

The logo for ACT NOW! features the word "ACT" in blue, "NOW!" in green, and a clock face integrated into the letter "O". Below the main text, it says "Afterschool for Children and Teens" in blue.

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

## Policy Updates

### ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On December 12, 2018, the Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting. You can find the board packet [here](#). The Board heard public comments about concerns around the expansion of the Illinois Virtual School, procedural changes to IDEA for preschool, concerns around the Teach Illinois plan, issues with the school district administration in Urbana, and disputes over funding between Learn Academy and North Chicago. The Board also heard a revenue forecast for the next fiscal year. The Board in particular noted that afterschool advocates provided strong testimony about the need to increase afterschool funding. The Board will meet next on **January 16, 2019**. For more details, click [here](#).

### 21st CCLC FY15 & FY20 Update

ACT Now has been advocating for more sustainable processes surrounding the funding for 21st Century Learning Centers. Due to delayed decision-making by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) leadership, ACT Now submitted a recommendation letter on December 12th to ISBE and Superintendent Tony Smith. To read ACT Now's recommendation letter, [click here](#).

*The Illinois State Board of Education provided the following response via their website:*

"The State Board of Education wants to be responsive to the inquiries received regarding the status of FY 20 funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Current cohort 15 programs continue to provide effective out of school time programming to students through the end of the program year and perhaps with an extension to August 31, 2019 if requested. In the spirit of transparency, ISBE would like all concerned parties to be assured that all options for future funding, including renewability or the release of an RFP are being considered. Please contact Kristy Jones at [kjones@isbe.net](mailto:kjones@isbe.net) or by phone at 217-782-5270 with any questions or concerns."

### P-20 Council Recap

On December 20, 2018, the P-20 Council met for the final time in this administration. The committee heard updates on the finalized career pathways dictionary and Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) reinstatement. There were also

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presentations on Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee (KTAC) Recommendations and the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS). The presenters for KTAC specifically mentioned needing to take into consideration transitions from child care as well as Pre-K. The Council also heard legislative, agency, and committee updates. Of note was the College and Career Readiness Committee's work on Perkins Reauthorization and the Family and Community Engagement Committee's work to streamline communicating ESSA changes to parents. Of note was the College and Career Readiness Committee's work on Perkins Reauthorization and the Family and Community Engagement Committee's work to streamline communicating ESSA changes to parents. The next Council meeting is in March with the date and location to be determined.

### **TANF Reauthorization Introduced**

Two bills recently introduced in the Senate take very different approaches to reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides cash assistance and help in moving from welfare to work for low-income families with children. The first, introduced by Senate Finance Committee Chair Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) would extend TANF for three years, eliminate the ability of states to waive existing work requirements altogether, as well as make it easier for individuals receiving TANF benefits to participate in drug abuse, mental health, or rehabilitation treatments. The second, introduced by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT), would reauthorize TANF for 5 years, but would limit assistance to families with income no greater than 200 percent of the poverty level and would require all work-eligible individuals to meet monthly work hour requirements in order to receive benefits. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **Stopgap Spending Bill**

A partial government shutdown was avoided when President Trump on December 7th signed a stopgap measure, also known as a Continuing Resolution (CR), to fund several federal departments through December 21st, which affects some youth development programs. Five of the 12 Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations bills that are required to keep the government running have already been signed into law, including the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Therefore, programs such as 21st Century Community Learning Centers have been reauthorized. However, the remaining seven appropriations bills that have not yet been enacted. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **Webinar: Inform the CTE Five-Year Plan**

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Community College Board will be hosting a webinar to share information on the Perkins Career and Technical Education Reauthorization and to gather feedback on how to strengthen career-connected learning for all students in Illinois for the next five years. ISBE and ICCB invite all stakeholders – educators, businesses, program providers, families, etc. -- to participate in learning more about the opportunity for Illinois and providing feedback. It will be extremely beneficial to have OST program providers in attendance, as the Perkins Act emphasizes the need for

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informal STEM learning. This webinar will be held on **December 18th from 9 AM to 10:30 AM** . To register, [click here](#).

In addition to the webinar, ISBE held a listening tour on December 12th, at which ACT Now submitted comments regarding opportunities to partner with out-of-school time programs in the Perkins reauthorization. To read ACT Now's full comments, [click here](#).

*For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).*

## **Trainings and Events**

### **Webinar: Healthy Communities Investment Grant Funding**

The Illinois State Board of Education is hosting a technical assistance session for the FY19 Healthy Communities Investment Grant on **December 18th at 1 PM**. To register, [click here](#). For questions, please contact Connie Denney at [cdenney@isbe.net](mailto:cdenney@isbe.net).

### **Webinar: Effectively Communicating the Need for Afterschool**

ACT Now will be holding a webinar to provide information on how to effectively communicate the need for afterschool programs. This webinar will cover common communication misconceptions, how to tailor your message to different stakeholders, and evidence-based messaging practices that have been proven to be effective in the afterschool space. Additionally, you will receive access to a messaging tool developed by ACT Now to support you in your communication efforts. This webinar will be held **January 29th from 10 AM to 11 AM**. To register, [click here](#).

*To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click [here](#).*

## **Opportunities for Providers**

### **Obama Foundation Civic Engagement Award**

The Obama Foundation and Chicago Public Schools announced a new initiative to celebrate and honor students, schools, educators, and community partners who have made a powerful impact in their communities through civic engagement and action. The initiative will build upon Chicago's rich legacy of civic engagement by establishing a recognition that exemplifies the Obama Foundation's mission to inspire, empower, and connect people to change their communities, and the world, for the better. Applications, criteria, and information on eligibility will be **available beginning January 2019**. To learn more, [click here](#).

*For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click [here](#).*

## **Funding Opportunities**

### **Healthy Communities Investment Grant**

The FY19 Healthy Communities Investment Grant (HCIG) application is now open. HCIG funding is provided for collaborative approaches between community-based organizations and schools to bridge support services that are sustainable for children and families to help ensure students are present, focused, and ready to learn in the classroom,

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including through afterschool and summer-learning programs. Proposals are **due to ISBE no later than noon on January 22, 2019**. For the HCIG NOFO announcement with detailed instructions, [click here](#). For the HCIG application, [click here](#).

### **Springboard Foundation Grant**

Springboard Foundation funds organizations providing OST programs to Chicago's youth. First-year grantees receive between \$5,000-\$10,000 plus capacity-building funds. Proposals are due **January 26th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

*For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, click [here](#).*

## **Resources for Providers**

### **Youth Development, Programming, & Activities**

#### **In-Person & Virtual STEM Field Trips**

STEM field trips are no longer limited to traditional science centers—today's STEM trips are interactive, engaging, and bring classroom concepts to life for students. [Click here](#) to view a list of in-person and virtual STEM field trips to get you thinking about where your next trip might be.

#### **TechGirlz Curriculums**

TechGirlz provides free curriculums on over 50 tech topics to get middle school girls interested in technology and connect them with professionals in technology fields. To learn more, [click here](#).

### **Safety, Health, & Nutrition**

#### **Digital Nutrition Education**

Use project-based learning and technology to engage 6th graders in nutrition education while meeting educational standards for English and Health. In this *Fueling My Healthy Life* lesson, students have access to a variety of learning activities including videos, a digital and interactive group challenge, goal setting, and informational texts. To learn more, [click here](#).

## **Call for Resources**

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field? Please click [here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state! If you have any questions, please contact Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) [KnockeF@metrofamily.org](mailto:KnockeF@metrofamily.org)

**NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).**