Program Spotlight - Union Settlement

During these difficult and uncertain times, there is amazing work happening in our field across the state. We will be highlighting what programs are doing to support youth, families, and communities and uplifting the promising practices that are getting results.

At Union Settlement, their Compass Elementary and SONYC Middle School program have been able to quickly transition into the remote work and activity process amid COVID-19. NYC Department of Youth and Community Development funded programs have been able to consistently engage and support their school's administration, from supporting with distribution of devices to assisting with ensuring each family has the technical skills to utilize the remote learning platforms across the various sites.

As an agency that has been a staple in the East Harlem Community for the past 125 years, their focus to drive their mission through action is equally important during these challenging time. They have been able to support families with individualized needs from meal assistance to collaboratively rediscovering innovative ways to relearn, reengage, and reinvigorate their children.

Their afterschool programs have streamlined tracking tools to capture parent and participant engagement, health & wellness checks participant attendance, and engage participants in activities such as: Arts and Culture, Virtual Field Trips, Musical Jeopardy, Virtual Uno, Homework Help and Tutoring, Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and fun family games all while using platforms such as Google Classroom, Google Meets, Class Dojo, Clever, Kahoot, YouTube content, and much more!

Each program's Onsite Program Directors, Preventative Counselors/Site Supervisors, Group Leaders, Activity Specialist, Tutors, Education Specialist, Classroom Aides and Supervisors remain active in expanding their professional tool box. Participating in trainings to promote program quality,
and using talents to discover meaningful resources for families have revved up and continue to grow daily.

If you would like to share how your program has been able to stay in contact with your community, feel free so fill out our questionnaire.

**Guidance Issued for Advantage After School Program Providers During COVID-19**

The Office of Children and Family Services has issued guidance to Advantage After School Programs allowing program modifications during COVID-19. The Network is grateful for the field's partnership in advocating for this guidance, and the Network will continue to advocate for the release of guidance to Empire State After-School Program grantees. A summary of allowable and unallowable activities for Advantage grantees is included below. Direct guidance was sent to each program individually, including instructions for grantees with unexecuted contracts and required forms for modifications. All questions should be addressed to Andrew O'Toole including organization name and contract number in the subject line.

Examples of allowable temporary modifications to work includes, but is not limited to:

- One-on-One Tutoring using remote learning
- Arts activities while practicing acceptable social distancing
- Reading Aloud and Storytelling
- Virtual Parenting Groups
- Youth activity groups using remote learning
- Discussing and planning community service activities that can be done remotely
- Outreach to students about social-emotional needs. Conduct virtual individual and group counseling sessions as needed
- Outreach to students and parents to assess challenges with remote learning
- Use lesson plans to create weekly content for remote learning activities to post on a remote learning website where students will be able to engage in a variety of regular workplan activities using videos or group activities
- Provide small group tutoring via Zoom for families who provide consent
- Live lessons posted on various online platforms in activities such as cooking, dance, music, art and sports
- “Wellness checks” with program participants remotely to address academic, food, social and emotional needs of students and families

Work that is unallowable under the current workplan includes, but is not limited to:

- Child Care for essential workers
- Staff Packing Lunches or working in a Food Pantry
- Work that is purely administrative

As champions for children, you’re doing everything you can during this time to keep youth safe and continue to serve them. We also know you’re doing all you can to support
your staff. You have risen to the challenge in every way. In support of your efforts, we have a new resource to share with you.

Mizzen by Mott is a new app built with and for afterschool professionals to provide high-quality, engaging learning content to the afterschool field.

To meet the needs of this moment, the Mizzen team has added new activity playlists and multi-week modules that can be done at home or in small-group settings. The app’s content focuses on youth learning and well-being and is provided by organizations like Jazz at Lincoln Center, the California Academy of Sciences, After-School All-Stars, OregonAsk and VentureLab. Through support from the Mott Foundation, the app and all of its content are available for free to afterschool providers. Click here to learn more about Mizzen and how to download and share the app.

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**COVID-19 Resources**

Please see the attached documents released in response to the growing concern around COVID-19. Take a moment to read this information and familiarize yourself with the content. We will be updating this section of the newsletter every week with new materials.

- (5/05) Dear Child Care Provider Letter
- (5/01) DOH COVID-19 Testing Information
- (4/26) DOH Updated Guidance for COVID-19
- (4/26) Clarification of the Terms Serious Incident, Serious Injury, Serious Condition, Communicable Disease and When to Obtain Emergency Medical Care
- (4/17) Interim Guidance on Executive Orders 202.17 and 202.18 Requiring Face Coverings in Public During the COVID-19 Outbreak
- (4/14) Interim Guidance on Required Face Coverings

For more resources, at home activities, self care tips, and other updates check out our [COVID-19 resource page](#).

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**Food Programs - SFSP Sponsor Application Extended to June 15, 2020**

USDA and NYS Education Department (NYSED) have extended 2020 application deadlines for Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) sponsors. In New York, all SFSP sponsor applications are now due June 15, 2020, including new sponsor applications and annual renewals for returning sponsors. The previous deadlines were May 1st for new sponsors, and June 1st for returning sponsors. Read the [USDA memo](#) and visit [NYSED’s SFSP webpage](#) for more information.

In addition, the Child and Adult Care Food Program is still offering its services. Rates are $3.41/meal and $0.94/snack. Keep it on your radar for when programs reopen and see if your program is eligible to start getting reimbursement funding! Check out our [webpage](#) for more information.

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**Network for Youth Success Events**
5/14 - 6/4: Trauma-Informed Practice in Afterschool, Virtual Training
Discover the role that afterschool programs play in helping children survive and thrive after traumatic experiences. Using trauma-informed care research, this workshop will explore how afterschool programs can be safe places for all children. Emphasis will be on practices in afterschool, including interactions with children and program development. This workshop is for all afterschool, summer, and expanded learning time staff who want to integrate trauma-informed practices into their programs.

Note: When registering please try to sign up for the training dedicated to your region. If you are unable to attend that training, you may sign up for another. Each training is limited to limit 60 participants. To register, click here.

8/20 & 8/25: 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.

9/23: Fall SAC Credential Course, Capital District
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers the New York State School Age Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. For those interested, click here.

9/2020 - 12/2020: 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 Fall 2020.

10/3: Regional Rochester Training Institute, Fairport, NY
Save the date! Join the Network for Youth Success for a day of high-quality professional development that includes six OCFS training hours on a variety of topics that is appropriate for supervisors, teachers, and front line staff working with school-age children. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to develop your career and network with other like minded individuals! Stay tuned for more information.

Other Events
5/20: Listening to Young Adult Parents: The Multigenerational Making of Mental Health, Webinar
The impact of parental mental health on children's development and outcomes is well-documented, but these impacts are rarely considered while centering young parents’ experiences. We have also rarely considered the unique experiences of young parents of color, and the role of inter-generational trauma in shaping families' relationship to mental health. "Listening to Young Parents: The Multi-generational Making of Mental Health" brings together two presentations that draw on qualitative reports from young parents to offer practice, program, and policy solutions to addressing their mental health needs. This webinar will focus on listening to and learning from the lived experience of young parents. For more information or to register, click here.

5/21: Calling for Virtual Teaching Artists, Application
Getting creative from home is more important now than ever before. Do you have a skill you would like to teach others? Are you able to do it virtually? Arts Mid-Hudson is looking for you! Those interested, click here to apply.
CUNY School of Professional Studies is Offering New Hybrid and Online Courses Fall 2020

Regular Deadline: May 18, 2020

The Youth Studies program at the CUNY School of Professional Studies is happy to announce the addition of hybrid and fully online classes to their master's degree and advanced certificate this Fall 2020 semester. This addition to their on campus learning format ensures that youth workers in and outside the NYC metro area have access to their program. For more information, click here.

5/21: Operating Remotely During COVID-19, Webinar
What does the switch to working remotely mean for your nonprofit? How can your organization continue to work and fulfill its mission in this new virtual environment? Hear about best practices and organizational resilience from leaders in the NY nonprofit space, and participate in the live Q&A in this upcoming webinar. To register, click here.

5/27: How the History of Racism is Negatively Affecting our Response to the Opioid Epidemic in All Communities, Webinar
The resounding narrative suggests that the impact of the opioid overdose epidemic has primarily occurred in predominantly white, rural communities. However, death rates have also risen for many communities of color. Understanding the current response to the opioid epidemic, and how to remedy it, involves a closer look at what barriers have existed for communities of color, which often lie beyond the realm of behavioral health. This discussion will frame those historical and legislative constraints, and explore how we can adapt the current response. For more information or to register, click here.

6/1 -6/26: Rise Up for Equity: Virtual Summit on Community Schools and Family Engagement!
Starting on June 1st, there will be 20 days of plenary, workshop, and deep-dive sessions! The virtual summit offers the best of both worlds, combining the content, networks and expertise from IEL's flagship events, the Community Schools National Forum and the National Family and Community Engagement Conference. Become immersed in multiple events, learn more about innovative and proven practices, approaches and research from grassroots to systems efforts to co-create equitable communities. You no longer need to choose between experiences - participate as your schedule permits and/or watch a recording at your own convenience. To register, click here.

10/15: WGiOS Celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness, Scotia, NY
SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, October 15, 2020. What's Great in Our State has rescheduled their Day of celebration for children's mental health. The day will include workshops and an honorary luncheon celebrating their honorees. Save the date and stay tuned for registration.

Ways You Can Help the Network!

Choose us as your non-profit through Amazon Smile, donate, become a member, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or check out our website!

School's Out, Make it Count! Partners

Please take a moment to view some of our partners for the School's Out, Make it Count! 2020 Annual Conference. Each one offers a variety of resources to the field. Check out their websites for more information by clicking on their name:

Snapology
Capital District YMCA
Remove my name from all future mass email communications:

Address postal inquiries to:
New York State Network for Youth Success, Inc.
415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180