

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

COVID-19

State Policy Updates

Governor Pritzker's Office: New Restore Illinois Plan

On **May 6, 2020**, Governor Pritzker announced a regionalized, five-phase plan called **Restore Illinois**, which details a public health approach to safely reopen our state.

- To varying degrees, every region in Illinois has achieved “Phase 2 – Flattening” as of early May.
- **The plan places the reopening of physical school buildings in a region in “Phase 4 – Revitalization.”**
 - For this to happen, the region must pass through “Phase 3 – Recovery,” in which the rate of infection among those already tested, the number of patients admitted to the hospital, and the number of patients needing ICU beds is stable or declining and enter Phase 4.
 - In Phase 4, the rate of infection among those surveillance tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital continues to decline.

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 IV: Collecting Data Remotely Webinar

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

To access the corresponding recordings and resources of the previous three parts of our Afterschool During COVID-19 Webinar series, 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.

Region V Public Health Training Center Webinar: Self-Care and Promoting Post-Traumatic Growth and Management During COVID-19

The Region V Public Health Training Center is hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, May 27, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.** to provide participants with different strategies we can all use to manage the impact of anxiety and worry during COVID-19. Attendees will also learn how to incorporate self-care techniques into our daily lives and workplace going forward. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar.

Illinois Afterschool Network Webinars: New Distance Learning Series

The Illinois Afterschool Network has created a new series on Distance Learning to help OST providers pivot towards online learning and enrichment opportunities for youth in the state.

Session I: Conversations with Youth and Families during COVID-19

- **Date:** **Thursday, May 28, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**
- **Description:** Participants will discuss how to navigate conversations with youth and families that have been impacted by COVID-19 and the traumatic experience and stress that they may be experiencing. Attendees will also look at practices that can be used

to support social emotional development in programming and how it can be extended to caregivers in the home.

- **To register:** Click [here](#)

Session II: Supporting Families to help them understand Trauma and the Impact on Youth Behavior and Mental Health

- **Date:** **Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**
- **Description:** Participants will learn what trauma is, how it manifests itself in many forms, and the impact of trauma on adolescents' behavior and mental health. Attendees will also hear about best practices when engaging with youth during COVID-19 and ways to mitigate re-traumatizing them.
- **To register:** Click [here](#)

Apple Webinar: Free Videos, Applications, and Books for Remote Learners

Apple has compiled [free videos, apps, and books](#) to facilitate remote learning. Join them for an introduction to resources that can be useful to your staff and program this summer. Complete the survey [here](#) to register for the webinar. ***Note: Apple hardware (e.g. iPad, iPhone) is required to access these resources and dates are to be determined.*

- **Everyone Can Create:** Project guides that help teach students to develop and communicate their ideas through the arts
- **Everyone Can Code:** Resources that help teachers introduce students to real Swift code
- **Creative Activities for Kids:** Explore 30 iPad activities for children ages 4-8+, designed to help teachers and parents keep young learners constructive and creative at home

Additional Resources

Resources for Remote Learning

The Regional Educational Laboratory Program: Covid-19 Evidence Based Resources

In response to COVID-19, the 10 [Regional Educational Laboratories \(RELs\)](#) have collaborated to produce a series of evidence-based resources and guidance about teaching and learning in a remote environment, as well as other considerations related to the pandemic. Click [here](#) to access the resources. This series covers a wide range of topics including:

- Early childhood education
- English language learners

- Engaging students with disabilities

Policy Updates

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Youth Development

The Science Museum of Valencia and the Institute of Corpuscular Physics: Free Science Lectures in Spanish

The Science Museum of Valencia and the Institute of Corpuscular Physics have organized a series of public lectures focusing on physics. The series will be held in Spanish and begin on **Thursday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m.** by discussing the first second of the Universe and understanding ways in which particles interact to create such a phenomenon. To read the description in Spanish, click [here](#). To join the lecture, click [here](#).

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

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis: Power of Children Awards

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis is hosting its 16th Annual Power of Children Awards where it recognizes extraordinary young change agents across the country who are making significant contributions to their communities through projects they created. Nominate a young person in grades 6 through 11, to be considered for this national award [here](#). The online application ends on **May 31, 2020**.

Girls Who Code: Free Virtual Summer Immersion Program

Girls Who Code is offering a free virtual summer immersion program for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade girls and non-binary students interested in gaining computer science skills, learning how to apply this knowledge in their communities, and preparing for a career in the tech sector. Participants will interact with representatives from influential companies like AT&T, Goldman Sachs, Disney, and more. *Need-based stipends of up to \$300 are available for those who qualify.* Click [here](#) to learn about the program and to apply.

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

Dollar General Literacy Foundation: Youth Literacy Grants

Schools, public libraries, and nonprofit organizations that help students that are below grade level or having trouble reading are eligible to apply for the Youth Literacy Grants to assist in the following areas:

- Implementing new or expanding existing literacy programs
- Purchasing new technology or equipment to support literacy initiatives
- Purchasing books, materials or software for literacy programs.

To read the full description, click [here](#). The deadline to apply is **May 21, 2020**.

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.

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