



Policy Updates

Blog: "Afterschool Deserts" in Illinois

Afterschool programs across our nation are doing incredible work and cover a wide array of services and outcomes. Yet the diversity in programming offerings can also make it difficult for program providers to define the value of their programs. In Illinois, Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now) sought to solve this problem by creating our [Illinois Afterschool Map and Database](#). Check out this [blog post](#) authored by ACT Now's Network Lead, Susan Stanton, to learn more about how ACT Now is using our database to identify "afterschool deserts" (i.e. areas of the state that have very few or no afterschool programs offered).

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

Trainings and Events

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Webinar: Youth Relationships

Search Institute is examining the state of young people's relationships and how those relationships affect who they are, the choices they make, and who they are becoming. In this **previously recorded webinar**, Search Institute examines how developmental relationships affect student motivation and key educational outcomes, including GPA. [Register here](#) to access the webinar recording.

Family & Community Partnerships

Webinar: Role of Families in Mentoring

Learning to effectively engage caregivers and other family members can lead to stronger and more positive mentoring experiences and outcomes for the youth we serve. [Register here](#) to access this **previously recorded webinar** for more information on the crucial role families play in mentoring relationships.

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Webinar: Serving Vegetables in CACFP

This webinar will focus on creative and appealing ways to offer vegetables at meals and snacks in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). This webinar will be held on **July 18th in both English and in**

Spanish. The **English** webinar will be held from **1:00 to 1:30 p.m.** and the **Spanish** webinar will be held from **2:00 to 2:30 p.m.** To register for the English webinar, [click here](#). To register for the Spanish webinar, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

PopUp Science (Homewood Science Center)

[PopUp Science](#) is the first program designed and executed by [Homewood Science Center](#) to provide FREE community-based, hands-on STEM learning opportunities, attracting people from all across the South Suburbs, and connecting them with diverse topics in STEM. *No registration required. Drop in for a few minutes or a few hours! All ages welcome!*

Pass With Flying Colors

Pass With Flying Colors is hosting summer programs to provide youth in 10th-12th grade with transitional summer programming, emphasizing the development of creativity, critical thinking, social awareness, and communication skills. All programs will be held at Intrinsic Schools in Chicago and are FREE for all participants. Spaces are limited, so if you know youth who would be interested, please have them complete this [interest form](#).

CPL Teen Summer Challenge

Teens are invited to celebrate the summer at Chicago Public Libraries with their Teen Summer Challenge, *We Are Chicago*. The [We Are Chicago bingo card](#) highlights all the connections youth can make at their local library. Youth can win prizes for participating, including books, bluetooth speakers, power banks, charging towers and Google Play gift cards.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Lights On Afterschool 2019

This October marks the **20th Lights On Afterschool celebration!** Tell the [Afterschool Alliance](#) how you plan to celebrate! When you [register your event](#) as an official Lights On Afterschool celebration, you'll receive an event starter kit, which includes 10 free posters to help you promote your event, and makes you eligible for cool prizes each week.

Great START Wage Supplement Program

Great START (Strategy to Attract and Retain Teachers) is a wage supplement program that rewards eligible early care and education and school-age care practitioners who have completed college coursework, and stay at their current place of employment. Great START recipients are sent a check every six months (based on continued eligibility) to supplement their income. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Adolescent Development Toolkit

[ACT for Youth's Adolescent Development Toolkit](#) presents selected resources that explain and describe adolescent development. Resources include guides, articles, fact sheets, videos, narrated presentations, and websites.

Citizen Science Toolkit

Citizen science is defined as the involvement of the general public in scientific research. Citizen science unites expertise from educators, scientists, data managers, and others to help speed innovation by sharing insights across disciplines.

The [California Academy of Sciences](#) developed [this Toolkit](#) to help integrate citizen science projects into classroom curricula or afterschool programming.

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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