

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

Stopgap Funding Update

With only a few days to spare, Congress and President Trump agreed on a stopgap spending bill to avoid a government shutdown. Meanwhile, Senate appropriators continue to work on FY20 spending bills to fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year. This means Congress has not yet set 21st Century Community Learning Centers' funding levels for FY21. However, this is a forward funded program, so this year's funding level is secure. To learn more, [click here](#).

2020 Presidential Candidates

This [interactive Education Week tracker](#) gives you one-click access to where the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates stand on nearly a dozen major education topics including school safety, civil rights, teacher pay, charter schools, education funding, and more, along with biographical details on each of those seeking the White House. You can search either by topic or candidate. This [tracker](#) will be updated throughout the campaign based on what the candidates say and do.

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

Trainings and Events

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

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](#).

Introducing Robots in STEM Learning

Join NextWaveSTEM to build a foundational knowledge of how robotics can help students to deepen their understanding of STEM and the world around them. The workshop includes an orientation to the mBot robot and mBlockly software; training on pedagogical strategies; suggestions for making robotics relevant across a variety of curricular areas; and a supported, collaborative planning session in which providers work together to develop practical plans to implement learning with robots in their schools. This workshop will be held on **October 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Chicago**. To learn more or to register, [click here](#). (*Note: This is a fee-based workshop.*)

Principles of Trauma-Informed Care in OST

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network to learn how to implement the five core principles of trauma-informed care in the afterschool setting. The training will be held on **October 12th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Rockford**. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call **217-953-4620** for more information or to register. (*Note: This training costs \$10 per person.*)

Introducing 3D Printers in STEM Learning

Join NextWaveSTEM to build foundational knowledge of how 3D printers can help youth deepen their understanding of STEM and the world around them. The workshop includes an orientation to 3D printers and the corresponding software; training on pedagogical strategies; suggestions for making 3D printers relevant across a variety of curricular areas; and a supported, collaborative planning session in which providers work together to develop practical plans to implement learning with 3D printers in their schools. This workshop will be held on **October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Chicago**. To learn more or to register, [click here](#). (*Note: This is a fee-based workshop.*)

Guiding Youth Behavior in OST

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network for an interactive workshop session where you will learn about developing positive and preventative strategies to effectively guide and facilitate children and youth's behavior. This workshop will be held on **October 24th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Carbondale**. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call **217-**

953-4620 for more information or to register. (*Note: This workshop costs \$5 per person.*)

Restorative Justice 101

Join the Illinois AfterSchool Network for an interactive workshop that examines the foundations of restorative justice for youth and the strategies associated with the approach. This workshop will be held on **October 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Chicago**. Please email Sharroyn Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call **217-953-4620** for more information or to register. (*Note: This workshop costs \$10 per person.*)

STEM Professional Development Cohorts

The Illinois AfterSchool Network and the ACRES project are teaming up to offer you high-quality, interactive professional development from your home or from your office. The heart of the ACRES model involves afterschool educators, like you, coming together virtually to share experiences of their own interactions with youth. Small groups of educators connect via Zoom to do hands-on activities, then regularly capture their own work with youth, and discuss videos with peers and an experienced coach during virtual coaching sessions. There are sessions starting this fall and again in January. For more information, [click here](#). To register for a cohort please contact acres@mmsa.org.

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

Youth Opportunities

Matchbox Replicas for Girls

Tackling the issue of gender stereotypes, Mercedes-Benz will give thousands of girls across the USA a die-cast Matchbox replica of the Mercedes-Benz 220SE commemorating [Ewy Rosqvist's historic Argentinian Grand Prix performance](#) on November 4, 1962. The toy cars will be gifted to thousands of young girls through the National Girls Collaborative Project's [Request for Applications](#). Girl-serving programs and their partners are invited to apply to receive cars for use in their ongoing programs, for a special event, or to replicate the activities shown in the [No Limits video](#). Applications are due **October 10th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

Homeless Youth NOFO

The Illinois Department of Human Services is requesting applications to fund projects that will provide services to individual homeless youth designed to increase their safety, well-being, and self-sufficiency. **Applications are due October 24th.** For more information, [click here](#).

Grants for Gardens

Annie's Homegrown, Inc. is funding schools and non-profit organizations focused on education to build edible gardens in schools. Funds can be used to create new gardens or to support and expand existing ones. **Applications are due November 1st.** For more information, [click here](#).

After School Advantage Program

The After School Advantage program is IGT's flagship community initiative, devoted to providing young people with access to technology in a safe, nurturing afterschool environment, while promoting opportunities in digital learning centers in communities where the Company operates. Proposals are accepted and reviewed on a **rolling basis**. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

STEM Equity Evaluation Rubric

[This rubric](#) is designed to help program providers, administrators, designers, and funders identify the critical attributes of a STEM program to determine the degree to which it is inclusive and supports access and success for students who historically have not engaged in STEM.

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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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