

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## COVID-19

### Federal Policy Updates

#### U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA): Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans Program

The [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) allocated \$350 billion to help small businesses, including nonprofits, keep their workers employed amid the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturn. There are **two programs** that small businesses may apply for through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):** Under the CARES Act, *nonprofits and small businesses with fewer than 500 employees will be eligible for PPP loans to meet payroll and other qualifying costs. The total loan fund is expected to be \$349 billion, and loans will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Recipients do not have to certify that they are unable to obtain credit elsewhere.*
  - Much of the loan is forgivable if you keep staff on payroll during the loan period (**currently March 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>**). This makes a portion of the PPP loan into a GOS grant.
  - The loan amount is 2.5 times the organization's average monthly payroll, with pay capped at \$100,000 per employee.
  - Up to 8 weeks of average payroll and other costs will be forgiven if the business retains its employees and their salary levels through June 30.

**As of April 3, 2020, the application is open.** Please check the [SBA website](#) for more information. To read a quick synopsis of the PPP program, click [here](#).

- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans Program (IEDL):** This program offers up to \$2 million in assistance **are already available on a first-come, first-served basis to nonprofits to help overcome temporary loss in revenue caused by COVID-19.** These loans are similar to other disaster relief loans and do not include loan forgiveness.
  - The interest rate for nonprofits is 2.75%, with repayment terms of up to 30 years. Funds may be used to pay fixed debt, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid due to the impact of restrictions.

The application is straightforward. To complete it online, click [here](#).

***NOTE: Organizations cannot receive funding from both programs unless the loan applications are for different purposes (i.e. personnel and rent costs for PPP and other operating expenses for EIDL)***

To read a detailed 3-page run-down of the two SBA programs provided by the 50 State Afterschool Network, click [here](#).

## State Policy Updates

### Governor's Office: Governor Pritzker Announced Extension of Stay at Home Order

On **April 1, 2020**, Governor Pritzker announced that he was extending the Stay at Home Order in Illinois **until April 30, 2020** to combat the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This order also included the **suspension of all on-site learning in schools until further notice.** To read what this means for Illinoisans, afterschool and childcare providers, and youth, 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 **today, April 7, 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 Hall on **April 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.**

## Additional Resources

### **NextWaveSTEM: Free Professional Development Trainings for Providers**

NextWaveSTEM has a variety of **FREE professional development training opportunities** for afterschool providers and educators. Topics include how to effectively teach remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to review their webinars. For educators in Illinois, NextWaveSTEM is offering the following: After completing each one-hour webinar, you will receive one ISBE professional development hour – sent via email!

### **Center for Childhood Resilience Resources: COVID-19 and The Impact on Children**

The Center for Childhood Resilience is sharing two video interviews as resources for providers and families in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first video highlights Lurie Children’s Hospital Psychologist Dr. Colleen Cicchetti as she emphasizes the best ways to talk about COVID-19 with children. Click [here](#) to hear the strategies. The second video shows Dr. Tali Raviv speaking about the impact of the pandemic on youth’s mental health. Click [here](#) to watch it.

### **The Walking Classroom Institute: Free Educational Lesson Plans and Podcasts**

The Walking Classroom is a nonprofit program aimed at getting youth moving and walking without sacrificing instructional time. Students listen to creative and educational podcasts that align with state standards, and cover topics in English language arts, science, social studies, and more! The **FREE lesson plans and quizzes** help educators lead discussions and test comprehension. The program is designed for students in grades 3 through 8. To learn more about the program, click [here](#). To access all 26 podcasts and lesson plans, click [here](#).

### **The Wallace Foundation: Blog Post on Managing Nonprofit Finances During the Coronavirus Crisis**

The Wallace Foundation has published a blog post to help nonprofits navigate the financial challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to read about common financial implications and the three steps organizations should be taking to weather the current crisis.

### **220 Leadership: Free Resources for Providers and Families**

220 is offering **FREE access** to its Leadership program for youth. Click [here](#) to access the course, which promotes critical thinking skills in young folks and fosters life skills necessary in the 21st century. Click [here](#) for activities you, youth, and your students can do at-home during the COVID-19 health crisis.

### Policy Updates

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

### Trainings, Events and Webinars

#### Administration

##### **ACT Now's April 2020 Advocacy Campaign: ACT Now and Advocate!**

This year, ACT Now is encouraging its coalition members to interact with state and federal legislators and advocate for:

- **The reinstatement of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding in the federal budget** after President Trump's FY21 budget proposal eliminated the program.
- **The Illinois General Assembly to put ISBE's lines in the state budget.**
- **Funding for Teen REACH in the state budget in the amount of at least \$19.6 million.**
- **The Illinois General Assembly to approve the Governor's proposed \$100 million increase for CCAP in the state budget.**

##### **What Advocacy Actions Should You Take?**

- **If you have 1 minute:** Send your legislators an action alert by clicking the buttons below and reviewing the toolkit!
- **If you have 5 minutes:** Find your legislators' contact info and call them! Encourage them to support your campaign!

- **If you have 10 minutes:** Post on social media about the need for out-of-school and summer programming using our fact sheets and templates and tag your legislators!
- **If you have more time:** Collect success stories from parents and youth in your program and share them with your local and federal elected officials!

**Join Us!** Our Toolkit provides guidance on our asks, hosts links to action alerts for **state** and **federal** elected officials, as well as highlights letter templates, best practices when communicating with policymakers, and sample social media to use during April. **To advocate alongside ACT Now, use our Toolkit!** Click [here](#) to download it.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 VIRTUAL!**

**ACT Now will continue to hold meetings online** 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:** **COVID-19 Response and 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:** **COVID-19 Response and Virtual Family Engagement**
- **To register:** Click [here](#) (Log in directions will appear once registered)

#### **Community Schools: Chicago Regional Meeting**

- **Date:** **May 1, 2020**
- **Time:** **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **Topic:** COVID-19 Response, Planning for Next Year, and Summer Learning
- **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

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

## **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](mailto:stantons@actnowillinois.org) or our **Youth Development Associate, Emma Spencer**: at [spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto:spencere@actnowillinois.org).

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