

ACT Now Events Calendar				
January				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
21	22	23	24	25
		STEM Programming & Funding Webinar (10 AM to 11 AM)		
28	29	30	31	1
	Effectively Communicating the Need for Afterschool Webinar (10 AM to 11 AM)	The State of Afterschool in Illinois (9 AM to 10:30 AM Springfield, IL)		
February				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
04	05	06	07	08
	60 by 25 Conference			
11	12	13	14	15
		IL-QPSA Webinar #3: Analyzing Your Data (10 AM to 11 AM)		
<p>To register for events, click on the calendar, or visit: actnowillinois.org For questions, email Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at KnockeF@actnowillinois.org</p>				

Policy Updates

Governor Pritzker on Community Schools

During his inaugural speech, Governor JB Pritzker addressed the need for community schools in Illinois by stating: "We will approach education with a holistic mindset – recognizing that students do best in community schools where teachers are paid well and where kids start learning at the earliest ages. And our economy grows when vocational training, community colleges and universities are strong." To read or watch Pritzker's full inauguration speech, [click here](#).

How the Shutdown Is Starting to Impact Schools

The current government closure is different from earlier shutdowns because the agencies from which school districts receive critical federal dollars—chiefly the



department of education—are funded during the partial shutdown. But there is still a lot at stake for school districts if the shutdown persists for months. To learn more about how the federal government shutdown is starting to impact the education system, [click here](#).

21st Century FY15 Cohort Update

On **Wednesday, January 16th**, ISBE will vote whether to renew 21st Century FY15 grantees for another 5 years. The ISBE board packet with Wednesday's full agenda can be found [here](#). ACT Now will provide updates following the board meeting.

ISBE Budget Recommendations

ISBE has just released their Budget Recommendations. These recommendations include funding for Afterschool Matters, After School Programs, Healthy Communities Investment Grants, and Community Schools. The Superintendent recommends a \$15 million appropriation for Community Schools for FY20. This recommendation directly quotes ACT Now's recent testimony at the 2018 ISBE budget hearings as the primary evidence supporting this line item. (More about the Board Recommendations can be found in the ISBE board packet [here](#).) ACT Now will provide updates following the board meeting.

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

Trainings and Events

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 according to research. 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](#).

The State of Afterschool in Illinois

ACT Now collected data on locations of afterschool programs in Illinois and the services they offer in order to create the Afterschool Map & Database. This data has allowed us to define the afterschool landscape for policymakers & providers alike. Join us to hear more about the subsequent report ("The State of Afterschool in Illinois 2018") generated from our map data and learn about what you can do to support the



afterschool landscape in Illinois in order to provide vibrant enrichment experiences to our youth. This event will be held in **Springfield, IL on January 30th from 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM**. To register, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Webinar: STEM Programming & Funding

ACT Now is continuing our series of STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. The next STEM webinar will focus on navigating funding streams and planning STEM activities with limited funding. This webinar will be held on **January 23rd from 10 AM to 11 AM**. To register, [click here](#).

OST STEM PD

Scientists for Tomorrow at Columbia College Chicago will be offering the following professional development opportunities free of charge. Each opportunity has two sessions on Saturdays (dates presented below) from 9 AM to 5 PM (lunch is provided). The address is 623 S. Wabash - Room 600 J. If you or your staff plan to attend, please register using the links below.

- Module 1: Physics of Sound and Mathematics of Music PD dates: **January 12th & February 23rd** ([Register Here](#))
- Module 2: Advance Robotics PD dates: **January 26th & March 2nd** ([Register Here](#))
- Module 3: People and Plants PD dates: **February 9th & March 16th** ([Register Here](#))

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

Job Opportunities

Executive Director, MENTOR Illinois

Are you a visionary leader, ready to boldly strategize with non-profit peers and collaborate with generous funders to build a stronger future for Chicago's youth? Do you get fired up about mobilizing talent, resources and volunteers for a growing movement that positively impacts over 50,000 youth in Illinois each year? If so, the MENTOR Illinois team is excited to hear from you! To learn more or to apply, [click here](#).

Executive Director, PeacePlayers

PeacePlayers is an international peace-building nonprofit organization that uses sports, primarily basketball, as a vehicle to unite, educate and inspire young people living in divided communities. The inaugural PeacePlayers' U.S. Executive Director will have outstanding leadership, management and fundraising skills, and will be responsible for overseeing the organizational development of the PeacePlayers-U.S. entity along with driving the strategic direction of the organization. To learn more or to apply, [click here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Opportunity Scholarship for DREAMers

The Opportunity Scholarship for DREAMers was developed for students who live in states where they effectively have no access to college – either because they face paying out-of-state tuition or because their state will simply not admit them into its universities. This scholarship award will cover tuition, fees, and on-campus housing and meals at one of BOOST Cafe's partner colleges (up to a maximum of \$80,000 for a bachelor's degree). Applications are due **January 31st**. [Click here](#) to apply.

Summer Apprenticeship Programs

The Army Educational Outreach Program's high school apprenticeships are an excellent way to learn about STEM research in a university or Department of Defense laboratory. All students receive a stipend during their summer STEM experience. Please visit the links below to see if there are universities in your area. Applications close on **February 28th**.

- **REAP** offers underserved high school students (Grades 9 – 12) a research experience in a university lab. [Click here](#) to apply.
- **SEAP** is a high school program that matches students (ages vary) with scientists in a Department of Defense Lab. [Click here](#) to apply.
- **HSAP** offers high school students (rising juniors and seniors) a research experience alongside university researchers sponsored by the Army Research Office. [Click here](#) to apply.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Afterschool Development Working Group

The Chicago Afterschool Development Working Group is a self-organized group of afterschool, education, civic, and non-profit leaders and practitioners working together to strengthen the voice and impact of afterschool development in Chicago. This group meets every other month in downtown Chicago. The next working group



meeting will be held on **January 30th from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM at the Corboy Law Center**. For more information, or to RSVP, contact David Cherry, dcherry@allstars.org, 312-994-3100.

60 by 25 Conference

This year, the 60 by 25 conference will be looking at ways that data helps us tell a story about the changes we are trying to make in our communities to improve post-secondary outcomes and how we use storytelling to bring that data to life. Sessions will highlight topics including collective impact collaboration, how to use program data visualization to tell a story, and college and career pathway endorsements. Susan Stanton, ACT Now's Network Lead and member of the 60 by 25 Guiding Team, will present background on the ACT Now Afterschool Programs Map. This conference will be held **February 5th and 6th in Collinsville, IL**. To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

BOOST Cafe

BOOST Cafe's funding archive includes grants, scholarships, awards, and contests. Each opportunity is sorted by category, amount, grade level, and the deadline to apply. [Click here](#) to access the funding archive.

Healthy Communities Investment Grant

The FY19 Healthy Communities Investment Grant (HCIG) application is 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, 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](#). (Note: A prior e-alert incorrectly suggested that school-districts are the lead applicant for this grant. It is, in fact, community-based organizations who are the lead applicant. If you have any questions, contact Faith Knocke at KnockeF@actnowillinois.org.)

Honda STEM Grant

The American Honda Foundation supports youth education with a specific focus on STEM subjects, in addition to environmental science and stewardship. If these are



key components of your afterschool curriculum, you could be eligible for up to \$75,000 in grant funds! The application deadline is **February 1st**. Click here to [learn more](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Report: Nation at Hope

The Aspen Institute's National Commission on Social Emotional and Academic Development (NCSEAD)'s final report, "Nation At Hope," will be released on **January 15th**, and afterschool is a key recommendation! The report indicates that expanding access to afterschool and summer learning programs are critical pathways for developing the whole child. ACT Now is firm in our support of the report's conclusions and recommendations to improve the social, emotional, and academic well-being of each and every child. Together we can reshape learning and change lives in America's classrooms, schools, and communities. To access the full report, [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

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](#).