

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Updates

Proposed Free Tuition for STEM Students

In the hopes of filling empty factory jobs, the Illinois Manufacturers' Association is pushing a plan to waive tuition at state universities to students studying STEM subjects. The proposed plan would waive tuition and other fees at the University of Illinois and other state colleges and universities for students studying science, technology engineering or math who agree to teach in a state high school for at least three years after graduation, or a state institute of higher education for at least five years. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Trivia Night!

Grab your friends and join ACT Now for a brain busting evening of trivia, food, fellowship, and fun. Players have a chance to win a \$100 event gift card and various awesome raffle items! All money raised from this event will go towards supporting our work of advocating to legislators about the need for afterschool programs in Illinois and ensuring that quality afterschool programs exist all across the state! This event will be held in **Chicago on**

May 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information or 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](#).**
- **Downstate (Telenet): May 6th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** via web conference. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Outcomes/Evaluation. Speakers: Susan stanton (ACT Now) and Joie Frankovich (WeGo Together for Kids). **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](#).**

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Summer Planning: Secrets of Success

This interactive workshop, offered by the Illinois AfterSchool Network, will focus on the basic elements of operating a high-quality summer afterschool program. The workshop is \$10 per person and will be held on May 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Mt. Vernon. For more information or to register, please email Jackie Richie at janetwrk@att.net.

Guiding Behavior in Afterschool Programs

This workshop session, offered by the Illinois AfterSchool Network, focuses on developing positive and preventive strategies to effectively guide and facilitate children and youth's behavior. The workshop is \$10 per person and will be held on May 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Mt. Vernon. For

more information or to register, please email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net.

Effective Mentoring Programs for Men of Color

Join a community of Chicago-based practitioners in exploring asset-based approaches to mentoring male youth of color. Participants may qualify to earn Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDUs). This training will be held on **August 28th in Chicago**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Summer Brain Games

Join the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) this summer to learn how you can use their Brain Games 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 Brain Games 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](#).

Opportunities for Providers

Start to Finish Symposium

This symposium will educate, energize and mobilize public affairs professionals, service providers, and researchers toward a movement to support older youth and young adults in Illinois. The event will have four tracks: policy, funding, research, and advocacy. This symposium will be held on **April 25th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in downtown Chicago**. For more information, [click here](#).

Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week

Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week returns April 22 – 26 and it's time to start planning! This event recognizes those who work with and on behalf of youth during out-of-school hours. The week is marked by celebrations encouraging people to thank the afterschool professionals who make a difference in the lives of young people. For ideas, inspiration and tools for promotion, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Brokering Youth Pathways Toolkit

A new toolkit from the [Hive Research Lab](#) was created to share tools and techniques around the youth development practice of "brokering" or connecting youth to future learning opportunities and resources. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

Teen Dating Violence Toolkit

The Department of Health and Human Services has released a toolkit for how you can raise awareness of teen dating violence in your community. To access the toolkit, [click here](#).

Spotlight on Afterschool

WeGo Together for Kids

WeGo Together for Kids is a collective impact community collaboration that facilitates community schools efforts within West Chicago Elementary School District 33. WeGo employs an asset-based community development framework to provide wraparound services to youth and their families, and highlights their mental health services delivery model as one of their best practices. By subcontracting with three local mental health organizations, WeGo is able to bring in

dedicated community mental health staff to support West Chicago families. 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

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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