

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

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

Trainings and Events

LOA 2019 Pumpkin Carving Happy Hour

Every year we celebrate **Lights On Afterschool (LOA)** to highlight the programs that keep the lights on for youth after the school days ends. **This year is the 20th anniversary of LOA and we are celebrating by lighting up our jack-o-lanterns at our pumpkin carving event on October 17th from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Chicago!** Come help us *shine a light* on the need for afterschool in Illinois! The evening will include happy hour specials, tools for pumpkin carving/decorating, as well as voting and a prize for best pumpkin! For more information or to buy tickets, [click here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Be Heard

[Youth Be Heard](#) (YBH) is an online platform for youth to share their voices, stories, and art. Because all content and comments are monitored before publishing, YBH is a safe place for youth to take creative risks, experience the editing process, and exchange thoughts and experiences with people from different backgrounds.

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. Interested in facilitating a site visit for Lights On Afterschool (LOA) 2019? ACT Now is here to support you! [Tell us about your upcoming event 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

New GATA Audit Requirements

A reminder that new guidance has been posted to help grantees complete and comply with GATA requirements for FY 2019. A brief webinar and instructions are available under the “What’s New?” tab at isbe.net/gata. All entities that receive grant funding from the Illinois State Board of Education should review this information and share it with their audit firms. Please contact the ISBE GATA Division at (217) 782-5630 or via email at gata@isbe.net if you have any questions.

Children's Obesity Fund

The [Children's Obesity Fund](#) seeks to educate parents and children about the rising obesity rates in America, reverse the statistics and dangerous trends, and help prevent the next generation from continuing down this alarmingly unhealthy road. The fund would like to support non-profit organizations who share the goal of eliminating the epidemic of childhood obesity. The deadline to apply is **ongoing**.

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

Resources for Providers

Afterschool Alliance: Afterschool Toolbox

A [comprehensive set of tools](#) to assist programs in learning to build support in their community, reach policy makers, engage the media, and find sustainable sources of funding.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

AccessSTEM Resources

[These resources](#) will help create an environment that maximizes the learning of all students and increase the participation of people with disabilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields.

Open-Source Science Curriculum

[OpenSciEd](#) offers high-quality, open-source, full-course science instructional materials that supporting the implementation of middle school science instructional units.

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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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