

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Call for Excellent Summer Programming!

Calling all summer program and OST providers interested in sharing the wonderful work you have been doing to support youth, families, and communities in Illinois! To celebrate summer learning opportunities and to highlight the integral role that afterschool programs play in restoring Illinois, ACT Now is looking to showcase programs on our social media platforms during the month of July.

If you are interested in participating and have photos to share out, please email Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois with a photo, the name of your program, and caption for what type of programming the photo captures. This can be a screen-shot of virtual programming, a picture of in-person work, or youth and families picking up materials!

Policy Updates

State Policy Updates

Governor Pritzker's Office: Guidelines to Safely Reopen Additional Businesses and Industries

Yesterday, **June 22, 2020**, Governor Pritzker released additional guidance on the re-opening of businesses and industries as the state advances towards Phase IV of the **Restore Illinois Plan**. Phase IV of the plan creates safety guidelines for the following permitted activities and businesses to resume, with capacity rules in place:

- **Meetings and events:** Venues and meeting spaces can resume with the lesser of up to 50 people **OR** 50% of overall room capacity. Multiple groups are permitted only if facilities have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups. Guidance applies to events such as conferences and weddings.
- **Indoor and Outdoor recreation:** Revised guidelines allow select indoor recreation facilities (e.g., bowling alleys, skating rinks), as well as clubhouses to reopen. Indoor recreation to operate at lesser of 50 customers **OR** 50% of facility capacity with outdoor recreation allowing group sizes of up to 50, and permitting multiple groups given facilities have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups; concessions permitted with restrictions.
- **Museums:** Can reopen with no more than 25% occupancy, and with interactive exhibits and rides closed; guided tours should be limited to 50 people or fewer per group; museums should have a plan to limit congregation via advance ticket sales and timed ticketing; concessions permitted with restrictions.
- **Zoos:** Can reopen with no more than 25% occupancy, and with interactive exhibits, indoor exhibits, and rides closed; guided tours should be limited to 50 people or fewer per group; zoos should have a plan to limit congregation via advance ticket sales and timed ticketing; concessions permitted with restrictions
- **Youth and Recreational Sports:** Revised guidelines allow competitive gameplay and tournaments; youth and recreational sports venues can operate at 50% of facility capacity, 20% seating capacity for spectators, and group sizes up to 50 with multiple groups permitted during practice and competitive games given venues have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups; concessions permitted with restrictions.
- **Health and fitness centers:** Revised guidelines allow gyms to open at 50% capacity and allow group fitness classes of up to 50 people with new safety guidelines for indoors, with multiple groups permitted given facilities have space to appropriately social distance and can limit interaction between groups.
- **Day camps:** Water-based activities permitted in accordance with IDPH guidelines; no more than 50% of facility capacity with group size of no more than 15 participants in a group, unless participants changing weekly.

To read the full press release, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: June 2020 Board Meeting Recap

On **June 17, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its monthly meeting. During public comment, many advocates spoke about

the state's education reopening plan and incorporating racial justice in teaching. ACT Now also provided public comment on the need to release 21st Century COVID-19 Guidance and to include out-of-school time programs in the state's reopening plan. During the meeting, the Board adopted a resolution to eliminate racial injustice and also discussed its school reopening plan. It was stated that NO out-of-school time or parent organizations were consulted in the creation of the plan. Further, ISBE staff was not able to immediately provide the racial breakdown of the workgroup members that wrote the plan. As a result, the plan will be released by the end of June and is expected to include information on social distancing, screening and temperature checks, cleaning recommendations, scheduling and instruction, districts creating planning teams, and requirements for face coverings. The Board also approved several regulations and large grants. Finally, the Board discussed the implications of the FY21 budget including shortfalls in early education funding. To review the Board's materials, recording, and find further information on Board meetings, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: FAQ for FY21 21st Century Community Learning Center RFP Applicants

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is updating its FAQ resource for applicants completing the FY21 RFP for 21st Century Community Learning Center funding. Information regarding the RFP can be found [here](#). The application is due to ISBE by **July 13, 2020**. ****Note: ISBE is now accepting electronic signatures in the application.*** Click [here](#) to review the material.

City of Chicago: Summer Program Guidelines and Resources

The City of Chicago has released guidelines for out-of-school time learning providers to implement during the summer and in conjunction with the guidance issued from state agencies to confront the public health crisis. Click [here](#) to access the guidelines. To help providers indicate that their staff and facilities are abiding by guidelines, the City has also released signs. Click [here](#) to review the signs available and print them out. Finally, to share the list of mental health resources and supports with youth and colleagues, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now: 21st CCLC Virtual Town Halls

Join ACT Now on **June 24, 2020, 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.

Youth Development

Illinois Afterschool Network Webinar: 2020 - The Year of Clarity: Framing Conversations with Youth about Race

On **June 26, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) is hosting a webinar focusing on race, police brutality, and inequity within the United States. Participants will receive resources and learn about best practices on how to hold tough conversations on these topics with youth, while simultaneously supporting them, in the afterschool environment. To register for the event click **here**.

Professional Development

MHA Labs: All 4 Youth Power and Engagement Trainings

MHA Labs is hosting two new webinars on fostering relationships with youth in a virtual setting and to engage different stakeholders. **Today, at 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, participants will learn how to form developmental bonds with youth remotely and hear about best practices from summer youth employment programs that have gone virtual as a result of COVID-19. To register, click **here**. On **Thursday, June 25, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, join MHA Labs as they delve into strategies for engaging youth in summer employment opportunities. To register, click **here**. To access previously-offered webinars, click **here**.

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

Anti-Defamation League: Lessons on Black Lives Matter, Identity, and Bias

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has a variety of lesson plans for OST providers and summer learning programs interested in incorporating sessions on Black Lives Matter, identity, and bias into programming. To access these resources, click [here](#).

Illinois State University Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology: STEM Resources for Providers

The Illinois State University's Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology has over 500 STEM lessons, geared towards grades K-8. To access a free preview of the curricula, click [here](#). To review products that the Center loans to schools and community-based organizations, click [here](#). For more information, contact: Dr. Brad Christensen at bachris@ilstu.edu

Illinois Action for Children: Census 2020 Game

Illinois Action for Children (IAFC) is hosting a Census 2020 Virtual Scavenger Hunt to spread awareness of the positive impact the Census has on our communities and youth. To download the activities, click [here](#). Don't forget to use the hashtag #IAFCtreasures on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

BUILD Chicago: Summer Sessions Still Open!

Starting **July 6, 2020, and running through August 4, 2020**, BUILD is hosting in-person and virtual summer programming on the arts, STEAM, gardening, sports, and more for youth throughout the day. To learn more about the program, click [here](#). To register your youth, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

National Aeronautics and Space Administration: STEM Engagement Funding Opportunity

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is accepting proposals for its STEM Engagement program from afterschool programs, community-based organizations, public and private institutions, and other entities to provide K-12 students with high-quality NASA-related STEM curricula. Awardees will receive funding up to \$125,000, content, support, and more! To learn more, click [here](#). To apply, click [here](#). **Applications are due on July 20, 2020.**

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

Were you forwarded this email?

[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!

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](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)