



Policy Updates

Illinois Fair Tax

On March 7, 2019, Governor Pritzker proposed his Fair Tax plan, which would raise taxes on those making more than \$250,000 a year. A Fair Tax would raise billions in revenue to fund essential programs, support schools, and put our state on the path to fiscal health. [Call your legislators and ask them to support a Fair Tax.](#) To learn more about the Fair Tax, [click here.](#)

Host a Memo to the Mayor Event

[On the Table](#) is inviting citizens to host their own *Memo to the Mayor* event. This event is a daylong civic conversation involving thousands of people all across Chicago and our neighboring communities. As a host, you will create a memo with your guests that reflects your table's conversation, includes your point-of-view, shares recommendations and invites ways for the mayor and her administration to address a problem, make something better or otherwise follow up. All events are held on **May 14th**. For more information, [click here.](#)

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

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

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

A Health Equity Approach to Obesity Efforts

The Roundtable on Obesity Solutions is hosting a workshop to explore the history of health equity issues in demographic groups who have above-average obesity risk and consider principles and approaches to addressing these issues as part of obesity prevention and treatment efforts. The workshop will also feature presentations that address current policies and practices that perpetuate health inequities and advance health equity. This workshop will be held **April 1st at 7:30 a.m. in Washington D.C., however registrants can attend online via webcast.** To register, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Summer Brain Games

Summer is a great time for kids to have fun with science activities. Join the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) to learn how you can use their Summer Brain Games (SBG) to make science fun and accessible for kids and educators. Learn about engineering, physics and exciting STEM activities, such as making a kite, starting a band with DIY musical instruments, creating a kaleidoscope, and more! MSI is offering two upcoming SBG workshops (see schedule below).

Upcoming SBG Workshops

- **Chicago:** April 30th - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Bloomington:** May 2nd - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

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

Youth Opportunities

Cascade by Splash! Chicago

Splash! Chicago offers free programs for high school students featuring classes designed and taught by UChicago students on anything from squids to the philosophy of superheroes! Cascade is a five-week program developed to expose students to interesting topics they may never have experienced before in their high school setting. Each class is an in-depth exploration of a topic, meeting once a week over five weeks. There is no cost to attend and pizza is provided. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Illinois PTA Convention

Utilize your PTA membership to join the Illinois PTA for two full days of informational workshops and seminars concerning family engagement and parental advocacy. (Non-members are welcome to join for an additional fee.)

This convention will be held from **May 3rd to May 4th in Champaign IL**. For more information, [click here](#).

Summit for Bilingual Parents

The annual statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents provides a rich mix of information about issues of critical importance to parents from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds. Top speakers are joined by experts and panels on such topics as pathways to academic success, enhanced parental participation in schools, immigration issues, U.S. citizenship, bilingual education programs, community college services, effective parenting techniques, health care alternatives, and much more. This summit will be held on **May 11th in Oak Brook, IL**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

NASA Glenn Education

The NASA Glenn Research Center Office of Education is soliciting applications from youth-serving organizations and formal/informal education institutions. This solicitation is requesting proposals to implement STEM content in out-of-school time settings for students in grades 5-9 from June 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019 using the new NASA Glenn Engineering Design Challenge activity. Funding will be awarded through a competitive application process in which NASA Glenn seeks to fund up to 50 awards each between \$200 and \$2,000. Applications are due **April 14th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Afterschool Evaluation Partnerships

Funders and policymakers are increasingly recognizing the afterschool field for its vital role in supporting school-age youth. However, this recognition often comes with increased expectations for high-quality research demonstrating the value of programming. To satisfy these demands and make the most of funding opportunities, practitioners must develop strong partnerships with external evaluators. Learn more about developing afterschool evaluation partnerships [here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

LGBTQ Mentoring

The *LGBTQ Supplement to the Elements of Effective Practice for Mentoring™* offers step-by-step operations guidance to develop safer, more affirming, and responsive mentoring relationships for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. To access this resource, [click here](#).

Supporting Latinx Youth Participation in OST

Given the diversity of Latinx communities, there is no single formula for engaging Latinx youth. However, the analyses and strategies presented in this literature review suggest a set of guiding principles for youth-serving organizations. To read 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

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](#).

*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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