

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

### Federal Level

#### President Trump's FY2021 Budget: Proposed Elimination of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs)

Today, the President released his proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021 with the intention of eliminating funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) programs. This means that going forward, approximately 1.7 million youth and their families nationwide will no longer have access to quality afterschool and summer programming. Legislators in Congress have the power to decide whether or not local programs will continue providing vital services to young folks or if they will close their doors and negatively impact our youth. ACT Now Coalition and its partner networks in the 50 states urge you to advocate for the reinstatement of 21st CCLC funding. **To take action**, click [here](#). **To read the AfterSchool Alliance's statement on the issue**, click [here](#). **To review their blog summary of the President's proposal**, 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.

**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.*

### **ACT Now's Trivia Night: Bloomington**

ACT Now is hosting our Trivia Night in Bloomington, IL on **Friday, March 27, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Join us the **evening before the Illinois AfterSchool Network Conference** for a night of fun and friendly competition to benefit afterschool advocacy! Participate in this team-building event and network with other members of the field over trivia, raffle, prizes, and free Hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 per person. Cash Bar. To attend, please click [here](#) to buy your ticket!

## **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**

### **Girls Who Code Webinar: Reaching Gender Equity - Teaching Girls to Code and Change the World**

In collaboration with Girls Who Code, ACT Now is hosting a new webinar that focuses on inspiring and equipping girls with the skills to become leaders in the technology industry. We will be featuring [Girls Who Code Clubs](#), which are completely **free afterschool programs for 6th to 12th grade girls** to join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models and use computer science to change the world. Through fun and interactive curricula, Club girls not only learn about how to positively impact their community through code, but they also are taught to be brave and resilient -- which has enormous impact on how they approach challenges and whether they stick with computer science and coding. Join us on **March 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** To register, click [here](#).

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

## **Youth Opportunities**

*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**

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

# Resources for Providers

## Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

### Earth Day Network: Resources

Earth Day Network and the ACT Now Coalition have formed a partnership in order to promote education on environmental issues affecting our communities here in Illinois, within the United States, and around the world. This year, **Earth Day falls on Wednesday, April 22, 2020**. Be sure to check out the [Earth Day Education Toolkit](#) for more information on how your organization can engage on Earth Day, and for sample social media posts. For **FREE environmental education resources**, click [here](#). To see **featured Earth Day activities** from around the globe, and to register your own events, click [here](#).

### Free STEM Materials

In an effort to make STEM more interesting, dynamic and youth-friendly, the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites - R Series (GOER-R) Program is offering **FREE educational materials** for organizations or service providers that have STEM-focused programming. Click [here](#) to fill out the materials request form. Resources include stickers, bookmarks, and temporary tattoos! For additional digital materials, check out their [Education Resources page](#).

### National Girls Collaborative Project: African American History Month

In recognition of African American History Month, the National Girls Collaborative Project has compiled resources that serve to promote African American students in STEM:

- **Black Girls Code** is designed to [increase the number of young women of color in the field of digital and computer technology](#) by providing skills, exposing them to technology role models, and increasing self-confidence to become tech creators and entrepreneurs.
- **The Black Inventor Online Museum** focuses on the ingenuity and accomplishments of the top black inventors over the last 300 years in a detailed exhibition. There is a specific section [dedicated to female inventors](#).
- **Science NetLinks** has developed [a number of materials](#) that honor the achievements and scientific work of African Americans.
- **Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK)** is a program designed to expose black youth to STEM fields. SEEK utilizes student mentors, the

majority of whom are black and majoring in STEM fields. [The 2020 dates and locations are now available.](#)

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

## Were you forwarded this email?

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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](mailto: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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