

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Level

USCIS Announces Effective Date for Public Charge Rule

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court set aside the initial injunction from New York (NY) that prohibited the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) public charge rule from taking effect nationwide. As NY was the final of three district court nationwide injunctions standing, this means the rule can go into effect nationwide – except in Illinois, where it is blocked by a statewide injunction. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency (USCIS) announced that it **will only apply the Final Rule to applications and petitions submitted on or after February 24, 2020** (except for in the State of Illinois). For more information, 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.

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, Events and Webinars

Professional Development and Qualifications

ACT Now 2020 Winter/Spring Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing **FREE** in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. The trainings will: provide participants with a background in the Standards; assist providers in creating a plan for implementing Standards; and help to develop strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives. The trainings dates for 2020 are listed below.

Homewood—February 12, 2020

- **Location:** Homewood Science Center, 18022 Dixie Hwy, Homewood IL 60430
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Springfield—March 19, 2020

- **Location:** Capital Area Career Center, Toronto Rd, Springfield IL 62712
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Chicago—April 23, 2020

- **Location:** YMCA Learning Institute, 1030 W. Van Buren St., Chicago IL 60607

- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

IAN 2020 Spring Conference

The Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) is holding its 34th Annual Spring Conference on **Saturday, March 28, 2020** in Bloomington, Illinois. Speakers will present on topics including: SEL, Restorative Justice, Cosmetic STEM, Trauma-Informed Practices, and Physical/Nutrition Education. The pre-conference sessions start on **Friday, March 27, 2020**. Sessions are geared towards Teen Reach providers and First Time Supervisors. ACT Now will hold a call to action breakfast at the conference and a pre-conference session. For more information on the event, click [here](#). The **deadline for registering is Monday, March 9, 2020**. Click [here](#) to do so.

The Conference will also be giving awards to partner organizations. To submit award nominations, click [here](#). For PDF nomination forms, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Please note that the conference will take place at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington. For block room prices, please call (309) 664-6446.

Family and Community Partnerships

ACT Now Training: Creating A Systematic Approach to Family Engagement

Based upon data collected from the Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment and the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards, ACT Now will be holding an immersive training to improve family engagement in out-of-school time. Participants will dive into the layers family engagement, develop a model of evaluation, and through peer-to-peer learning, craft a systematic strategy to foster high-quality and evidence-based family engagement. The training will occur on **March 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** To register, click [here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

ACT Now STEM Webinar: Developing STEM Projects

ACT Now is hosting another series of 4 STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. Our next webinar is focused on **Developing STEM Projects** and will occur on **February 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** You can register for the webinar [here](#). Our final webinar of the year will be on **STEM and the Workforce** on **April 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Education Week Online Summit: What to Teach Today to Prepare Students for Tomorrow's Workplace

Education Week is holding an online summit to discuss the key skills employers are looking for in students seeking career experiences, as well to address the tension between traditional academics and businesses' demands. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about best practices and pose questions to an array of journalists and experts. This event will take place on **Wednesday, February 26, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.** For more information, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Webinar: Opportunities to Promote Healthy Development and Well-being for Children and Youth

In 2018, the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine](#), along with the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#) and the [Wallace Foundation](#), created a committee to study and report on the state of the sciences. Members also researched how **summertime experiences affect school-aged students across the sectors of education, health, and safety**. In 2019, the [report](#) gave legislators, educators and organizations a number of recommendations. This webinar will discuss the recommendations and what actions can be taken. The webinar will be held on **Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** To register, click [here](#).

BellXcell Webinar: Transforming Teacher Practice – The Promise of Summer Learning for Job-Embedded SEL Development

Research shows that adults learn best when they are able to test and apply new techniques in real-world environments. Summer gives many teachers the opportunity to engage in such experiences and try new approaches. In this webinar, BellXcel will explore how to leverage summer environments to advance teacher development and SEL skills. The webinar will take place on **Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.** To register, click [here](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

National Summer Learning Association: Climate Change Leadership Group

In collaboration with the National Summer Learning Association, the San Diego Unified School District has begun an initiative to encourage youth to identify ways they are changing their local community's responses to climate change. Students will share their ideas for Climate Action ([SDG 13](#)) and ask others to follow San Diego Mayor Faulconer's Climate [Action Plan](#) via one 30 second video. The competition is **open now** to students in Elementary, Middle and High School. Video submissions are due on **Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22, 2020**. For more information, click [here](#). To join the Climate Change Leadership Group, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Two Exciting Leadership Positions

The youth-focused non-profit [Chicago Freedom School](#) and social justice organization [Affinity Community Services](#), are looking to find their next Executive Director. **Please click the links above** to access the detailed position descriptions as well as how to apply. The Chicago Freedom School and Affinity Community Services will be accepting applications until their positions are filled. Best consideration will be given to applicants that apply by **Friday, February 21, 2020 (Chicago Freedom School) and Monday, March 2, 2020 (Affinity Community Services)**.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Office: My CHI. My Future.

The **My CHI. My Future.** initiative is calling for partner providers to submit and upload Summer 2020 programming information [here](#) in order to create a database for youth, families, and interested participants. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

The Connector: Integrating Wellness into STEM Education

In collaboration with Healthier Generation's new Eating Healthy at Home campaign, The Connector is highlighting five key activities to encourage picky eaters of all ages to try new and nutritious foods – all with a STEM twist.

1. **“I tried It” Chart:** Support food preferences while building critical thinking skills. Choose 2-3 types of vegetables or prepare one multiple ways (e.g., raw vs. steamed). Try the veggie plain and rank how much it was enjoyed using emojis or stickers. Add dips and sauces too!
2. **Make Trying (and Retrying) Fun:** As you introduce a new item to a child's diet, add a hands-on counting twist. Label bowls with numbers and ask the child to put the correct amount into the corresponding bowl.
3. **Wild Names for New Foods:** There are creative ways to experiment with food preferences, such as pairing a new or disliked food with an ingredient, animal or insect a child enjoys. Does your student dislike peas? Try pairing peas with pasta and giving the dish an exotic name like Beetle Pasta.
4. **Delicious Science:** Discuss the science of blending, boiling, baking, and other food prep options and how it changes a child's preference. Click [here](#) for more ideas.
5. **Apple Math Taste Test:** Choose 3-4 varieties of apples. Make predictions together on the weight and measurements of each apple. For a literacy “add on”, read [Apple Fractions](#).

For more of Healthier Generation's resources, click [here](#).

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

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[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!

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](#).

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