



## Policy Updates

### Summer Learning Week & Summer Meals

Summer isn't just about enrichment opportunities for kids, it's also about ensuring our most vulnerable youth have access to good nutrition. During this [National Summer Learning Week](#), we want to highlight the [Summer Learning and Meals Act](#), which is to be reintroduced by U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden of Oregon and U.S. Representative Joseph Morelle of New York's 25th District. The new legislation would create a new federal grant program that provides grants to state libraries to allow schools with summer lunch programs to also keep their libraries open for student use during the summer months. By dedicating one day specifically to nutrition and wellness (July 13th), the National Summer Learning Association draws attention to the fact that the inequities of summer also extend to food security.

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

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## Trainings and Events

### College Changes Everything Conference

Attend the ninth annual College Changes Everything® (CCE) conference – the state's premier college access and success event. This one day conference focuses on effective practices and showcases resources available to help with increasing access to post-secondary education, college

completion, and career readiness. This conference will take place on **July 18th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

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## Youth Opportunities

### Block City

Youth and their families are invited to join the Illinois Institute of Technology on **July 13th between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** for their annual LEGO city building event! The event is **free** and open to the public but you must [register](#) by July 12th and bring your completed [participation waiver form](#) on the day of the event.

### STEM Stars: Women in STEM

Join [mHub](#) for a girls-only day (ages 7-12) where young women will be provided hands-on opportunities to learn about laser cutting, 3D printing, and electronics, as well as hear from a variety of young women in STEM careers. There will also be a panel for parents/guardians to learn ways to pave a path of curiosity and exposure for young women in their lives. This event will take place **Saturday, July 13th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Chicago**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

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## Opportunities for Providers

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

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## Funding Opportunities

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

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## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

#### Illinois Career Guide

The Illinois State Board of Education has produced a 44-page [Career Guide](#) for the 2019-20 school year, meant to better educate students, parents, teachers and counselors on various career paths available to students right here in Illinois.

### Safety, Health, & Nutrition

#### Connect to End Homeless

This application was developed to help people experiencing homelessness find appropriate resources. If you or someone you know needs help, **text "CONNECT" to 773-786-9916**. A bot will ask questions and, when possible, recommend a phone number to call or address to go to.

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## Call for Resources

Newsletter July 9, 2019

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](#).**

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*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!*

A green rectangular button with a dark blue border. The word "DONATE" is written in white, uppercase letters, centered on the button. The text is underlined.