

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Appropriations Update: Afterschool Funding Increased!

House and Senate appropriators reached an agreement on final subcommittee allocations to avert a shutdown and fund the government. The final bi-partisan bill language specifying funding levels for all government programs provides \$1.25 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This brings afterschool funding to an all-time high and is a testament to the strong 21st Century programs across our nation. Title IV Full Service Community Schools received \$25 million, an increase of \$8 million, to provide comprehensive services and expand evidence-based models that meet the holistic needs of children, families, and communities. For more information, click [here](#).

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

The Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting on December 18, 2019. To read the Board packet, click [here](#). The Board heard public comments about the teacher shortage, arts education, and early childhood education funding. The majority of the Board meeting focused on the economic forecast for the next fiscal year and budget recommendations. The budget recommendations are still in draft form. The Board will vote on the recommendations at its January meeting. The Budget did include \$20 million for afterschool programs; however, it seems like this funding will continue to function like the Healthy Communities Investment Grants programs where an overwhelming majority of this funding does not go to afterschool programming. The budget recommendation did not include funding for community schools; however, the budget did include \$10 million for Community Partnerships for Student Health and Well-Being. School districts can use this funding to

develop a districtwide wellness plan that encompasses training, establish partnerships with local health and substance abuse providers, and secures access to resources and supports for students, educators, and the community. The goal of the multi-faceted, targeted approach is to develop and support a comprehensive model of wrap-around services, supports, opportunities, and programs that helps entire families and serves to strengthen communities. The Board's [next meeting is January 15, 2020](#).

CCAP Increased Rate

Effective January 1, 2020, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) is increasing the maximum child care payment rates for providers. The new child care rates are listed [here](#). If you have any questions about this notice, contact your Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency.

The City of Chicago's Nonprofit Lobbying Law: Delayed until April 2020!

In June 2019, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the City Council made important changes to the City's lobbying law. These changes included requiring both paid staffers and outside professionals paid to lobby on behalf of nonprofits, grant makers, and other 501(c)(3) organizations to register with the Board of Ethics as lobbyists. Individuals who are unpaid by those organizations would be exempt from registering. Due to the overwhelming response from the nonprofit sector, the law's enactment will be postponed until April of 2020.

NSLA Releases Guidance for 2020 Candidates on Summer Programs

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) has released guidance for 2020 candidates on the importance of summer learning. The document makes the case for summer programs and policy suggestions for how to expand this programming. To access the document, click [here](#).

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

Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

Don't forget to join us for our upcoming Community School Networking and Training Events! Each meeting provides an opportunity to hear policy updates from ACT Now, hear from a speaker on topics voted on by the group, and time to workshop ideas with your peers. See details below.

Downstate—January 28, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Building Partnerships
- **Speakers:** Joie Frankovich, WeGo Together for Kids of West Chicago
- **Location:** Wanless Building, 2120 E Reservoir St., Springfield, IL
- Register [here](#)

Suburbs—February 7, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Effective Messaging
- **Speakers:** Susan Stanton, ACT Now
- **Location:** Skokie District Office, 5050 Madison St., Skokie IL
- Register [here](#)

Chicago—February 20, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Trauma Informed Care
- **Speakers:** Illinois Collaboration on Youth
- **Location:** National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W 19th St., Chicago, IL
- Register [here](#)

Trainings and Events

Youth Development, Programming, and Activities

ACT Now SEL Webinar on Social Awareness

Join ACT Now for our upcoming Social Emotional Learning (SEL) webinar series! The second webinar will cover **social awareness**. This webinar will be held on **January 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** with guest

speakers Susan Stanton (ACT Now), Bryan Kelly (Skokie District 69), Sarah Rankin (Skokie District 69), Susan Castrogiovani (DREAM West Chicago), and Enrique Alvarez (Central States SER). In addition to the webinar, ACT Now will be sharing our *Social Emotional Learning in Afterschool* guidebook! Register [here](#).

Nature Museum Educator Conference

The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum will hold a conference for educators on Systems in Nature on Saturday, **January 25, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** The conference includes breakfast and lunch. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

Street Intervention Programs

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority announced a funding opportunity to expand and enhance street intervention programs that interrupt and prevent cycles of violence that harm Illinois families and communities. About \$1.9 million in state funding is available to nonprofit organizations and government entities that operate a street intervention program outside Chicago. Funds may be used to enhance an existing street intervention program (provide additional services) or to expand an existing street intervention program (serve more high-risk community members). To view the Notice of Funding Opportunity and additional details, click [here](#).

ISBE Afterschool Programs Grant Released

The FY2020 After School Programs Non-School District grant is now open to applicants. View the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)/ Request for Proposals (RFP) for fiscal year 2020 [here](#). Proposals are due to ISBE no later than 12:00 p.m. January 27, 2020. ISBE's Wellness Department held a webinar discussing the grant on January 6, 2020 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please contact Connie Denney at cdenney@isbe.net with any questions.

IDNR Accepting Applications for Park and Recreation Facility Construction Grants

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is accepting applications through January 21, 2020 for the state's Park and Recreational Facility Construction (PARC) Grant Program. The program will provide grants to eligible local governments for acquisition, development, construction, rehabilitation or other capital improvements to park and recreation facilities in Illinois. For more information, details on program eligibility, and other program regulations, click [here](#). For questions, contact the IDNR Office of Grant Management and Administration, phone 217/782-7481, or by e-mail DNR.Grants@Illinois.gov. To view the Notice of Funding Opportunity, visit <https://bit.ly/2Q2eOhs>.

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, [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 Emma

Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at
Spencere@actnowillinois.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](#).