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| spacer | This edition of our e-blast will share some exciting opportunities to grow and develop your system-building work.Events and News of Interest**NEED HELP DESCRIBING YOUR SYSTEM?**The American Youth Policy Forum will be holding a “Case Clinic” for all “Better Together” Cities. Our first clinic on messaging and branding, titled, “Do-It-Yourself Messaging and Branding,” will be held on Tuesday, December 17th at 3:30-4:30pm EST.Register at [https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/437640264](https://www.z2systems.com/nps/servlet/DisplayLink?orgId=aypf&emailId=d6df274ff9248095655938b4c043b311dm201074d6d&linkId=12392&targetUrl=https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/437640264).***This webinar will allow us collectively to address a limited number of real-world questions, challenges, and opportunities. If you would like us to consider messaging/branding questions of current interest to your city, please submit them BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 to ensure the dialogue focuses on YOUR NEEDS.*** *Advance question should be submitted to Jennifer Brown Lerner at* *jlerner@aypf.org* *or 202-775-9731 and will be asked anonymously, if requested.*Our Available Experts Include:* Nina Sonenberg, Communications Officer, The Wallace Foundation
* Jessica Donner, Director, Every Hour Counts
* Susan Brenna, Chief Communications Officer, TASC
* *Additional experts to be announced*

*Case clinic webinars are opportunities for “Better Together” cities to interact with national experts and local communities that have engaged in this work on critical elements of building afterschool systems. Case clinics are designed to address YOUR questions, concerns, and challenges in your efforts .*In addition to your city systems-builders, we encourage you to pass this invitation along to your communications teams. **[Coalition for Community Schools Webinar](http://www.communityschools.org/multimedia/webinars.aspx)**TOMORROW! December 3rd, 3:00 – 4:00 pm EST. This webinar will highlight the Coalition for Community School's upcoming report, The Convergence of Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunities. The report captures the scope, nature and best practices of community schools implementing various expanded learning opportunity strategies. Speakers include: [Reuben Jacobson](http://www.communityschools.org/about/overview.aspx#reuben), Senior Associate for Research & Strategy, Coalition for Community Schools; [Julia Baez](http://www.flbcinc.org/about/staff/), Senior Director of Education Initiatives, Family League of Baltimore (Baltimore, MD); and [Laoise King](http://www.uwgnh.org/users/laoise-king), Vice President of Education Initiatives, United Way of Greater New Haven (New Haven, CT)[**Every Hour Counts Messaging Resources**](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/3975/)Have you ever sat down with your schools superintendent or mayor and struggled to describe exactly what an “after-school system” is? Or “intermediary?” Every Hour Counts, formerly the Collaborative for Building After School Systems, has produced a series of [new messaging tools](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/3975/) to communicate the value of expanded learning systems and intermediaries in clear and compelling language. Every Hour Counts hopes that you will find these messages useful, and invites you to adopt the language to more effectively make the case to your diverse stakeholders. To learn more, join us for the case clinic on December 17th. **Every Hour Counts Webinar Series**Every Hour Counts recently held webinars on explaining the value of systems and intermediaries and implementing effective strategies for coordinating after school. Access the webinar recordings and slide presentations on the [Every Hour Counts website](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/), and stay tuned on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/everyhrcounts) and [Twitter](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjdonner%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CV4C0HMNO%5Ctwitter.com%5Ceveryhrcounts) for upcoming events. Stay up to date on the latest in system-building by subscribing to our blog, [Expanded Learning Perspectives.](http://everyhrcounts.wordpress.com/) **National Institute on Out-of-School Time Publication**NIOST has released the fall 2013 publication of [Afterschool Matters](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013QY9zyWdk_jFyfmBPPXaR4w6KCSkl4va5MkTanPGmsYdwHLt4gQLUpH65wokSRZuabGk_B-YXNOEs84oVTXaLdzyrTDqC5EHMxi516XTEGykc5S2yU3el61ralcBPPwr57xH69BwC297EGoe6HYoaYWpopQRJCWWh1sGEJ2g3sJV6R8Pa-nItAiLxr9xjbJZTcqIFGNORYVSmaaoE15XolS0ke4bRaaa9yVj1RulaXWYk3wXQan9YbSS-T7V_b6SqWZg4cNNzeAVMsyE1DJ0Rl9G3XvztoyPoHuHZzcmAzZXrg1vsERfAfYA3DB2wpSWdPet6Eh2GJcsnlkhmiyaSydaCm474HEXtINiI0KDNZF3rjnk5VIigYz0tHxHQyYMbjipk8XQ0aWmtEIyf5eEZA==&c=Axad7ZX_wKweMvOJTmSJ4F_sbydS8Guc60dE-5_8axpY_1IvObgg5Q==&ch=hGueS8sGySOium8XepBogdUSjUMx3wHpY0MnpM-YiwHDfMxTjQ08KQ==). This issue addresses topics such as the importance of content-specific out-of-school-time training for professionals, youth participation in social action and learning outcomes in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).**NLC Afterschool Network Offers Resources for Community Leaders**The National League of Cities’ [Afterschool Policy Advisors Network](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/citywide-afterschool-system-building) (APAN) has made several resources available to community leaders and afterschool practitioners working to promote high-quality afterschool opportunities for children and youth.  On the NLC website, you will find a “[Getting Started](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/getting-started-with-afterschool)” page that answers frequently asked questions about creating and expanding better afterschool opportunities; an [in-depth guide](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/citywide-afterschool-system-building) to better coordinating afterschool and summer learning programs across your city; and a [broad range](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/tools-and-resources/mis-calculator) of action kits, toolkits, strategy guides, webinar archives, and other resources, including a [cost calculator](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/tools-and-resources/mis-calculator) tool to help communities estimate the rough costs of coordinating afterschool data.  To stay up to date on the latest afterschool resources and promising city efforts to improve afterschool opportunities, stay connected with APAN on [LinkedIn](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=5181058&mostPopular=&trk=tyah&trkInfo=tas%3Aafterschool%20policy%20ad%2Cidx%3A1-1-1). You can also sign up for a monthly newsletter by contacting Kim Eisenreich at Eisenreich@nlc.org.**NLC On-line Coast Calculator for Afterschool Management Information Systems**The National League of Cities, through its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families, has produced a number of resources to help city leaders, senior municipal staff and their local partners work to strengthen and coordinate services for building comprehensive afterschool systems. We can help you learn about the importance of afterschool management information systems, and help you start the process of collecting and utilizing the data to strengthen your afterschool efforts.[“Building Management Information Systems to Coordinate Citywide Afterschool Programs: A Toolkit for Cities”](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/afterschool-archives/building-management-information-systems-to-coordinate-citywide-afterschool-programs-a-toolkit-for-cities) is a resource that will give you the background needed to start your data collection efforts. Find the information needed to make the most of your data, including a Readiness Checklist to determine the steps needed to implement a management information system. Part of this toolkit includes a newly developed [online cost calculator](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool/tools-and-resources/mis-calculator) to give cities a non-binding estimate of what commitment may be necessary to implement an management information system.**NLC releases national video on afterschool raising the voices of mayors**We are excited to announce the release of our [national video on afterschool the raises the voices of mayors](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool). Nearly a dozen mayors speak out about the importance of afterschool programming in their community and how afterschool can be a solution for many challenges cities face. For many mayors across the country afterschool and summer programming are ways to promote workforce development, curb juvenile crime and increase economic opportunities across the city. We encourage you to check-out the video and utilize it to make the case for increased city leadership on afterschool in your community.[**NSLA Summer Starts in September:  A Comprehensive Planning Guide for Summer Learning Programs**](https://summerlearning.site-ym.com/store/view_product.asp?id=1972728)A 200-page guide full of research-based strategies, program examples and tools that summer program leaders, staff and trainers can use to develop an intentional, high-impact program. The guide is brought to life by 80 summer learning quality indicators, developed and tested through years of partnership with summer learning programs, researchers and trainers. Together, these indicators make up the Comprehensive Assessment of Summer Programs (CASP). **Ready by 21 National Meeting**Registration is now open for the Ready by 21 National Meeting, which will be held April 22-24, 2014 in Northern Kentucky. Join hundreds of leaders from around the country who are working toward the same goal: Getting all young people ready by 21 for college, work and life. [Find out more](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013QY9zyWdk_jFyfmBPPXaR4w6KCSkl4va5MkTanPGmsYdwHLt4gQLUpH65wokSRZuWlL0f7Os6UjOsd5WdikYXvLvELaY7Pz8aokeSmL-rvlSd3i2bOTQRQT3Gn_4Vj_OPbh9tDv461vqWEgsVCHAuDjQcrKhVSgz8HnZYlqe8l45AOZ4WLOWPHCl7FOUTVxE9Ehnww3oBrkgxS0ZG6iAeBboiIlT5B7j5d8vvkzAJHys8d54zVDboE86dZFhDQeo7yShztXQNB6nK1MMG35UsvHuwoJEBgczVoJViR21nNVar1h6nDeFiBmDVG8nWYRG&c=Axad7ZX_wKweMvOJTmSJ4F_sbydS8Guc60dE-5_8axpY_1IvObgg5Q==&ch=hGueS8sGySOium8XepBogdUSjUMx3wHpY0MnpM-YiwHDfMxTjQ08KQ==) about the meeting, and take advantage of Early Bird pricing by [registering today](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013QY9zyWdk_jFyfmBPPXaR4w6KCSkl4va5MkTanPGmsYdwHLt4gQLUpH65wokSRZu6MXBiDXOVauv2iRS30Se5meedL8r6EDTIQReELtFKIwb0Clrp4XComca-Np56-djOp017_1BC33UFw-KSxw_7aWm0wPA05t3NZdV4RzhF729KsSUotjLGMESZf2uu60DbjbvJJrx_y_hLsvKm0zfZGevH-UnNI4DFc1ssCd15LqMc7G_KKkKk7p09UaQ2fM4lizf2Ocy7FJRwd2GK-rvqql9r12H414cWkFs9hHgs-maKPGytn6b9xjT9Q2muYbXcKRUjWlKNB4=&c=Axad7ZX_wKweMvOJTmSJ4F_sbydS8Guc60dE-5_8axpY_1IvObgg5Q==&ch=hGueS8sGySOium8XepBogdUSjUMx3wHpY0MnpM-YiwHDfMxTjQ08KQ==). **Ready by 21 School/Community Collaborations will Expand Learning Opportunities**A new grant program will help schools in five regions explore ways to provide expanded learning opportunities for students - both in and out of school, and in partnership with community organizations. Under the Ready by 21 Expanded Learning Opportunities Challenge, announced this week by AASA, the School Superintendents Association, the districts will get $25,000 each to work with community-based organizations to expand out-of-school time offerings, share data, train staff and assess program quality. [This brief summary](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001xYRJmNJmGjPj3_ZOlaORdBUoyTHF4n8_vOsMDxAfE7Y69dlkEgtduH1-Psfu_PQkrB05EEk0eBJApyemv8-rgL5ocx_8ykEG5V6qUFMFbq5Hxen1J2OGUIikFt8Hz9n2IV-q-5Vq6Oc5ntW-h_RsFcS89vSkqkTGqshJxOgnc4b8VS4-NCjebMrOdVT8nOFfoQbYL4QOJa1eoiYMO-MKyWV6vzJRvkET43L3a6CdDEX7Hn4w2zpyvO3FF24X-_aEfkSNAz9sd1_-Tz0XXAU7ia3lK56BKDjwi4CrSzd3dFwYDQ0j2euA3xvoFJWtX0o1eyxZLYZM4DSU_lgXAxskh9ym94xMzQOlqmjzzOiJUH1J28v8a29V1gwn12d3orXYx9J-qYvjSeMyEXz4zDIaZ-7qZVh8vwQC0CUttKfTStU=&c=x9QV1au9kqIpdbfNMzC9JO314q88Mtx4AG-ObPXlz7QbqSBi0VwziA==&ch=cF522EvWKm62H6t8jb1DV17T966XiwkBHx067-1AFbkthDa13UF56Q==) explains what each winner will do to expand opportunities. Invite Others!Thanks to all of you once again for participating in the conference. We are excited to help facilitate your current work through regular communications and a series of events related to key conference themes. We also encourage you to share this e-blast with others in your community who can benefit from ongoing resources. Feel free to forward this email to others and invite them to sign up to participate. If you have been forwarded this email and would like to receive ongoing communications from AYPF, please email aypf@aypf.org with the subject line: Better Together.

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| image016.jpg@01CE9F39**The American Youth Policy Forum**, a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization based in Washington, DC, educates and informs policymakers, practitioners, and researchers working on education, workforce, and youth issues at the national, state, and local levels. AYPF has had a long history and involvement with afterschool issues and continues to work with national, state, and local policymakers and practitioners to continue to build and deepen knowledge, understanding, and support of expanded learning, afterschool, and summer programs for adolescent youth and of school-community partnerships. For more information on our work in afterschool and expanded learning, please visit:  <http://www.aypf.org/programareas/afterschoolexpanded-learning/> |
| **Every Hour Counts, formerly the Collaborative for Building After-School Systems, is a coalition of citywide organizations that increase access to quality learning opportunities, particularly for underserved students. The organization is a leading voice promoting expanded-learning systems, which provide learning and enrichment through after-school, summer, and other initiatives. Expanded-learning systems help students be more connected to school, build self-confidence, and connect with caring adults, so every student can thrive. Every Hour Counts is a source for news, resources, and best practices in after-school and systems-building. Stay connected to Every Hour Counts’ growing network of system-builders and upcoming events**  through [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/everyhrcounts), [Twitter](http://Twitter), our [blog](http://everyhrcounts.wordpress.com/) and [quarterly e-news](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/3986/)and at [www.afterschoolsystems.org](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org).  |
| image020.jpg@01CE9F39**The Forum for Youth Investmen**t is a nonprofit, nonpartisan "action tank" dedicated to helping communities and the nation make sure all young people are Ready by 21®: ready for college, work and life. Informed by rigorous research and practical experience, the Forum forges innovative ideas, strategies and partners to strengthen solutions for young people and those who care about them. For upcoming events and webinars, see <http://www.readyby21.org/events>. The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, a division of the Forum, empowers education and human service leaders to adapt, implement and scale research validated quality improvement systems to advance child and youth development. For upcoming events and webinars, see <http://www.cypq.org/projects/overview>.  |
| image021.jpg@01CE9F39**The National League of Cities (NLC)** is a national membership organization dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities. Working in partnership with 49 state municipal leagues, NLC serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 19,000 cities, villages and towns it represents.  To learn more, visit [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org)The Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute), a special entity within NLC, helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of the children, youth, and families in their communities. Within the afterschool program area, YEF has provided technical assistance to over 40 cities to help build their citywide afterschool systems and established the Afterschool Policy Advisors’ Network (APAN), a network of city leaders interested in learning and sharing best practices on afterschool efforts.  Over the past decade, YEF has documented lessons learned and created numerous strategy guides with useful city examples and profiles.  To learn more and to access these resources, please visit <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool>. |
| **image015.jpg@01CE9F39The Wallace Foundation** is a national philanthropy that seeks to improve education and enrichment for disadvantaged children. The foundation has an unusual approach: funding projects to test innovative ideas for solving important social problems, conducting research to find out what works and what doesn’t and to fill key knowledge gaps – and then communicating the results to help others. Visit the [Knowledge Center](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/Pages/default.aspx) to learn more about their strategies, tools, and grantees.  |

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