

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

Afterschool & The Census

A new U.S. census will begin in 2020. The census is a count of people living in the U.S. that is conducted every 10 years. It is critical that the census is accurate, as the results of the census are used to determine how over \$900 billion of federal spending will be allocated for the subsequent 10 years. Millions of U.S. children and youth rely on this federal support to attend afterschool and summer learning programs. The [Afterschool Alliance](#) has created a [toolkit](#) to help afterschool programs, staff, and youth insure that every member of their community is counted.

State Updates

Perkins CTE Listening Tour

The federal reauthorization of Perkins V was signed into law by the President on July 31, 2018. The purpose of this Act is to develop more fully the academic knowledge and technical and employability skills. Perkins V requires secondary, postsecondary and business/industry to work together to strengthen career and technical education for students.

Illinois will need to submit a Perkins V 4-year state plan in April 2020. Prior to the finalizing the state plan, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) will be holding regional events to share the state's draft Perkins V Plan. Please consider participating in one of the four listening sessions as the state explores and explains the draft Perkins V Plan. See below for dates or [click here](#) for more information.

- **October 7, 2019:** 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Buffalo Grove, IL
- **October 10, 2019:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Romeoville, IL
- **October 23, 2019:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Decatur, IL

- **October 24, 2019:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, Centralia, IL
- **October 25, 2019:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, Chicago, IL

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

Trainings and Events

LOA 2019 Planning Webinar

Join ACT Now to learn about planning and preparing for a Lights On Afterschool (LOA) event, as well as how to utilize our [LOA Toolkit](#). This webinar will take place on **October 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#). *Note: Participants will be eligible for [Gateways Registry](#) credit.*

Join an IL-QPSA Cohort

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) is an online strengths-based self-assessment tool that allows individual out-of-school time (OST) providers the opportunity to assess their performance based on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards. Joining a cohort provides you with free one-on-one technical assistance along with free tools such as a data dashboard, automated surveys, and both site and agency-wide reports. For more information or to register for a cohort, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Mentoring To & Through College

Join [MENTOR](#) on **September 19th at 12:00 p.m.** for a webinar that will discuss the ways mentoring programs and mentors can support youth as they transition to and through college. To register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Advocates for Mentoring

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

LOA 2019 Site Visit Support

Policymakers at every level of government are critical allies in expanding the resources available to support afterschool programs. Consider inviting them to your Lights On Afterschool (LOA) event, or host a site visit anytime during the month of October to celebrate LOA! Interested in facilitating a site visit for Lights On Afterschool (LOA) 2019? ACT Now is here to support you every step of the way! [Tell us about your program here](#) and we will contact you to find ways we can assist in facilitating a site visit!

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

Funding Opportunities

NextWaveSTEM Grants

[NextWaveSTEM](#) is offering grants to bring its hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to more Illinois youth than ever. These grants will support 50 schools in accessing NextWaveSTEM programs through curriculum, teacher training, and equipment to start STEM in-school or afterschool programs. Applications are being accepted on an **ongoing** basis. To learn more, [click here](#).

Youth Changing the World Grants

[Youth Service America](#) will award grants of up to \$500 each to support youth-led service or service-learning in afterschool programs. Applications will be accepted through **Friday, October 4th at 11:59 p.m.** For more information, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

The Fundraising Cycle

Raising the necessary funds to operate your afterschool program can often be one of the most challenging parts of your work day. A fundraising step-by-step guide can help. [The fundraising cycle](#) consists of five steps that, when implemented into your development efforts, will help you focus and increase your chances for a gift.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Supporting the Whole Child

Recent research in neuroscience, developmental sciences, education, sociology, and many other fields confirms that a “whole child” approach is not only desirable but necessary to ensure that children learn well. The [Learning Policy Institute](#) identified four key pieces of the whole child approach. To learn more, [click here](#).

Exploring Youth Purpose

Mentors have a unique opportunity to help youth find meaning, a sense of self, and ways of giving back to their world. [MENTOR](#)'s new resource, [a guide to exploring purpose](#), is a how-to guide that includes directive tips and worksheets to help adults and young people understand and explore purpose together.

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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](#).

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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