

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Resources on Anti-Racism and Equity

At **ACT Now**, our vision has always been for ALL Illinois youth and teens to be prepared for success in school, career, and life, fostered through access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs. Please see our note in last week's newsletter on racial violence. We will continue to share resources related to this issue as listed below.

- [50 State Afterschool Network: Resources for Anti-Racism & Equity Education](#)
- [Museum of Tolerance: Dynamics of Discrimination Then & Now \(English and Spanish\) Lessons](#)
- [EmbraceRace: 31 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism and Resistance](#)

If you would like to discuss your program's reaction to racial violence or share additional resources, ***please reach out to Susan Stanton at stantons@actnowillinois.org***.

Policy Updates

State Policy Updates

Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health: New Guidance on Summer School and Summer Activities

On **June 4, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) jointly released Part Two of the Transition Plan Advisory Workgroup's recommendations for transitioning to in-person programming. Click [here](#) to review the full guidance, which

focuses on activities allowed in Phase III of Governor Pritzker's [Restore Illinois Plan](#). Activities allowed in Phase III include:

- **Host Summer Camps and Other Programs:** Schools and districts may allow buildings to be used for summer camps and other programs sponsored by third parties. Playgrounds may not be used.
- **Staff Meetings and Professional Development:** Districts may convene staff members for any appropriate training, planning, and professional development purposes.
- **Summer Meals Distribution:** ISBE highly encourages school districts to continue to provide meals through the summer. [Public Act 096-0734](#) requires every public school in which at least 50% of the students were eligible for free and reduced-price lunches and has a summer school program must provide a summer breakfast and/or lunch to the students in the summer school and children in that community.
- **Summer School:** Schools and districts may conduct in-person summer school. Special populations, which may include students with IEPs, English Learners, and students who received incompletes during remote instruction, should receive priority consideration for services.

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now: Digging Into The Design of Virtual Engagement Recorded Webinar

On **Friday, June 5, 2020**, ACT Now and Northwestern University's Office of Community Education Partnerships hosted a webinar on best practices in virtual engagement. This work was part of MyChiMyFuture's Professional Development initiative to provide out-of-school time and community-based organizations tips on best practices to effectively engage and serve youth during the summer. To watch the Digging Into The Design of Virtual Engagement recorded webinar, click [here](#)!

ACT Now: 21st CCLC Virtual Town Halls

Join ACT Now TODAY **at 10:00 a.m.** for an engaging conversation with 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs in regard to responding to the COVID-19 health crisis. 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!

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.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide: New Family and Staff Resources Released

Below, you will find newly released resources for families and staff to help facilitate the Summer Activity Guide:

- **Family Resource:** [Recognizing Stress in Youth](#)
- **Family Resource:** [Supporting Summer Programming in the Home](#)
- **Staff Resource:** [Recognizing Stress in Youth](#)
- **Staff Resource:** [Supporting Emotional Well-Being](#)

To access the Summer Activity Guide and supporting materials, click [here](#).

Administration

University of Illinois Extension State 4-H Office: Employment Opportunities

The University of Illinois Extension State 4-H Office is looking to fill two Extension Specialist positions in Champaign, IL. The first focuses on [College and Career Readiness](#), and the second on [Evaluation and Professional Development](#). A masters degree is required and PhD preferred. Remote work arrangements will be considered for both positions. Click [here](#) to review the Office's website. Applications are due by **June 15, 2020**.

Afterschool Alliance: Summer Survey for Providers - Win Prizes!

Across the country, COVID-19 has impacted afterschool and summer programs and the young people and families who rely on them to keep kids safe and engaged in learning. It is important for funders, policy makers, education leaders, and the overall public to understand the current situation, as well as the projections and concerns for the future. The Afterschool Alliance is conducting surveys throughout the summer to ask what programs need going forward and help provide solutions. The survey takes 10-15 minutes and responses will be anonymous. Take the survey [here!](#)

Note* 50 respondents will be randomly selected to win one of two prizes: a \$25 cash prize OR a STEMfinity gift card that can be used to purchase a STEMfinity STEM kit

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

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](#).

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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](#).

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