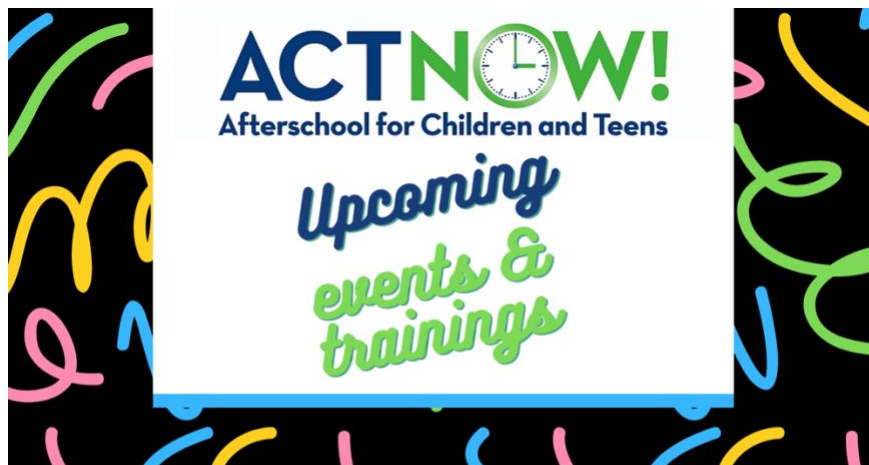


ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



October

10/13 Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment Tool (IL-QPSA) Webinar for *New Users*

10/14 Suburbs Community Schools Convening

10/15 Chicago Community Schools Convening

10/16 Chicago Community Schools Convening



Call for Phenomenal Staff and OST Programming!

To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, promote Lights On Afterschool, and to shine light on the integral role that program staff play in restoring Illinois, ACT Now is looking to showcase staff members and programs on our social media platforms and in our weekly newsletter. We also share your stories and experiences with legislators and state agencies to advocate on your behalf!

If you are interested in participating, have photos to share out, or would like to nominate someone you know, please email Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org. Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member or name of the afterschool program, and caption for how this individual or program is working to support young people in the community.

Phenomenal Afterschool Program Highlight!



Reaching For Kids & Youth of Massac County, Inc. is collecting donations and providing meals for hundreds of families across the county's school districts.

Their efforts are funded by Teen Reach.

This is Afterschool
Rising to the moment.

Policy Updates

State Policy

Illinois State Board of Education: 21st Century Waiver Public Comment Period Clarification

On **September 18, 2020**, State Education Agencies (SEAs), including the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), received the template to apply for the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century waiver. **This waiver provides 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grantees with the ability to facilitate programming and provide support services during the school day.** The U.S. Department of Education mandated a 60-day period for public comment on the waiver before allowing SEAs to submit their requests. **Last week, ISBE released its call for Public Comment on the waiver. Comments must be submitted via the 21st CCLC Waiver Form no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 29, 2020.** For more information on the waiver, click [here](#). To urge ISBE to apply for the waiver, ACT Now has written a letter. To access the document with our public comment, click [here](#). *Please note: You may submit your own comments in regard to the 21st Century waiver or use ACT Now's comments in your submission to ISBE.*

Illinois State Board of Education: Upcoming FY22 Budget Committee Virtual Hearings

Last week, on October 7, 2020, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) began hosting its FY22 virtual Budget hearings. For more information on the hearings and to review the upcoming dates, click [here](#). **ACT Now has prepared a document outlining our ask in regard to afterschool and community schools.** To review the document, click [here](#). We continue to encourage program providers to fill out the budget form, even if they do not plan on testifying. To access the form, click [here](#). To help, we have created instructions with suggested language for programs to use when completing the form. To download the document, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now: Community Schools Convenings

ACT Now will continue to host training events for Community Schools (CS) providers throughout the state during FY21.

- On **October 14, 2020**, **ACT Now** is hosting the first meeting for Suburb of Chicago providers. To register for this training on Trauma and Youth Development, click [here](#).
- On **October 15, 2020, and October 16, 2020**, **ACT Now** will be hosting the first meeting for Chicago providers on Vicarious Trauma. To register for either of these days, click [here](#).

More information regarding the regional convenings, and the corresponding registration links, is located on our Community Schools Corner page [here](#).

Upcoming FY21 Community Schools Trainings

<i>Downstate</i>	<i>Suburbs</i>	<i>Chicago</i>
SEPT. 23	OCT. 14	OCT. 15
NOV. 12	DEC. 17	OCT. 16
FEB. 12	FEB. 22	DEC. 8
MAR. 25	APR. 14	DEC. 9
		FEB. 23
		APR. 22

IMPORTANT!
**Registration links will be developed for each meeting and based upon your regional group*

For more information, head to the Community Schools Corner on our website!

ACT Now Webinar Series: Acceptance in Afterschool: When Cultural Understanding Informs Quality Programming

Based on data collected from our online strengths-based quality self-assessment tool, the IL-QPSA, **ACT Now** developed a virtual three-hour series on Cultural Competency. **Last spring, we launched this training and it was so successful that we are bringing it back this November!**

- On **November 11, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, participate in Part 1: What is Cultural Competency and Why Does it Matter in Afterschool?
- On **November 18, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, join us for Part 2: Practice and Analyze the Understanding of Self-identities and How they Translate into Afterschool Programming
- On **November 11, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, attend in Part 3: Programmatic Ways and Tangible Resources to Implement and Sustain Cultural Competency.

Each webinar is \$10. To register for individual webinars or for the entire series, click [here](#).

Please Note: Each webinar will be limited to 30 individuals to encourage a robust and in-depth conversation on Cultural Competency between attendees over Zoom. Please contact Emma Vibber at VibberE@actnowillinois.org to inquire about group pricing.



The Coalition for Community Schools Webinar: The Re-Opening: Community Schools as a Vehicle to Advance Equity

On **October 15, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.**, the Coalition for Community Schools is hosting a webinar to promote the holistic model and to discuss how community schools continue to promote equity amidst the public health crisis, racial injustices, and economic environment we are facing. Topics

include re-engaging students, family engagement, social-emotional learning, and more. To register for the event, click [here](#).

Afterschool Alliance: Lights On Afterschool 2020 Week of Events

In celebration of Lights on Afterschool and the wonderful afterschool providers around the nation, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) will be hosting six virtual events **between October 19 and October 23**. The events are free and focus on themes such as STEM, mindfulness, art, entrepreneurship, and more. **There will even be a youth town hall!** To review the events and to register, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

ACT Now Report: Community Schools in Illinois - An Effective Strategy to Address Equity, Health, and Academics in Our Schools

Over the past several months, **ACT Now** collaborated with community schools to develop a report on their impact in Illinois. On **October 6, 2020**, in celebration of the report release, **ACT Now** shared our findings on these effective partners and holistic support systems through a virtual event. We heard from community schools providers as they described the diverse actions they took to respond to their youths' and communities' needs relating to COVID-19 and racial injustice. State Representative Theresa Mah [D-2nd] also made remarks in support of community schools. To read the report, review the event broadcast, and access the supporting materials, click [here](#).

ACT Now Toolkit: Lights On Afterschool 2020

Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. We know that Out-Of-School Time (OST) providers have been integral in responding to the diverse needs of young people and their communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to offer holistic supports as we approach the fall. **Join us by celebrating afterschool on October 22nd!** Use our toolkit in order to advocate

for the field, host an event (virtual or in-person), and share what afterschool means to you! To access the toolkit, click [here](#).

The Afterschool Alliance: 21st Century Waiver FAQ

The Afterschool Alliance has developed a brief FAQ to respond to afterschool providers questions relating to the 21st Century Waiver. To review the document, click [here](#).

Youth Development

BOOST Cafe Resources: Activities Relating to Physical Activity and STEM Programming

Boost Cafe has curated a list of activities for afterschool providers to utilize in order to encourage youth to get active and build upon STEM skills.

- [The Active After School Activity Database](#) hosts hundreds of physical activities that afterschool providers can sort by age, skill, time duration, afterschool environment (virtual, in-person, hybrid), and group size.
- The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and U.S. Department of Education collaborated with the New York Hall of Science in order to develop STEM activities for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). To access these STEM resources, click [here](#).

The Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: Trauma in Schools - A Toolkit for Educators and School Administrators Implementing Trauma Supports in Schools

[The Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#) has developed a toolkit for educators, school administrators, and afterschool providers to help them understand certain indicators of trauma in youth, and how to implement trauma-informed practices in programming. To review the toolkit, click [here](#).

After School Matters and the Readiness Projects: Spring 2020 Survey Brief

After School Matters (ASM) has partnered with [The Readiness Projects](#) to publish preliminary findings from the organization's Spring survey, which was applied to young people across the city of Chicago. The research brief highlights the value of prioritizing social and emotional learning (SEL) for youth throughout the pandemic. To read the brief, click [here](#). To read the Readiness Projects' blog post on the data, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

The Afterschool Alliance: COVID-19 and Its Effect on Programming During the Fall Survey

The Afterschool Alliance is asking for providers help once again in order to continue to tell the story of how COVID-19 is impacting afterschool and summer learning programs, and the young people and families who rely on them. To read the results from the previous survey, click [here](#). This third survey is focused specifically on the ways in which the pandemic has or has not affected your fall programming. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and your responses will be anonymous. To complete the survey, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2021

ACT Now is seeking applicants for its Policy and Communications Internship for the Spring 2021 semester. As our intern, you will have the opportunity to assist in ACT Now's federal and state policy initiatives and communications work. Applicants should have excellent communications skills, a strong work ethic, and a background in government relations, public policy, or social work. Applicants must have also completed at least their sophomore year in their undergraduate institution and be able to dedicate at minimum 12 hours a week to working at ACT Now. To review the full posting, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

The Chicago Learning Exchange, Digital Youth Network, and Chicago Public Libraries: The Brother Mike Award

The Chicago Learning Exchange, Digital Youth Network, and Chicago Public Libraries have created the annual Brother Mike Award in celebration of Chicago's afterschool mentors. This award of \$5000 will be given to a Chicago-based "connected mentor." If you are interested in nominating a mentor for this award, or want more information, click [here](#). Nominations for the Brother Mike Award are **due November 2, 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](#)