase of $28 million) for local afterschool and summer learning programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Center programs (21st CCLC), which will provide quality programming for an additional 28,000 students. It is expected that the President will sign the final spending bills.

The final funding bill rejects the Trump administration’s FY2020 budget proposal that would have eliminated all federal support for 21st CCLC. The bill also honors Congresswoman Nita Lowey (D-NY)—longtime and ardent champion of afterschool programs, who is also the current chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee and Co-Chair of the bipartisan House Afterschool Caucus—by adding her name to the 21st Community Learning Center Program. The Congresswoman announced her retirement from Congress earlier this year. The bill also funds the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) at $5.826 billion, an increase of $550 million. In addition to supporting child care for children ages birth through five, the CCDBG funds afterschool programs for just under one million school-age children.

New Study Finds Afterschool Reduces Juvenile Delinquency

"A new study from law enforcement officers shows that afterschool programs have contributed to a national reduction in juvenile crime. From Risk to Opportunity: Afterschool Programs Keep Kids Safe When Juvenile Crime Peaks' highlights the impact that afterschool programs have in improving public safety and saving taxpayer dollars. The national findings are reflected in New York, where counties are experiencing a significant reduction in youth arrests since 2014..."

Published in 2018, this study done by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids in conjunction with the Council for a Strong America, is an excellent resource when advocating for afterschool. Check out the report itself here. Attached you can find a press release we created using language from the report alongside the Networks goals and mission. You can find that by clicking here.

OCFS Regulations Resources

For OCFS resources in the new background checks, check out the links below:
Network for Youth Success Events

1/8/19 - 5/7/20: CRELO Trainings, Across the Capital Region
The Network for Youth Success will be providing various Front Line and Director Trainings across the Capital Region at no cost. For more information click here.

1/21/20 - 4/21/20: Distance Learning
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Spring 2020.

1/22: Afterschool Advocacy Day, Albany, NY
Join us for our annual Afterschool Advocacy Day in Albany on January 22, 2020 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. Come meet with your state representatives and share with them why afterschool programs are important to you! Let us elevate afterschool and not make it an afterthought! Click here to RSVP.

3/6: Legislative Breakfast, Greenbush, NY
The Network plans to host its annual Legislative Breakfast on March 6, 2020, at the Greenbush YMCA. Stay tuned for more information.

Our Annual Conference will be in Troy for 2020 and registration is now open! In addition to two full days of trainings, and vendors, we are now also accepting award nominations. For the second year in a row we will be giving out awards based to those who represent and illustrate the following at high levels: quality leadership, exemplary professionalism, program excellence & innovation, champion of the field, and Regional Network Leader. For more information on nominations or to register, visit our website here. To become a vendor, click here.

8/20 & 8/24/2020: Health and Safety Training for Directors, Troy, NY
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. This course will help directors look at policies and procedures that reinforce high-quality health and safety practices. Directors will get the most out of this training if they bring a copy of the policies and procedures from their program. Registration is limited to 12, so don't wait to register! click here.

Other Events

1/9: Expanding Access in Rural Communities, Webinar
The summer nutrition programs play an incredibly important role in closing a hunger gap that exists for low-income children in rural communities every summer. Join this 30-minute deep-dive webinar to learn about creative partnerships and opportunities to overcome transportation barriers in rural communities. Click here to register.

1/15, 1/29, 2/6: 4-H Vet Science Club, Hudson, NY
Join the Vet Science Program! Vet Science will introduce youth to the importance of animal health and wellness through a variety of species. Those involved will have the chance hear from experts in the field and engage and participate in hands-on learning activities. For more information click here, or contact Emily Warrington at ew387@cornell.edu.

1/23: Mentoring Boys and Young Men of Color, Buffalo, NY
This training session focuses on best practices surrounding a critical, strengths-based approach to mentoring and developing relationships with boys and young men of color. Data has shown that boys and young men of color face systemic disadvantages in this society, and this training strives to address how mentoring can work towards combating this. To register, click here.

1/30-31: Health and Safety Training, Syracuse, NY
Directors are responsible for hiring, training, and maintaining staff who provide a healthy and safe environment for children. For those interested, click here to register, or contact Dorthea@DEKSConsulting.com

2/20: Design & Manage a Quality Mentoring Program, Buffalo, NY
For professionals interested in developing a mentoring program, this comprehensive session will provide the necessary tools and information to launch and sustain an effective youth mentoring program. Covered in this training will be the industry’s nationally accepted best practice standards for the development of youth mentoring programs that have proven effective in a wide range of existing mentoring strategies. To register, click here.

Join over 2,000 members of our community at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center for four days of networking, learning, and inspiration. Special events, 200+ educational sessions, daily keynotes, and an interactive Learning Expo all designed to meet the needs of the developing professionals, and emerging current leaders of afterschool. Come to NAA Convention 2020, and leave saying, "I've found my people!" For more information, click here.

Common Ground is looking for volunteer mediators to serve in our community-based and Family Court Mediation programs. Common Ground is a non-profit mediation center, serving Greene & Columbia Counties, funded in part through a grant from the NYS Unified Court System. Resumes with letter of interest to: dwallant@commongroundinc.org or mail, Dawn Wallant, Executive Director, Common Ground Dispute Resolution Inc., 11 William St., Catskill NY 12414. For more information call 518-943-0523

This conference will take place in Rochester with actress and activist Ms. Abernathy, daughter of American Civil Rights Leader Ralph Abernathy. For more information or to register, click here.

4/28 - 5/1: 2020 BOOST Conference, Palm Springs, CA
The 2020 BOOST Conference will convene over 2,500 global educators April 28 - May 1 in sunny Palm Springs, CA. They are now in the Early-Bird registration phase with a rate of $465. Register your team today to celebrate the best of afterschool and expanded learning fields. Click here for more information and how to apply.

Enrollment for the 2020 National Bilingual Bee & Biliteracy Competition is now open! The competition is open to any bi-literate students fluent in English and one of the following languages: Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin Chinese, or Spanish. To enroll click here. If you have questions please contact mirta@smartcoos.com.

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❄️ Ways You Can Help the Network! ❄️

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