

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## COVID-19

### State Policy Updates

#### Illinois State Expands Availability of Free COVID-19 Testing

On **Saturday, May 2, 2020** the State of Illinois announced it was expanding the availability of COVID-19 testing and that a new drive-thru COVID-19 testing facility will be open to the public in the coming days.

All individuals with symptoms are encouraged to seek testing at these Community Based Testing Sites. **Additional accommodations have been made for testing for various industries including childcare workers.**

To find the locations of the CBTS nearest you and your community, and to read the entire press release, click [here](#).

### Events and Webinars

#### ACT Now: Afterschool During COVID-19 Webinar Series

In response to afterschool providers' feedback and requests for more in-depth resources on programming during the COVID-19 public health crisis, ACT Now has developed a robust webinar series. During each webinar, participants will receive resources created by ACT Now to help programs transition their programming online and collect data on their activities going forward. **Join Us!**

### **Part I: Remote Learning Webinar**

- **Date:** **May 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Resources:** Best practices for Remote Learning
- **To register:** Click [here](#)

### **Part II: Remote Family Engagement Webinar**

- **Date:** **May 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Resources:** Community Assessment Survey (English/Spanish)
- **To register:** Click [here](#)

### **Part III: Planning for Summer Learning During COVID-19 Webinar**

- **Date:** **May 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Resources:** Staff Survey
- **To register:** Click [here](#)

### **Part IV: Collecting Data Remotely Webinar**

- **Date:** **May 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**
- **Resources:** Sample Family Engagement Tracker, Sample Youth Engagement Tracker
- **To register:** Click [here](#)

### **ACT Now: 21st CCLC Virtual Town Halls**

Join ACT Now *next week* for an engaging conversation with 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs in regard to responding to the COVID-19 health crisis on **May 12, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** We will cover the latest policy updates, grant updates, resources, and highlight programs' diverse responses to the pandemic. Please [fill out our survey](#) beforehand and [register](#) for the Town Hall! There will also be a Town Hall on **May 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

Click [here](#) to access ACT Now's 21ST Century Town Hall page and find our archived Town Halls and resources relating to the virtual series.

## **Additional Resources**

### ***Resources for English Learners***

#### **The University of Utah: Resources for English Learners**

The University of Utah's Second Language Teaching and Research Center has compiled diverse materials for families and providers to use in order to engage English Learners in non-classroom settings during the public health crisis and into the summer. Languages include: Chinese, English, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Click [here](#) to access these resources.

#### **District of Columbia: Materials for ELL Studies**

The District of Columbia has created a comprehensive guide for educators and afterschool providers to support ELL students, students in dual language, and multilingual families during the pandemic. The [guide](#) focuses on distance-learning opportunities for families and is available in English, Spanish, Amharic, French Vietnamese, Korean, and Chinese.

### ***Resources for Families and Youth***

#### **Girls Who Code Talks: College During COVID-19**

Girls Who Code Talks is a free virtual video series to support students and girls navigating changes to their college and career plans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The series is open to everyone and will feature experts in career counseling, college admissions, wellness, and more. Click [here](#) to access the recorded webinar and register for the upcoming virtual events. Click [here](#) to browse the Girls Who Code resources.

### ***Professional Development Opportunities for Providers***

#### **IRIS Center: Professional Development Sessions**

The IRIS Center at Vanderbilt University has professional development opportunities with a focus on supporting students with special abilities. The IRIS Center is also providing resources to support parents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) to access these resources.

## **TurnkeyPD: Professional Development Competencies**

The National Afterschool Association, through TurnkeyPD, is offering a series of professional development resources designed to help executives and direct providers build specific core knowledge and competencies of afterschool and youth development professionals. Click [here](#) to review the PD materials.

## **Policy Updates**

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

## **Trainings, Events and Webinars**

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

## **Opportunities for Providers**

### **Professional Development**

#### **Teach Illinois: Free Professional Development Webinars**

Teach Illinois is offering free professional development webinars and resources for teachers making the transition to online education in Illinois. The [webpage](#) hosts online courses, book studies, webinars, podcasts, online administrator programs approved by ISBE, and other professional development materials.

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

## Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

*For an archive of our previously listed Community School Training and Networking Events, click [here](#).*

## Youth Opportunities

### Youth Development

#### Girls Who Code: College Loops

Girls Who Code has a program called College Loops, which are university-level networks for college-aged women interested in the tech sector to support one another succeed in the field. College Loops helps young woman build relationships through weekly meetings during the school year.

Participants must be:

- 18 + years old
- Currently enrolled in a US-based college or university
- Female-identifying individual

Click [here](#) to learn more about the College Loops program.

*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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