#### [cid:image015.jpg@01CE9F39.F545D5F0](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/Pages/default.aspx)[cid:image016.jpg@01CE9F39.F545D5F0](http://www.aypf.org/)

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#### This edition of our e-blast will share some exciting opportunities to grow and develop your system-building work including two upcoming webinars and new videos from The Wallace Foundation.

### E-Blast Contents

**Upcoming Events:**

* Better Together Case Clinic Webinar
* [CCS Webinar, The Promise of Universities in School Reform, January 31, 2014 – 3 – 4 pm EST](https://iel.ilinc.com/register/hyyktbf)
* [NLC Webinar on Making Summer Programs a Success in Your City, February 27, 2014 at 12:30pm ET](http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/education-and-training/event-calendar/making-summer-count-practices-for-success)
* [NAA Annual Convention, February 28-March 3](http://naaweb.org/convention)
* [IEL National Family Engagement Conference, April 8 – 9, 2014 – Cincinnati, OH](http://www.cvent.com/events/2014-coalition-for-community-schools-national-forum/custom-18-670d825cb9434edfa13c21bf8a07871f.aspx)
* [Community Schools 2014 National Forum, April 9-11](http://www.communityschools.org/nationalforum2014/)
* [Ready by 21 National Meeting April 22-24](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013QY9zyWdk_jFyfmBPPXaR4w6KCSkl4va5MkTanPGmsYdwHLt4gQLUpH65wokSRZu6MXBiDXOVauv2iRS30Se5meedL8r6EDTIQReELtFKIwb0Clrp4XComca-Np56-djOp017_1BC33UFw-KSxw_7aWm0wPA05t3NZdV4RzhF729KsSUotjLGMESZf2uu60DbjbvJJrx_y_hLsvKm0zfZGevH-UnNI4DF)
* [Every Hour Counts Systems-Building Institute, May 13-14](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/3991/)
* [Save the Date for Summer Learning Day, June 20, 2014](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=summer_learning_day)

**Resources:**

* [The Wallace Foundation Afterschool Videos: Bring the Experts Home!](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/view-latest-news/events-and-presentations/Pages/VIDEO-Afterschool-and-Afterschool-Systems.aspx)
* [NLC national video highlighting mayoral champions for afterschool](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool)
* [NIOST and HOST Coalition Webinar Recording](http://my.brainshark.com/HEPA-Standards-Webinar-10-22-13-147866799)
* [Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief on the Common Core State Standards](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_63_common_core.cfm)
* [Afterschool Alliance Blog Post on Omnibus Spending Bill](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/ASnack.cfm?idBlog=91FABBF0-215A-A6B3-02D5094C3E551BB2)
* [CCS Report on The Growing Convergence of Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunities](http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/ELOReport_TheGrowingConvergenceofCommunitySchoolsandExpandedLearningOpportunities.pdf)
* [CCS Report on Achieving Ambitious Educational Outcomes through School and Community Partnerships](http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/ChapinHall_CCSThoughtLeaders.pdf)
* [Every Hour Counts Blog Posts](http://everyhrcounts.wordpress.com/)
* [NCTL New Report Looks at How Five District Schools Finance Expanded Learning Time](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWallaceFoundation/a1ff199e00/TEST/d6463061a5)
* [Ready by 21 Report on From Soft Skills to Hard Data: Measuring Youth Program Outcomes](http://www.readyby21.org/resources/soft-skills-hard-data-measuring-youth-program-outcomes)

**Other Updates of Interest:**

* [Better Together Cities Host 700+ Rallies for Afterschool](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm)

**Better Together Case Clinic Webinar: Developing and Growing Homegrown Afterschool Champions, XXXXXXXX**

The American Youth Policy Forum will be holding our second “Case Clinic” for all “Better Together” Cities, which will focus on cultivating homegrown champions. It will be held on XXXX

This webinar will share individual case studies of “Better Together” communities that have been thinking strategically about how to build and strengthen connections to afterschool champions within their community. ***There will also be opportunities for participants to share your own real-time questions for group discussion.***

Our Available Experts Include:

* Janelle Cousino, Vice President, FowlerHoffman, LLC
* Bela Shah Spooner, Principal Associate, Afterschool Initiatives, National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
* Reggie Moore, Founder and Senior Strategist, Center for Youth Engagement
* *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.

### Partner Upcoming Events

[**Coalition for Community Schools co-sponsored webinar, The Promise of Universities in School Reform, January 31, 2014 – 3 – 4 pm EST**](https://iel.ilinc.com/register/hyyktbf)

With highlights from the recent issue of the Peabody Journal of Education, [The Promise of Universities in School Reform](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0161956X.2013.834789#.UswgZvRDskI), the webinar will provide case studies of the role of various higher education institutions in supporting schools. This webinar is co-sponsored by the Anchor Institution Task Force, Netter Center for Community Partnerships, and Coalition for Community Schools at the Institute for Educational Leadership.

[Please register here.](https://iel.ilinc.com/register/hyyktbf)

[**National League of Cities to Host Webinar on Making Summer Programs a Success in Your City, February 27, 2014 at 12:30pm ET**](http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/education-and-training/event-calendar/making-summer-count-practices-for-success)

Concerned about what children and youth will do this summer in your city? When should you start planning for programs? The time is now! This webinar will provide APAN members an opportunity to hear from The Wallace Foundation and authors from the RAND Corporation about the findings in their recent report on recommended practices for success in summer learning programming. This report shares recommendations based on an evaluation of summer programs in Boston; Cincinnati; Dallas; Duval County, Florida; Pittsburgh; and Rochester, New York. Hear from city and/or school district leaders about unique and innovative strategies used to make their summer programs a success.

[Please register here.](http://www.nlc.org/build-skills-and-networks/education-and-training/event-calendar/making-summer-count-practices-for-success)

[**National Afterschool Association Annual Convention, February 28-March 3**](http://naaweb.org/convention)

**Join hundreds of afterschool professionals for the largest gathering for learning and connecting in the afterschool field. The meeting will include over 100 workshop sessions, poster showcases of unique afterschool projects, an exhibit hall of businesses, nonprofit organizations, and schools, and multiple networking opportunities.**

[Please register here.](http://naaweb.org/convention)

[**Institute for Educational Leadership National Family Engagement Conference, April 8 – 9, 2014 – Cincinnati, OH**](http://www.cvent.com/events/2014-coalition-for-community-schools-national-forum/custom-18-670d825cb9434edfa13c21bf8a07871f.aspx)

Join the Institute for Educational Leadership for the National Family Engagement Conference: Engaging Families & Expanding Opportunities. This conference will bring together various networks of educators, parent advocates, community organizers, students, and others concerned with enhancing and expanding opportunities for ALL children and families and strengthening partnerships to improve engagement at all levels.

[Please register here.](http://www.cvent.com/events/2014-coalition-for-community-schools-national-forum/custom-18-670d825cb9434edfa13c21bf8a07871f.aspx)

[**Community Schools 2014 National Forum, April 9-11**](http://www.communityschools.org/nationalforum2014/)

The Coalition will join Cincinnati Public Schools and the Community Learning Center Institute to host The 2014 National Forum. This year’s theme—Community Schools, the Engine of Opportunity—reflects the Coalition's commitment to equal opportunity for all students and our belief that community schools are the "engine" that will prepare our young people to live and work in the 21st century. Every Hour Counts partners from Baltimore, the Bay Area, and Hartford will be presenting a session on aligning community schools and expanded learning to achieve shared desired outcomes. The Afterschool Alliance will also be discussing federal policy that supports community schools initiatives. NLC will host a role-alike session for elected officials supporting community schools in their cities.

[Please register here.](http://www.cvent.com/events/2014-coalition-for-community-schools-national-forum/event-summary-670d825cb9434edfa13c21bf8a07871f.aspx?i=c904bea8-51a2-4d19-965c-d6acc3e4db4f)

[**Ready by 21 National Meeting April 22-24**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0013QY9zyWdk_jFyfmBPPXaR4w6KCSkl4va5MkTanPGmsYdwHLt4gQLUpH65wokSRZu6MXBiDXOVauv2iRS30Se5meedL8r6EDTIQReELtFKIwb0Clrp4XComca-Np56-djOp017_1BC33UFw-KSxw_7aWm0wPA05t3NZdV4RzhF729KsSUotjLGMESZf2uu60DbjbvJJrx_y_hLsvKm0zfZGevH-UnNI4DF)

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==).

[**Every Hour Counts Systems-Building Institute, May 13-14**](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/3991/)

Are you interested in bringing high-quality expanded learning opportunities to scale in your community? Are you eager to hear first-hand from innovators about their experiences building systems? Do you want to connect with peers who are tackling similar challenges and figure out solutions together?

Join Every Hour Counts for its [first-ever national cross-city learning institute](http://www.afterschoolsystems.org/content/document/detail/3991/). This two-day institute will bring together 10-15 cities to tap the expertise of Every Hour Counts partner organizations, and to build on one another’s ideas for developing and strengthening after-school, summer, and expanded learning programs that engage community partners and schools. Cities are invited to bring teams of 3-5 public and private leaders representing diverse stakeholder groups. Together, they’ll explore a series of system-building blocks and hot issues, including governance structures, sustainability, and defining and measuring success. Contact Nina Agrawal, [nagrawal@everyhourcounts.org](mailto:nagrawal@everyhourcounts.org), for more information and to let Every Hour Counts know of your interest *by* ***February 7*.**

[**Save the Date for Summer Learning Day, June 20, 2014**](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=summer_learning_day)

**Summer Learning Day is a national advocacy day recognized to spread awareness about the importance of summer learning for our nation’s youth in helping close the achievement gap and support healthy development in communities all across the country.**

**New Videos and Webinar Recordings**

[**Afterschool Videos: Bring the Experts Home!**](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/view-latest-news/events-and-presentations/Pages/VIDEO-Afterschool-and-Afterschool-Systems.aspx)

National experts can help you make the case for your community’s investment in afterschool and afterschool systems. In two new six-minute videos from [The Wallace Foundation](wallacefoundation.org), field leaders discuss the need for afterschool, the potential benefits, and the advantages and key points of citywide afterschool coordination.

Kick-off a meeting with a video? Post to social media? Email to key supporters? If you have other ideas or hear any reactions, we’d be glad to hear from you.

[“Afterschool: Hours of Opportunity”](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/view-latest-news/events-and-presentations/Pages/VIDEO-Afterschool-and-Afterschool-Systems.aspx)

*Featuring*

Robert Balfanz (Johns Hopkins University)

Jonathan Bryce (Baltimore City Public Schools)

Carla Sanger (LA’s Best)

Chris Smith (Boston After School & Beyond

Gina Warner (National Afterschool Association)

[“Better Together: Boosting Afterschool by Building Citywide Systems”](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/view-latest-news/events-and-presentations/Pages/VIDEO-Afterschool-and-Afterschool-Systems.aspx)

*Featuring:*

Betsy Brand (American Youth Policy Forum)

Jessica Donner (Every Hour Counts)

Audrey Hutchinson (National League of Cities)

Chris Smith (Boston After School & Beyond)

Bela Shah Spooner (National League of Cities)

Nicole Yohalem (Author, *Building Citywide Systems for Quality)*

[**National League of Cities national video highlighting mayoral champions for afterschool**](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool)

To help you engage mayors and other local elected officials to join your quest to sustain high quality afterschool opportunities for the youth in your states, NLC has created a [national video](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families/afterschool) specifically featuring mayors discussing the importance of afterschool. In this video you will hear mayors and thought leaders discuss why afterschool is a local priority, and why it should be a priority for all city leaders. We encourage you to share this directly with the elected officials in your states, and to pass this message to your stakeholders who may be able to reach out directly to their city halls to get mayors in your states engaged in this issue.

More than a decade of on the ground engagement and research has allowed the Institute of Youth, Education and Families at the National League of Cities to build a wealth of knowledge on afterschool. The voices of mayors and other afterschool leaders from around the country bring to life NLC’s years of work and highlight the benefits of strong, coordinated afterschool systems. Please be in touch with Kim Eisenreich at [Eisenreich@nlc.org](mailto:Eisenreich@nlc.org) or Bela Shah Spooner at [spooner@nlc.org](mailto:spooner@nlc.org) to share how you are using the video to to benefit your work.

[**NIOST and HOST Coalition Webinar Recording**](http://my.brainshark.com/HEPA-Standards-Webinar-10-22-13-147866799)

**A new webinar by the YMCA of the USA and NIOST provides information on the importance of healthy eating and physical activity during the out-of-school time (OST) program hours.**

**New Reports and Blog Posts**

[**Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief on the Common Core State Standards**](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_63_common_core.cfm)

In partnership with MetLife Foundation, the Afterschool Alliance released their first issue brief of the year, "Afterschool and the Common Core State Standards."  The issue brief discusses the need to better prepare students for future success in college and work; the basics of the Common Core; and the variety of ways afterschool programs are working with students, teachers and schools to support learning under the Common Core.  Review the [report here](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_63_common_core.cfm), the [one-page document here](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/Common%20Core%201pgr-01_23_14.pdf) and the [Q&A factsheet here](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/ASnack.cfm?idBlog=DA6106F4-215A-A6B3-025D76736CC9398F).

[**Afterschool Alliance Blog Post on Omnibus Spending Bill**](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolsnack/ASnack.cfm?idBlog=91FABBF0-215A-A6B3-02D5094C3E551BB2)

With only a few days before the Continuing Resolution funding the federal government expires on Wednesday, House and Senate appropriators unveiled the Fiscal Year 2014 (FY2014) Omnibus Appropriations bill last week. Read about implications for afterschool in this post by Erik Peterson.

[**Coalition for Community Schools Report on The Growing Convergence of Community Schools and Expanded Learning Opportunities**](http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/ELOReport_TheGrowingConvergenceofCommunitySchoolsandExpandedLearningOpportunities.pdf)

This report captures the scope and nature of expanded learning opportunities in community school partnerships. The report includes a new ELO typology and state-of-the-art ELO practices that community schools are implementing. [Review the report here.](http://www.communityschools.org/elo/)

[**Coalition for Community Schools Report on Achieving Ambitious Educational Outcomes through School and Community Partnerships**](http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/ChapinHall_CCSThoughtLeaders.pdf)

In June 2013, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago and the Institute for Educational Leadership convened a group of stakeholders, researchers, and practitioners in Washington, DC. The group discussed the role of partnerships in advancing educational opportunities for low-income children and youth in the United States. This report highlights discussions and next steps for policymakers, administrators, and practitioners. [Review the report here.](http://www.communityschools.org/assets/1/AssetManager/ChapinHall_CCSThoughtLeaders.pdf)

[**Every Hour Counts Blog Posts**](http://everyhrcounts.wordpress.com/)

Subscribe to [*Expanded Learning Perspectives*](http://everyhrcounts.wordpress.com), the blog of Every Hour Counts, to receive up-to-date news and reflections on developments in the expanded learning and systems-building fields. Their latest post describes some notable provisions of the [2014 omnibus spending bill](http://wp.me/p3rYgA-4f) and what they mean for expanded learning programs.

[**National Center on Time and Learning New Report Looks at How Five District Schools Finance Expanded Learning Time**](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWallaceFoundation/a1ff199e00/TEST/d6463061a5)

There are now more than 1,500 schools across the country that have made the decision to add hours to the conventional school day or days to the conventional school year. For other schools, expanded learning time may be an intriguing option, but the question of how to pay for it has remained largely unanswered. [***Financing Expanded Learning Time in Schools: A Look at Five District Expanded-Time Schools***](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWallaceFoundation/a1ff199e00/TEST/1b17d8364c), a new report by The National Center on Time & Learning, sheds light on the costs associated with staffing and programming, sources that schools and districts turn to for funding, and the challenges to sustaining that funding. The report, sponsored by The Wallace Foundation, offers brief case studies of five district schools, each with its own distinct financial model for expanded learning. Their solutions can offer guidance to schools considering this approach.

To read the full report, [click here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWallaceFoundation/a1ff199e00/TEST/d6463061a5)

To register for a webinar about the schools discussed in the report, [click here](http://cts.vresp.com/c/?TheWallaceFoundation/a1ff199e00/TEST/9bf11836ed).

[**Ready by 21 Report on From Soft Skills to Hard Data: Measuring Youth Program Outcomes**](http://www.readyby21.org/resources/soft-skills-hard-data-measuring-youth-program-outcomes)

The updated guide reviews 10 youth outcome measurement tools that are appropriate for use in afterschool and other settings. For each tool, it provides sample items and crucial information about usability, cost, and evidence of reliability and validity. A companion to the Forum's [*Measuring Youth Program Quality*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001tCkmSawPFJAElTNqW0XyPSki4cV728dZx7CgoribjS-sCfa2VjURF1R3UUcE9V2-ZKjF3bXzh_ZhC2rDWX_icoVx0SpeHpjg637kcd7I0llUKZ0g9uWRWCyyFRrBiDcvaXVc7rVVn5O5eSZj3S2wdAU7W5YlmFy7Qfs5r97X7kFZ-mPh9Gbc9FIxvvpNte80ke9Dx_dhIrHHdCwbX_GtD4dcX5FrnlpiCu4SckeB_ha3s6s9whRFlGYT-GUh9l-gWpYC0Y6Vnu3OlrfnYWDSb7l_W8yRN0HQTi1vu7yBEAiUfP21W2mh-tPo_p_khbfGCsIUX2bDY1rqynuMtgnUMSRKkr5HClTQDLddVQ-rIPL3COjoF2BO-JjIgE9c9IhNWfexWx5YVRnBwHNho8TuEQ==&c=q-KP6WBePE2Y0n-vw64UDC2IFTltLl4gkt9kOan-a3_rgLEvoD1ZYw==&ch=8CxRDj50903wDYsosiGOLtm4gKqt8JD5vvR1kdO2KSwgkMkYs81DoA==), the guide can help providers select conceptually grounded, psychometrically sound measures.

Other Updates of Interest

[**Better Together Cities Host 700+ Rallies for Afterschool**](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm)

In October, 1 million Americans and communities across the nation rallied for the afterschool programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and helping working families during the 14th annual [*Lights On Afterschool*](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm). Afterschool programs in Better Together Cities organized 705 events, garnering coverage in newspapers, TV and radio and attracting local luminaries and influentials. Youth, parents and community leaders helped shine a light on the power of afterschool, from Buffalo’s “largest afterschool celebration ever” to a sidewalk art project in Dallas, TX. Denver students delivered tissue paper luminaries they made to local leaders, and event guests in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota did jump rope squad and movie production with students. Mayors issued proclamations in support of *Lights On Afterschool* day, spoke at events, read to kids and more. At least 100 news pieces in Better Together Cities covered the celebrations and the benefits provided by programs.

*Lights On Afterschool* is organized by the [Afterschool Alliance](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/) to bring attention to the need for afterschool programs to support children, families and communities. Save the Date for the 15th *Lights On Afterschool* – October 23, 2014!

### 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](mailto:aypf@aypf.org) with the subject line: Better Together.

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| [image016.jpg@01CE9F39](http://www.aypf.org/)**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/](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](https://twitter.com/EveryHrCounts), 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](http://forumfyi.org/)**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](http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/institute-for-youth-education-and-families)**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@01CE9F39](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/Pages/default.aspx)The 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. |