

# ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

## Policy Updates

### Mayoral Educational Priorities Survey

Chicago has a new mayor who has pledged to make changes at public schools. As Lori Lightfoot, the city's mayor-elect, formulates her education policy in the coming weeks and months, what do you think she should know about your school? Participate in [this survey](#) to make your voice heard!

*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 HannahMngwamba (Metropolitan Family Services). **To register, [click here](#).**

## Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

### 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 for the Wait List](#))
- **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

### Educator Certification for Afterschool

This summer, National Geographic is piloting their Educator Certification for Afterschool; a free professional development program that recognizes pre-K-12 formal and informal educators committed to inspiring the next generation of explorers, conservationists, and change makers. Registration opens at the **end of April 2019**. To learn more, [click here](#). If you are interested in staying up-to-date on this pilot, complete this [interest form](#).

### Impact Youth Conference

This year's Peace Hub 5th Annual Impact Youth Conference 2019 will take place on **May 3rd and 4th at the Gary Comer Youth Center in Chicago**. **Day One** of the conference supports the personal and professional development of youth advocates and service providers. **Day Two's** primary focus is to engage local high school age youth directly. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

## Funding Opportunities

### Spark Empathy Grants

Empatico is offering grants up to \$10,000 to programs that share in their commitment to and enthusiasm for developing students' social and emotional learning, specifically critical thinking, curiosity, perspective taking, and empathy, through virtual exchanges with peers across the U.S. and the world. To learn more, [click here](#). To be considered for a grant, [submit your application](#) by **April 26th**.

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

## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

#### National Geographic BioBlitz

A BioBlitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many species as possible in a specific area over a short period of time. This summer, participate in a BioBlitz to get families, students, teachers, and other community members to work together to get a snapshot of your area's biodiversity. To learn more about how you can participate, [click here](#).



## Spotlight on Community Schools

#### 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. Afterschool programs are a key part of the community schools

model, however community schools also offer various other human services to support their youth and families.

Not only does WeGo offer an excellent afterschool program, but they employ an asset-based community development framework to provide wraparound services for their community. WeGo highlights their mental health services delivery model as one of their best practices. By sub-contracting with three local mental health organizations, WeGo is able to bring in dedicated community mental health staff to support West Chicago families. These bilingual community mental health clinicians provide prevention, early intervention, home and community-based therapy, crisis intervention, and consultation to students, families, and District 33 staff. 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](#).

*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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## Contact Us

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