



## Arizona Center for **Afterschool** Excellence

*"School's Out, Make it Count!"*

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Pictures from the 2014  
Out-of-School Tim  
Excellence Awards of  
Excellence Luncheon  
have been posted on [our  
facebook](#).

## The @fterschool advisor

December 2, 2014

### President Signed CCDBG into Law

On November 19, 2014, **President Obama signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law**. The bill was passed by Congress on November 17th with strong bipartisan support and reauthorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996.

The bipartisan, bicameral bill represents a compromise of the legislation that passed the Senate in March by a vote of 96-2. Due to the changes in the House version, the Senate had to pass the bill again before sending it to the president's desk to be signed into law. **This marks the first time in 18 years that comprehensive Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) reauthorization legislation passed both the House and Senate and made it to the President's desk.**

According to a recent [fact sheet](#) released by the Center for Law and Social Policy, one-third of children served in CCDBG are between ages 6 and 13-more than 497,000 per month-and are primarily provided with care after school. For school-age CCDBG providers, the key changes included in the House bill include: provisions to keep children healthy and safe, prioritization of lower-income families and at-risk youth, improvement of program quality, and more.



### ICAN and Partners Working With Homeless to Earn Diplomas

Over one million students in the US were homeless--a majority of which were completely on their own--in the last school year.

In Arizona, 22 percent of our ninth-graders will not finish high school. Some students face both situations and deal with the intersection of such problems in their lives.

Many of these youth "couch surf" between homes and find it very difficult to commit to a full-time, traditional high school and graduate via the typical route.

ICAN and the Chandler Unified School District, along with other community partners, are now working with this group of homeless teens to help them succeed and earn a high school diploma.

Learn more in the

For a full summary of the bill, check out the [official bill summary](#). Visit the [CCDF Reauthorization Page](#) for more information and guidance about the reauthorization and implementation.

## Engineering is Elementary-- Afterschool Curriculum



Out-of-school (OST) time providers can easily facilitate a STEM OST program with free **Engineering Everywhere** Curriculum! With this **free STEM curriculum**, youth in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (or ages 11-14 years old) will be empowered to tackle real-world engineering problems! They will hone skills such as creativity, collaboration, and the engineering design process--valuable 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills!

OST staff are able to download **FREE** training guides from the Engineering is Elementary (EiE) website. Kits are also available for purchase at the EiE store and include everything youth need to participate in activities. With detailed step-by-step instructions, program providers don't need any prior knowledge of science or engineering to use the curriculum!

AzCASE recommends adding Engineering Everywhere curriculum to your STEM programming. The kids will love it. Visit [www.eie.org/engineering-everywhere](http://www.eie.org/engineering-everywhere) to download free curriculum today!

## Smart Snacks in Schools Update and Smarter Lunchrooms Movement

It is important to have a healthy and inviting area for students and staff to eat healthy and make more nutritious meal choices, but you don't necessarily have to change what you offer or be draconian in how you enforce healthy eating or the new Smart Snacks in Schools update. While encouraging youth to bring healthy snacks and change their diet around

[azcentral article.](#)

### **First Lady Honors Arts & Humanities OST Programs**

Each year, the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, honors premier programs with the [National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award](#). Each honor comes with a \$10,000 award, presented during a ceremony at the White House led by First Lady Michelle Obama.

We are thrilled to see high-quality afterschool programs around the country honored this way for the work they are doing. Please join us in congratulating the 2014 winners, listed [here](#).

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the clock, not just in school and OST programs, we can also easily change how they view the healthy choices we do provide. A simple step to better meals for youth is to change how you offer them the food!

Sometimes a simple change in the food set-up helps students choose healthier foods that we were ignoring before. Moving healthier foods to a visible, prime location is just one strategy to help youth eat healthier and choose better food themselves. **The Smarter Lunchrooms Team** aims to address specific challenges that schools and programs may face while also taking a comprehensive and holistic approach to encouraging healthier eating in school lunchrooms and they provide **free resources** and access to research to help you **help youth eat better**. Check out their site for more information: <http://smarterlunchrooms.org>

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### **2015 CAA Leadership Academy Applications**

The Children's Action Alliance hosts a completely **free, nine-session leadership program** in February and March that is available to fifteen applicants who are passionate about making a difference in youth's lives. Participants build their **leadership, advocacy and communication skills** and learn how to bring children and their families to the forefront of policy in order to create change.

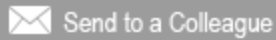
The application is due December 19, 2015. Contact Amy Kobeta at (602) 266-0707 x 202 or [LA@azchildren.org](mailto:LA@azchildren.org) for the application and to learn more about the program.

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Thank you for your support of AzCASE happenings and all you do for Arizona's youth!

Sincerely,

**Melanie, Franny, Genevieve, Caitlin & Tyandrah**  
The AzCASE Team

 Send to a Colleague

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