

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

The Afterschool Archive *An Out-of-School Time Blog*

Advocating for Afterschool at Your LOA Event

By: Hana Robben

Lights On Afterschool is here! Every year, the nationwide recognition of the importance of afterschool is celebrated during the month of October. Lights On Afterschool (LOA) is meant to show how afterschool programs change children, families, and communities for the better. This month, show off your afterschool program to your community, organizers, and legislators! Check out [these tips](#) on how to spread the word and gain support for afterschool.

For more articles from the Afterschool Archive, [click here](#).

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

Public Charge Rule Temporarily Blocked

On October 11, 2019, three federal courts blocked the Department of Homeland Security's new public charge rule that was set to go into effect on

October 15th. If implemented, the new public charge rule will set new standards for obtaining permanent residency and U.S. citizenship in order to limit immigration from those who might participate in taxpayer-funded benefits. It is possible that these federal orders will be appealed, however, the new rule is blocked for the foreseeable future until the corresponding lawsuits are decided.

Proclamation on Uninsured Immigrants

President Donald Trump issued a [proclamation](#) on October 4, 2019 that requires immigrants to prove they can obtain health insurance before they are issued a visa. Immigrants must now show that they will obtain health insurance within 30 days of their arrival in the US or otherwise demonstrate that they will be able to pay for their medical expenses. The new rule applies to people seeking immigrant visas from abroad — not those in the U.S. already. Additionally, it does not apply to asylum seekers, refugees or children. For more information, [click here](#).

State Updates

ISBE Budget Hearings

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is hosting public hearings this fall to gather requests to inform their fiscal year 2021 budget recommendations. ACT Now developed [draft testimony](#) that providers are welcome to pull from when developing their own testimonies. All individuals – including those attending a hearing in person – should submit their comments and stories by completing the [online budget request form](#). Instructions for filling out the budget request form with asks from ACT Now's draft testimony can be [found here](#). Dates, times, and locations of the hearings can be found on [ACT Now's homepage](#).

Perkins V CTE Listening Tour

The reauthorization of Perkins V requires secondary, postsecondary and business/industry to work together to strengthen career and technical education (CTE) 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 and the Illinois Community College Board will be holding regional events to share the state's draft Perkins V Plan. Please consider participating in one of the listening sessions as the state explores and explains the draft Perkins V Plan. ACT Now developed draft comments that

can be [found here](#). See below for upcoming dates or [click here](#) for more information.

- **October 23rd:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, Decatur, IL
- **October 24th:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, Centralia, IL
- **October 25th:** 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m, Chicago, IL

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

Trainings and Events

UPDATE: Community Schools Meetings

ACT Now has begun holding our 2019-2020 meetings for community school providers to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now in the Community Schools space. ACT Now has added an additional Chicago-Suburbs meeting which will be held in **Evanston on November 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#). See [ACT Now's homepage](#) for a statewide list of meeting topics, dates, and locations.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Webinar: Youth with Disabilities in Community Schools

As part of the Community Schools Research Practice Network Series, experts are coming together to address the population status of youth with disabilities in community schools and to share effective practices in preparing youth with disabilities for transitions in community schools. This webinar will be held on **October 23rd from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Webinar: STEM Equity & Identity

Join ACT Now on **October 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** to learn about how to ensure there are equitable STEM opportunities for all youth and the importance of developing a STEM identity in youth. This webinar will include presentations from Girls Who Code, CIS STEMpathy, NextWaveSTEM, and the YWCA. To register, [click here](#).

Fermilab STEM Workshop

Fermilab, managed by the Fermi Research Alliance LLC for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science, will provide a STEM workshop for afterschool program providers on **November 13th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Capital Area Career Center in Springfield, IL**. Fermilab's workshop will provide K–12 afterschool program providers with proven activities and strategies for teaching challenging STEM topics in an engaging way. Fermilab programs are designed and taught by master teachers, and have been updated to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

World of 7 Billion Contest

The World of 7 Billion student video contest challenges students to create a short video connecting world population growth to one of three global challenges: Sustaining Water Systems, Ensuring Economic Opportunities, and Improving Climate Resiliency. 80+ cash prizes will be awarded, and participating educators will receive free curriculum resources. The deadline for submissions is **February 27, 2020**. Full contest guidelines, resources for research, and more can be found [here](#).

Code Nation Workshops

Code Nation will be offering its Introduction to Web Development Course as a **FREE** weekend workshop series, open to Chicago high-school sophomores and juniors. This course will take place over 5 weekends at some of the city's most exciting tech companies. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

2019 Afterschool Development Conference

Join the All Stars Project of Chicago as they engage in dialogue, explore ideas and strategies, and collaborate on how to advance the afterschool movement in Chicago and nationally. The conference will be held on **November 15th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** For more information, [click here](#).

Holiday Cards for Our Military

The Holiday Cards for Our Military Challenge has collected and delivered personalized, signed expressions of respect and gratitude to deployed U.S. troops since 2017. The Holiday Cards for Our Military Challenge can be a great writing prompt for students. The organization offers [information and supports](#) for schools on its website. If your class or school would like to participate, the deadline to submit holiday cards is **October 31st**. *Send completed cards directly to Dr. Laura Landerman-Garber, c/o Holiday Cards 4 Our Military, 400 Amherst Street Suite #407, Nashua, NH 03063.*

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

Resources for Robotics Education

Robotics education is gaining steam in programs across the nation, and for good reason—it's engaging, hands-on, and students learn real-world concepts as they solve challenges. As K-12 robotics education grows, so do the quality resources for providers to strengthen their own robotics skills and transfer that knowledge to youth. For a list of robotics education resources, [click here](#).

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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](#).