

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Policy Updates

U.S. House of Representatives: Two New Child Care Bills Passed

On **July 29, 2020**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed two bills relating to child care. The first, the Child Care is Essential Act, would provide \$50 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). To read more about the bill, click [here](#). The second, the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act, would increase mandatory CCDBG funding and expand child care tax incentives and deductions. To read more about this bill, click [here](#). Both bills passed with bipartisan support and the legislation would apply to school-age care as well.

U.S. Senate: New COVID-19 Relief Bill Introduced

On **July 27, 2020**, U.S. Senate Republican leadership introduced its next COVID-19 relief bill. The Help End Abusive Living Situations Act (HEALS Act) is a package of bills that are now subject to bipartisan negotiations. The proposed relief bill has a total \$1 trillion in funding and allocates dollars for education and child care in the following ways:

Augmenting the CARES Act Education Stabilization Fund (ESF): \$105 billion

- \$70 billion for public and private elementary and secondary schools, split 33%-67% based on district reopening plans. ***Afterschool is an allowable use of these Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund dollars.***
- \$29 billion for institutions of higher education
- \$5 billion for governors to support K–12, higher education, and other education entities

Child Care Relief (which can be accessed by afterschool programs):

- \$5 billion for CCDBG
- \$10 billion for [Back to Work Child Care Grants](#) that are a little more flexible in nature

It is expected that a final package will move in the next several weeks before the U.S. House and U.S. Senate adjourn for August recess. To read more about the bill, click [here](#).

Afterschool Alliance and Bipartisan Policy Center: \$6.2 Billion Ask for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Last week, the Afterschool Alliance, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and other community-based organizations (CBOs) [wrote to Congress](#) advocating for the inclusion of at least \$6.2 billion in support of 21st Century Community Learning Centers in the Senate's COVID-19 relief bill (HEALS Act). This aid would allow state education agencies to fund partnerships between local educational agencies and CBOs in order to provide safe out-of-school programming and expanded learning opportunities for students during hours they would otherwise be physically in a school classroom. It would also help support low-income and working families with child care. To read more about the Ask, click [here](#).

U.S. District Court: Public Charge Rule Halted

On **July 29, 2020**, a U.S. District Court Judge from the Southern District of New York issued a temporary injunction that blocks the implementation and enforcement of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Public Charge rule *nationwide* for the duration of the COVID-19 public health crisis. To read the full civil suit, click [here](#). The Judge also issued a nationwide preliminary injunction that prohibits the enforcement of the U.S. Department of State's Public Charge rule and Health Insurance Proclamation, beyond the national emergency created by the pandemic. To review this ruling, click [here](#).

State Policy Updates

Governor Pritzker's Office: Guidance for Youth and Adult Recreational Supports

On **July 29, 2020**, Governor Pritzker announced guidance for youth and adult recreational supports, developed with the Illinois Department of

Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) following consultation with a number of stakeholders including the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA). **The guidance takes affect August 15, 2020.** The guidance lists sports by risk, including high, medium, and low. Moreover, sports in each risk level have different allowable activities at the moment. To read the guidance, click [here](#).

Chalkbeat: School Districts' Reopening Plans Update

Chicago Public Schools (CPS is tentatively planning for most students to be school buildings two days a week. However, CPS is in the process of reviewing its reopening plans and may change them. If the City of Chicago reaches 400 new cases a day or 200 new cases a day with concerning factors (such as a spike in cases), then CPS will switch to all remote learning. Fewer than 100 new cases a day will prompt this district to consider a return to full, in-person instruction, after consulting with local health officials. It appears that a number of districts outside of CPS are walking back their reopening plans and delaying the start of school and/or turning to all remote learning for Fall instruction. Furthermore, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) has called for all-remote learning, saying that Black and Latino students will be hit the hardest if the pandemic worsens. To review Chalkbeat's district reopening plans tracker, click [here](#).

Note To watch the recorded community meetings surrounding CPS' reopening plans, click [here](#).*

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now Webinar: Reopening Schools and Afterschool Part II

After hosting an in-depth and well-attended webinar on ISBE'S Reopening Plan and how it affects afterschool, **ACT Now** has decided to continue this series for Out-of-School Time providers interested in hearing more from colleagues in the field. **TODAY at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, join us and:

- Listen to programs as they share their plains in order to reopen and hear about some of the challenges they are navigating.
- Gain insight into how diverse afterschool programs are engaging with school districts, families, and community members, to resume programming.

There will also be time allotted for Questions! To register for the event, click [here](#).

ACT Now Webinar: Trauma Informed Remote Work

ACT Now is hosting a new training to explore ways to integrate trauma informed practices and principles into building a trauma-informed remote working environment. Attendees will conceptualize the traumatic impact of COVID-19, oppressive structures and inequities, as well as the "new normal" on staff and their day-to-day lives. Participants will also explore how to use the Six Trauma Informed Principles to create emotionally and physically safe workspaces for their staff. This is a FREE training which will be facilitated on **August 12, 2020, and August 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** To register for either training, click [here](#).

**Note: that each training is limited to 50 people. If the training fills up, we will begin a wait list for the training. If you cancel within 48 hours or do not show for the training we will need to charge a \$10 "no-show fee."*

PEAR Institute Webinar: Supporting Quality Learning Experiences in Virtual OST

On **August 13, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.**, join the PEAR Institute, the National Institute for Out-of-School Time, and the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality in a webinar aimed at exploring the effectiveness of virtual summer and afterschool programming for students, families, and OST providers. To learn more about the event and to register, click [here](#).

Youth Development

National Girls Collaborative Project Webinars: High Quality Digital STEM Resources and Gender Equity in STEM

The National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is hosting two webinars to promote high quality STEM programming using digital resources and gender equity in STEM. On **August 12, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**, NGCP will help educators and afterschool providers evaluate online STEM resources and recommend materials to facilitate programming. To

register for this event, click [here](#). On **September 2, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, NGCP will provide participants with best practices for engaging girls of all ages in STEM programming. Specifically, NGCP will speak to engaging this population remotely. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide

The FREE Summer Activity Guide continues to be accessible on our website and offers providers a myriad of engaging activities and challenges to facilitate over the Summer and into the Fall. To access these guides and all supporting materials, click [here](#). **Note: Unit 1 has been translated into Spanish and you can access them via our website.*

The Partnership for Resilience: White Paper on Trauma-Sensitive Schools and Whole-Child Literacy

In collaboration with the Literacy Organizational Capacity Initiative, the [Partnership for Resilience](#) released a white paper titled "A Learner's Guide to Trauma-Sensitive Schools and Whole-Child Literacy." The document emphasizes the importance of a systems approach to whole-child learning and provides recommendations for integrating social-emotional learning (SEL) practices into programming in order to create trauma-sensitive schools. To read the paper, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Afterschool Alliance: Summer and Afterschool Survey Round II

This week, the Afterschool Alliance and the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) are collaborating to ask providers to keep the story up to

date by completing a follow-up survey that focuses on what programming local providers have been able to offer this summer and what plans are for fall. The survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time and all responses will be anonymous. 50 respondents will be randomly selected to win a \$50 cash prize! To complete the survey, click [here](#).

If you need assistance, please contact Lydia Redway at redway@edgeresearch.com. If you would like more information about the research, please contact Nikki Yamashiro at nyamashiro@afterschoolalliance.org.

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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