



Policy Updates

Summer Site Visits

Starting August 5th, members of Congress will return to their home districts to meet with constituents. Share the impact your program is making on the lives of young people to by setting up a [site visit](#)! Access ACT Now's [webinar recording](#) or [slide deck](#) for helpful tips on how to effectively communicate the need for afterschool programs. You can also utilize this [customizable template](#) in order to share information about your program with Contact [ACT Now](#) if you have questions or would like support with facilitating a site visit.

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

Trainings and Events

Webinar: ACEs & Substance Abuse

Identification of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) through screening and assessment is critical to addressing substance use. Through the use of complex and engaging movie protagonists and antagonists, and various media platforms, the webinar attendees will be challenged to identify who is at risk for substance use and will also be guided to an ACE score through an ACE questionnaire. This webinar will be held **July 24th at 12:00 p.m.** To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

National Geographic Explorer Classroom

Explorer Classroom connects afterschool programs around the world with National Geographic Explorers, bringing science, exploration, and conservation to life through live video events. Each month Explorer Classroom features a new theme and provides supporting resources for educators. To learn more about upcoming themes and opportunities, [click here](#).

NASA "Name the Rover" Contest

NASA is giving K-12 students in U.S. schools a chance to make history by naming the Mars 2020 rover. This contest will open to youth in the fall of 2019. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

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

Resources for Providers

Using Data to Strengthen Afterschool

Having a way to collect and share reliable data through formalized systems can help cities inform and strengthen their afterschool efforts. [This report](#) presents findings on how data systems were established, operated and used in eight U.S. cities.

History of Afterschool in America

The [How Kids Learn Foundation](#) has created a documentary on the history of afterschool programs in the United States since the 1800s. The film provides useful background to help stakeholders understand the historic need for these programs and how they have supported youth and communities through the decades. This [one-hour documentary](#) can be viewed for free on the How Kids Learn Foundation website.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Empathy Guide

Empathy is a critical social-emotional skill that motivates us to be more compassionate towards others. [This guide](#) provides insight on how to help youth in out-of-school time settings increase empathy.

Emotion Regulation Guide

Emotion regulation skills help adolescents improve relationships, achieve long-term physical and mental well-being, and perform better in school. Learn more about how to help youth regulate their emotions and behavior in a positive way by using [this helpful guide](#).

Smithsonian Game Center

The [Smithsonian Science Education Center](#) has several interactive online games that help youth reinforce science concepts. The games are tagged by grade level and aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. They also provide opportunities for youth to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills, which are important to science education.

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Summer Food, Summer Moves

Looking for enrichment activities for summer meal sites? Check out the USDA's [Summer Food, Summer Moves](#) toolkit to keep kids and families excited about healthy eating and staying active, even when school's not in session! Resources are available in English and in Spanish.

Outdoor Safety & Health Guide

The benefits of outdoor recreation are not only physical, but social, emotional and intellectual as well. However keeping youth and adults safe outdoors requires some special precautions. [Use this guide](#) to review the many steps you can take in advance to make any outdoor activity as safe and as fun as possible.

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!

