

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Note to ACT Now Members

ACT Now would like to acknowledge the challenges many of our youth, families, colleagues, and communities are facing with the outbreak of COVID-19. We would also like to thank all our partners for their hard work in responding to the pandemic as things continue to change daily.

ACT Now will continue support you all by sharing resources and materials relating to COVID-19, and other issues such as grants and policy updates. We are available for questions and concerns remotely. Please contact our **Network Lead, Susan**

Stanton: at stantons@actnowillinois.org or our **Youth Development Associate, Emma Spencer:** at spencere@actnowillinois.org.

COVID-19

Federal Policy Updates

H.R. 6201: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

On **March 14, 2020**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act in order to provide paid sick leave and free coronavirus testing, expanding food assistance and unemployment benefits, and requiring employers to provide additional protections for healthcare workers. The Act will move to the U.S. Senate for review and actions. For more information on it, click [here](#).

State Policy Updates

Illinois Department of Human Services: COVID-19 Updates

Last week, the Illinois Department of Human Resources (IDHS) **sent guidance** regarding COVID-19 to service providers and organizations in order to inform everyone on the issue. On **March 16, 2020**, IDHS released an update on budget principles to provide reassurance to programs funded by the agency:

Programs will not be financially penalized if they slow or stop services during this emergency. Community-based human service providers will be held harmless and kept whole as operations are diminished or temporarily suspended during this national and state emergency.

- **Staff who work for your organizations should continue to be paid.**
- **Likewise, organizations taking on increased public responsibility during this time may receive additional funding commensurate with the temporary reorganization of services.** On a limited basis, going forward, existing contracts may be amended to account for increasing needs for services on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your program liaisons for more information.

IDHS encourages those with questions to contact their program liaisons, or email the agency at dhs.stakeholder@illinois.gov with concerns. You can also find **past communications here** that have gone out to providers. *Additional information is available from the Illinois Department of Public Health at their [Coronavirus-2019 website](#) and the **COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-889-3931**.*

State of Illinois and City of Chicago Issued a Series of Ordinances to Minimize COVID-19 Spread

On **March 12, 2020**, the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago issued an ordinance to residents regarding COVID-19 and prevention strategies to be taken by state and local governments, as well as service providers, families, youth, communities, and healthcare personnel. Governor Pritzker referenced keeping up to date on the latest news, strategies, and guidelines to combat COVID-19 by using the Illinois Department of Public Health's (IDPH) website. To access this information, click [here](#). Translated resources are also available.

Illinois State Board of Education COVID-19 Response: 21st CCLC Grant Resource

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has created an email address to respond to inquiries regarding grantees and including 21st CCLC issues. The email is COVID19@isbe.net. If you have any concerns or questions about your 21st CCLC grant in the current pandemic, please send them to this email address immediately.

Additional Resources

Afterschool Alliance: COVID-19 Updates and Resources

Afterschool Alliance has compiled several in-depth resources in order to support providers, parents, youth, and communities navigate challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 outbreak:

- The [Afterschool Alliance Monitoring COVID-19 Webpage](#) shares accurate and valuable information about the virus from the CDC and other reputable organizations, updates from state and federal government, and examples of guidance for out-of-school programs.
- The [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) has created a website to help providers understand the protocols (in states that have received approval for waivers) allowing programs to serve meals in non-congregate settings and at school sites during coronavirus related closures.
- **Comcast** is offering qualifying students and families **60 days of FREE internet** via its [Comcast Internet Essentials](#) program. This is an effort to help communities obtain vital online resources while their youth are out of school.
- [Child Mind Institute](#), [National Association of School Psychologists](#), [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#), and [Kids Health](#) have all released guidelines, strategies, and language to use when speaking to children about the COVID-19 outbreak.
- Parents, community members, and other community based organizations likely have lots of questions about COVID-19. The Washington Department of Health has released a [fact sheet translated into several different languages](#).

- As school districts close and students are asked to stay home, there are ways to continue to engage your youth through **virtual lessons**. [The American Federation of Teachers](#) has created a page devoted to creative virtual activities.

My CHI. My Future.: COVID-19 Contingency Planning Survey

My CHI. My Future. is asking members of the My CHI. Community to take a few minutes and fill out its [survey](#) to understand the resources being offered to families with K-12 students that are unable to accommodate the recommendation of keeping youth home during the day. The Mayor's Office asks for participants to also share ideas that you might have about how to keep our youth safe and healthy during this difficult time.

The National Summer Learning Association: COVID-19 Resources

The National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) has compiled several resources for families and students, as well as service providers, to use during this unprecedented time where youth across the nation are not in school.

- **Khan Academy** has collected a variety of educational resources and is sharing them with teachers, families, students, and organizations to foster remote learning during school closures. To access these materials, click [here](#).
- **Learning Heroes** created a short video for families on how to make learning fun for youth while at home. Click [here](#) to view it.
- **Great Schools** has launched its [Home Learning Guide](#) to help families engage their youth and provide at-home learning experiences.
- **The Aspen Institute** has released suggestions and guidance on physical activities, such as organized youth sports, that families and programs should consider in regard to COVID-19. To read them, click [here](#)
- **Amazing Educational Resources** has created a **FREE** Online Catalog of educational resources for families and service providers to use. Click [here](#) to access it.

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

H.R. 6106: Developing Innovative Partnerships and Learning Opportunities that Motivate Achievement Act

On **March 5, 2020**, Representative Judy Chu (D-CA) and U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) reintroduced the Developing Innovative Partnerships and Learning Opportunities that Motivate Achievement (DIPLOMA) Act. This Act would provide federal grants to states, which would allocate subgrants to local partnerships to help meet students' holistic needs beyond the classroom such as housing, nutrition, safety, and health services. Local partners include: afterschool providers, public school districts, local governments, nonprofits, businesses, foundations and community-based organizations. For more information on the types of services this Act allows, click [here](#).

S. 2683: Child Care Protection Improvement Act passes in Senate

On **March 5, 2020**, the U.S. Senate passed **The Child Care Protection Improvement Act** which establishes a federal interagency task force, chaired by the Administration for Children and Families, to support states in conducting required criminal background checks for childcare personnel. This task force will specifically evaluate how agencies are responding to interstate requests for information about childcare staff or prospective personnel who have lived in another state within the last five years. The Act will move onto the House of Education Committee. For more information, click [here](#).
For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now's How to Start an Afterschool Program Webinar Series: Part III - Relationships and Partnerships

As part of our webinar series on "[How to Start and Afterschool Program](#)," ACT Now will be hosting a webinar on how to build relationships and partnerships in order to support your afterschool program. **Engaging diverse community partners is integral to the sustainability and success of afterschool programming! Partnerships also allow program providers to develop a robust network to support youth more holistically.** Learn more about how you can foster these relationships by joining ACT Now on **March 24, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** To register, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Food Research & Action Center Webinar: Serving Meals During COVID-19

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) will be holding a new webinar titled: **Serving Meals During COVID-19: Out-of-School Time Partners** on **March 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** Interact with the Afterschool Alliance, National Summer Learning Association, YMCA of the USA, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and National Recreation and Park Association and hear the latest updates on guidelines and opportunities for providing meals during COVID-19 for out-of-school time programming. To register, click [here](#). *For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, [click here](#).*

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Project: VISION: Youth Program Coordinator Position

Project: VISION is seeking applicants for its **full-time Youth Program Coordinator position** to work with and support young people in Chicago's Chinatown Bridgeport area. Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree and Conversational Chinese Cantonese and/or Mandarin is required at minimum. To learn more about career opportunities, click [here](#). To apply for the Youth Program Coordinator position, click [here](#). *For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, [click here](#).*

Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

Please check the next newsletter and our website for upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events.

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

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

Were you forwarded this email?

[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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