

# ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

## Policy Updates

### President Trump Proposes to Eliminate Afterschool

On March 11, 2019, President Trump called for eliminating federal funding for local afterschool and summer programs. These eliminations would include the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants. If the funding is not maintained, over 50,000 children and families in Illinois would be left without reliable afterschool choices. Use this [action alert](#) to tell Congress that eliminating afterschool funding is unacceptable!

### Trauma-Informed Schools Act

In December 2018, Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA-5) introduced the Trauma-Informed Schools Act ([HR7320](#)). The bill would, for the first time, provide a definition in federal education law for what it means to be trauma-informed. It also provides a special emphasis on Title I schools in efforts to be trauma-informed.

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

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## Trainings and Events

### Webinar: April Advocacy

Join ACT Now to learn how to get involved in advocacy activities this April 2019 to raise awareness on the need for afterschool! This webinar will provide you with an overview of ACT Now's advocacy toolkit and ACT Now's 2019 legislative priorities, as well as concrete actions you can take this year to ensure that policymakers are aware of the need for afterschool programs in Illinois. The

webinar will be held on **April 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

## Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing free in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. The next training will be held in **Springfield on April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

## Community School Providers Meetings

ACT Now is continuing to hold meetings for community school providers to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now in the Community Schools space. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive a free professional development opportunity. Light refreshments provided. (See below for a schedule of upcoming meetings.)

### Upcoming Community School Providers Meetings:

- **Chicago: May 1st (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the ACT Now offices. Topics: Policy Updates and Family Engagement. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now), Sarah Ogeto (UIC), Eric Werge (YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago). **To register, [click here](#).**
- **Wheaton: May 14th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the Metropolitan Family Services office. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Needs Assessments. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now) and TBD. **To register, [click here](#).**
- **Downstate**: Location and date TBD

## Family & Community Partnerships

### Webinar: Making Industry Connections in STEM Programming

ACT Now will be hosting another webinar in a series of STEM PD opportunities for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. In this webinar, ACT Now will discuss the STEM pipeline, why STEM supports the workforce, and how to make your own industry connections. This webinar will be held on **March 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

## Safety, Health, & Nutrition

### Webinar: CACFP Trainers' Circle

These quarterly webinars focus on tactics and techniques trainers can use to empower program operators with the knowledge and job skills needed to provide high-quality meals and snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). The next webinar, *Creative Online Learning Strategies to*

*Engage Providers*, will highlight web-based training methodologies, interactive learning strategies, knowledge assessments, and best practices. This webinar will be held on **March 13th at 1:30 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

### **Webinar: Summer Learning Toolkit - A Deeper Dive**

In this second webinar, the National Summer Learning Association will take a closer look at staffing and professional development to examine how to hire and train the best possible staff that suits the specific climate, culture, and goals of your summer program. This webinar will be held on **March 28th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

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## **Internship Opportunity**

### **ACT Now Policy & Communications Intern**

ACT Now is seeking a driven intern with a dedicated interest in positive youth development for a paid internship. Applications are due on **April 4th**. For more information, [click here](#).

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## **Youth Opportunities**

### **Peace First Grants & Webinar**

Peace First is inviting youth to be agents of change in their local communities by creating youth-led projects. Youth who complete the project planning process will be awarded a \$250 mini-grant and will be eligible for an accelerator grant of up to \$5,000 to grow their project over the next year. Check out Peace First's prerecorded webinar to get a better understanding of the Peace First platform and how to help youth develop their idea. To access the webinar recording, [click here](#). To access the grant application, [click here](#). **The deadline to apply for a mini-grant is ongoing.**

## Chicago Community Leadership Corps

Do you know a young person from Chicago who wants to change their city? Invite them to apply for the Obama Foundation's Community Leadership Corps in Chicago, a six-month program designed to bring young people between the ages of 18-25 together to develop projects that address opportunities and challenges in their communities. The deadline to apply is **March 24th**. To apply, [click here](#).

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

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## Opportunities for Providers

### Community Schools Survey

In its efforts to expand community schools funding in Illinois, ACT Now is working on a report about community schools and their impact. To do this, we need information from your program. Please consider completing the following survey to help ACT Now have a better understanding of the current community schools landscape in Illinois, as well as what we can do to meet the needs of community schools providers. The survey should take between 20-30 minutes to complete. We are looking for program level data and not site specific data. To access the survey, [click here](#).

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

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## Funding Opportunities

### Sparkplug Grants

Whether you're starting from scratch or building out existing programming, the [Sparkplug Foundation](#) can support your work! The particular focus of this grant opportunity is "the development of democratic movements and communities, especially those that work on issues of local democracy, justice, and sustainable energy". Past grants have ranged from \$1,000 to \$15,000. The deadline to submit a Letter of Intent is **April 13th**. For more information, [click here](#).

## One-by-One Grant

[4Imprint](#) is offering \$500 in promotional products every business day to organizations in order to recruit volunteers, thank donors, offer comfort to someone in need or, in some other way, turn the grant into something much more. **The deadline to apply is ongoing.** To apply, [click here](#).

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

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## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

#### DIY SEL Toolkit

This social emotional learning (SEL) toolkit was designed especially for educators, youth development leaders, and others who want to incorporate social emotional learning into kids' daily lives. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

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## Spotlight on Afterschool

### Chinese Mutual Aid Association

The Chinese Mutual Aid Association (CMAA) serves the low-income immigrant and refugee community on Chicago's far north side. To find out how this organization helped serve a struggling student and her hardworking immigrant mother through the CMAA's *Diverse Young Leaders After School*, [click here](#).

*Want to share your own afterschool success story? [Click here!](#)*

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## 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](#).**

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*Do you find the ACT Now newsletter to be a quality resource for your program? If so, please consider making a contribution to ACT Now so that we may continue to provide free resources to afterschool program providers, and, in turn, create a brighter future for the state of afterschool programs in Illinois!*



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