

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On August 14, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting. You can find the board packet [here](#). The Board authorized the State Superintendent to approve the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) and to award a Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Grant in the amount of \$1.8 million in fiscal year 2020. The purpose of the SRAE program is to fund an entity to implement sexual risk avoidance education that teaches participants how to voluntarily refrain from non-marital sexual activity. There are currently no measurable behavioral outcomes reported to support the effectiveness of this program. The Board also heard a discussion on the YouthBuild Illinois Grant, as the Division of Regulatory Support and Wellness will request that the Board, during its September 2019 meeting, authorize the State Superintendent to award a YouthBuild Illinois grant in the amount of \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2020. This grant would allow YouthBuild Illinois to continue working with around 10 sub-awardees, as well as add an additional two new sites. These programs are designed to provide at-risk youth with education and development opportunities. **The Board will meet next on September 17, 2019. For more details, [click here](#).**

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

Trainings and Events

Webinar: IL-QPSA Sneak Peek!

ACT Now is facilitating a free introductory webinar on the [Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment Tool \(IL-QPSA\)](#). The IL-QPSA is a free, online strengths-based self-assessment tool that enables youth programs to rate their performance based on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards. The introductory webinar will provide you an overview of the IL Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards, the benefits of utilizing the IL-QPSA, and the steps to get started! (*NOTE: You are not making a commitment to utilize the IL-QPSA with your participation in the webinar. This is just a chance to have a "sneak peek."*) This webinar will be held on **September 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing free trainings on the [Illinois Statewide Quality Standards](#) in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. This is a great time to train new staff or refresh current staff on the Standards before starting the IL-QPSA!

Upcoming Trainings:

- **Chicago** September 25, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))
- **Bloomington** October 22, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register here](#))

Homewood Science Center Events

Homewood Science Center, just south of Chicago in downtown Homewood, is a non-profit organization with a great calendar of community STEAM events. There are events for [families](#), [youth](#), [program providers](#), and [adults](#). A few examples include the Pop-Up Science family learning workshops, a winter internship for youth, and South Suburban STEAM Network meetings for program providers. Check out the [event and program schedule!](#)

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

NBA Math Hoops

The [NBA Math Hoops](#) program harnesses the competitive fun of a board game in the culturally relevant context of the NBA in order to both develop the cognitive skills of basic arithmetic, decision-making, and visual analysis while simultaneously developing students' intrinsic interest in the real world application of math. [ACT Now](#) will be holding a workshop to teach program providers how they can implement NBA Math Hoops into their own programs. Participants will receive a free set of curriculum. This workshop will be held on **October 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the ACT Now offices in Chicago**. To register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Advocates Mentoring Opportunity

Do you know a 16 to 24 year old who is interested in engaging in a 10-month advocacy, policy, and grassroots organizing training program? Through the [Youth Advocates for Mentoring \(YAM\)](#) program, [MENTOR](#) will train young leaders on advocacy, policy, and grassroots organizing skills in order to create positive change in their communities and nation. 12 participants from six states (*including Illinois*) will be selected. Applications close on **September 18th at 10:59 P.M. (CDT)**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

LGBTQ+ Life Experiences Survey

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority worked with LGBTQ+ service providers and advocates to design a survey to better understand the victimization and help-seeking experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals. The results from [this survey](#) will help to inform policy and practice at both the local and state-level, as well as shape funding priorities at ICJIA. To participate, click here.

Community Schools Coordinators Appreciation Week Toolkit

Community school coordinators are individuals who do the amazing work of managing relationships between schools and external community partners including community-based organizations, businesses, health and human service agencies and institutions of higher education, among others. Join community schools across the nation **September 23 to 27, 2019** for [Coordinators Appreciation Week](#) to celebrate and lift up the amazing work community schools coordinators do to help youth and families thrive. [This toolkit](#) has everything you need to celebrate your Coordinators next month.

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

Funding Opportunities

Cloud Girls STEM Grants

In partnership with the Afterschool Alliance, Cloud Girls is offering funding to support high-quality STEM programming in afterschool programs. They will be offering nine mini grants of \$1,000 each to afterschool providers interested in providing STEM education focused on girls and young women aged 12 to 18 years old. Applications are due **September 6th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Illinois HEALS Grants

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is requesting proposals for support cross-system projects that improve the identification and coordination of care for children, youth, and families impacted by violence. The overarching vision for Illinois HEALS (Helping Everyone Access Linked Systems) is to alleviate the burden of finding services to address victimization by ensuring appropriate care and services are made available to all victims regardless of the door they first enter, whether it is a doctor's office, school, or local police station. Applications are due **September 16th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Guide to Building Relationships & Routines

[This guide](#) will support your work of building and establishing strong relationships with parents, youth, and other professionals. In addition, you will find 30 carefully selected games and activities to help afterschool programs succeed by creating a safe and supportive environment.

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

School, Family, & Community as Protective Factors

Past experiences of childhood maltreatment are common for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. This [research paper](#) identifies factors that educators, juvenile corrections officers, policymakers and others can intervene on to prevent youth who have experienced maltreatment from engaging in delinquency.

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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](#).