

Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, and Hope) is an afterschool program funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) focused on serving high-risk youth between the ages of 6 and 17.

The Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) is a grant program administered by IDHS's Office of Firearm and Violence Prevention (OFVP) that aims to address the root causes of violence in Illinois through investments in comprehensive youth development, intervention, and violence prevention initiatives.

The Ask

Fund the After School Program Teen REACH at \$27.3 million in IDHS's Budget

This year, the Governor's budget proposes flat funding but, with a rate increase so fewer youth will be served. Providers need the rate increase so they can invest in quality programming and frontline staff but we also need to serve the same number of youth.

Over 1,000 Youth

Increased applications for Teen REACH and decreased funds means that over of **1,000 youth will lose programming by this summer.**



Participants in afterschool programs are **30% less likely to participate in dangerous and criminal activities.**



Youth regularly participating in Teen REACH, Youth Development, and Prevention Services programs, such as the ability to communicate well, collaborate with others.

- **In FY25, Teen REACH funding has been cut by \$10 million.** Currently, Teen REACH funds 70 grantees, however, this will likely decrease to 60 grantees in FY25. ACT Now anticipates an increased number of applicants for Teen REACH.
- This cut means Teen REACH cannot fully fund current grantees NOR accommodate the additional number of RPSA Youth Development Services (2775) programs.
- **This reduction in services will impact an estimated 1,000 youth and 10 existing OST organizations.**
- While we are grateful that awarded FY25 Teen REACH grantees will be able to invest in staff and capacity; the state will serve fewer youth and decrease its impact in a model of programming that has decades of success and high instances of quality, positive outcomes, and equity.
- **The Teen REACH FY25 grant application is LIVE and due 5/1/24.**