

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

COVID-19

Federal Policy Updates

H.R. 748 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Signed into Public Law

On **March 27, 2020**, the President signed the third coronavirus aid package, the CARES Act.

The CARES Act's provisions would send checks to more than 150 million American households, set up loan programs for large and small businesses and nonprofits, increase funding for unemployment insurance programs, and heighten spending for hospitals, etc. The Act allocates several provisions that are essential for afterschool providers:

- **The State Education Stabilization Fund** can be used to support afterschool and summer learning programs and their providers.
- The **additional funding for childcare can be used by afterschool staff that are continuing to stay open to serve their existing students** and/or the children of health care providers and other essential staff.
- It makes it clear that **nonprofits are eligible for all the resources targeted to small businesses.**
- Makes **changes to the charitable deduction for tax year 2020 to encourage support of nonprofit organizations.**

For more information on it, click [here](#). To read a brief breakdown of the CARES Act, click [here](#).

State Policy Updates

Illinois State Board of Education: Remote Learning in Illinois Begins on March 31, 2020 Until Further Notice

On **March 27, 2020**, Superintendent Carmen I. Ayala of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) issued **guidance** for Illinois educators declaring that remote or distance-learning **must begin Tuesday, March 31, 2020, and continue until in-person instruction can resume.**

- During Remote Learning Days, **schools may implement either an E-Learning Plan or a Remote Learning Day Plan that provides students with instruction and access to educators through whatever means possible.**
- Schools may **use up to five Remote Learning Planning Days at any time after March 30 to work on Remote Learning Day Plans in partnership with their collective bargaining units.**

To read ISBE's *Emergency Rules for Remote Learning Days*, click [here](#).

To read, ISBE'S *Remote Learning Recommendations*, click [here](#).

Events and Webinars

ACT Now: 21st CCLC Virtual Town Halls

Join ACT Now for our UPDATED virtual conversation with 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs about responding to the COVID-19 outbreak on **Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** We will cover the latest grant updates, policy updates, resources, and how current programs are responding. Please [fill out our survey](#) beforehand and [register](#) for the Town Hall! *Once you register, you will also be included in our upcoming Town Halls on **April 7, 2020 at 11:30 a.m** and **April 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

Additional Resources

CodeMonkey: At-Home Online Coding Curricula

[CodeMonkey](#) is providing FREE and full access to their online coding curricula in order to support educators interested in engaging their students during school closures. Teachers can assign their students coding challenges and activities, and track their progress remotely. Submit a request to CodeMonkey [here](#) to gain access **until April 30, 2020.**

GirlsWhoCode: Code At Home Program

[Girls Who Code](#) is offering FREE weekly educational activities relating to computer science and coding for educators, families, students, and girls to do at-home during the pandemic. Download the Code At Home Program [here](#).

GirlsWhoCode: Girls Who Code Clubs

[Girls Who Code](#) is sharing additional FREE coding curriculum through its Girls Who Code Clubs. There is no need to enroll students or launch a Club right away. Apply [here](#). **In the application, please indicate whether you want to launch both 3-5th and 6-12th grade Clubs to gain access to both curriculums.*

TechGirlz: Virtual Coding Workshops for Students and Families

[TechGirlz](#) is providing 60 FREE and engaging virtual workshops, instructional webinars, and online activities in the upcoming weeks for communities at home. Lessons lasts between 2-3 hours and each workshop comes with a detailed lesson plan and instructor slides. The curriculum can be downloaded [here](#).

Policy Updates

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Professional Development

ACT Now Webinar Series: Create a System for Ongoing, Meaningful Family Engagement

Based on data collected from our research-based Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards, ACT Now has developed a virtual three-hour series of family engagement training to improve family engagement in out-of-school time. You can register [here](#) for individual webinars or for the entire series. Each webinar is \$10. *Please contact Emma Vibber, VibberE@actnowillinois.org to inquire about group pricing.*

Part 1: What is Family Engagement and What are Our Vision and Values?

- **Date: April 9, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Part 2: Introducing a Family Engagement Framework and Recognizing the Importance of Language

- **Date: April 23, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Part 3: Family Engagement Common Barriers and Tangible Resources

- **Date: May 4, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

We will also be launching a Cultural Competency training series. ACT Now anticipates launching this in early May. If your program would like to start on this series sooner, please contact VibberE@actnowillinois.org now!

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

Administration

ACT Now: Community Schools Regional Meetings Now RESCHEDULED and VIRTUAL!

ACT Now will continue to hold meetings virtually for community school providers. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive professional development based on topics selected by community schools providers.

Community Schools: Downstate Regional Meeting

- **Date:** **April 14, 2020**
- **Time:** **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **Topic:** Needs Assessment
- **Speaker:** Hannah Mngwamba, Metropolitan Family Services
- **To register:** Click [here](#) (Log in directions will appear once registered)

Community Schools: Suburban Regional Meeting

- **Date:** **April 22, 2020**
- **Time:** **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **Topic:** Family Engagement
- **To register:** Click [here](#) (Log in directions will appear once registered)

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF): Requesting RFPs for Grant Opportunity

The Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF) Campaign is now accepting proposals from community-based non-profit organizations. In light of the implementation of the public charge regulations and current public health crisis, the PIF Campaign seeks applications that build capacity to mitigate harm and empower immigrant communities to fight fear with facts. Proposals for grants can range from \$10,000-\$100,000 for a project period of June - December 2020. Applications are due on **April 22, 2020** by **5:00 p.m. ET**. Grant decisions will be announced by mid-June. For more information, and to download the Request for Proposals (RFP), click [here](#).

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](#).

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 we navigate unprecedented situations.

We will continue to support you all by sharing resources and materials relating to COVID-19 from reputable federal and state agencies, through our newsletter and E-alerts, as well as our [webpage, specifically designated for COVID-19 resources](#), and our social media platforms.

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.