



## Policy Updates

### Fair Tax Update

After years of budget uncertainty, the citizens of Illinois have found themselves with a \$3.2 billion budget deficit, which has contributed to underfunded schools and human services. In response, Governor J.B. Pritzker has proposed instituting a Fair Tax. Under the plan, 97% of Illinoisans would not see an income tax increase, with only those making more than \$250,000 a year paying more. The General Assembly is poised in early May to consider and vote on the constitutional amendment necessary to pave the way for the Fair Tax (SJRCA 1, amendment 1). Pritzker argues that the Fair Tax will allow Illinois to balance its budget and stop the the underfunding and defunding of education and other essential services. To stay up-to-date on the Fair Tax legislation, [click here](#).

### Minimum Wage Survey Results

Illinois Partners for Human Service, in collaboration with trade associations throughout Illinois, conducted a survey of more than 180 participants in order to gauge the impact of the minimum wage increase. It was concluded that, to offset the increase in the minimum wage, Illinois policymakers must increase reimbursement rate levels to cover the true cost of services. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

## Trainings and Events

April 30, 2019

## 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.

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

## Family Engagement

### Parent Empowerment Expo

Chicago Public Schools is partnering with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities to host a Parent Empowerment Expo on **May 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** The expo will include assistance with accessing benefits programs, vaccinations, fun activities for the kids, and more! To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

## Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

April 30, 2019

## Intro to Biotech Workshops

Check out one of the Baxter Center's introductory workshops to learn about 21st-century lab skills and practices, including pipetting, culturing bacteria, and DNA gel electrophoresis!

### *Upcoming Intro to Biotech Workshops:*

- **Lake County:** June 18th to June 20th (To register, [click here](#))
- **Chicago:** June 25th to June 27th (To register, [click here](#))

## Chicago STEM Workshops

The Office of Community Education Partnerships at Northwestern University is excited to offer STEM professional development opportunities this summer (all of which are appropriate for both in-school and out-of-school educators). Each workshop is FREE to all participants and continuing education units (CEUs) are available. All opportunities take place in either **July or August**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

# Youth Opportunities

## ISU Summer Programs

Illinois State University is offering summer programs for high school students interested in careers in quantitative analytics, actuarial science, and insurance. For more information, [click here](#).

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

## Opportunities for Providers

### Start a Girls Who Code Club

[Girls Who Code Clubs](#) are FREE after-school programs for 3rd-5th or 6th-12th grade girls to join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models and use computer science to change the world. Clubs are led by Facilitators, many of which have NO technical experience and learn to code alongside their Club members. If you would like to learn more, please sign up for the webinar [here](#). For all questions, check out the [FAQs](#) or email [Clubs@girlswhocode.com](mailto:Clubs@girlswhocode.com).

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

## Funding Opportunities

### CTE Innovation & Modernization Grant

The U.S. Department of Education is now accepting applications for the [Innovation & Modernization discretionary grant program](#). This program is designed to identify, support and rigorously evaluate evidence-based and innovative strategies and activities to improve and modernize career and technical education (CTE). Preference will be given to projects focused on STEM and computer science and those that prepare students for in demand careers in manufacturing and health care. Applications are due **June 14th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

### Free Books from IAN

The Illinois AfterSchool Network (IAN) has been selected to distribute brand new books to the afterschool and youth development field here in Illinois. IAN will release a request for proposals in the very near future. If you have questions, please contact Curtis Peace (IAN, Executive Director) at [ILafterschoolcp@gmail.com](mailto:ILafterschoolcp@gmail.com).

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

## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

#### Snapshot of STEM Education

A group of experts in STEM and education gathered to launch a “landscape analysis” resulting from information gathered from interviews with formal and informal educators, industry leaders, policy leaders, funders, and others to determine what is being done, and what still needs to be in done, in STEM education today. To read the report, [click here](#).

#### 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](#).

## 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](#).**