

# ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



## October

- 10/7** Community Schools in Illinois: An Effective Strategy to Address Equity, Health, and Academics in Our Schools
- 10/8** Virtual Quality Standards Training 101
- 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

## 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](mailto: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.

## Policy Updates

### State Policy

#### **Illinois State Board of Education: 21st Century Waiver Public Comment Period Now Open**

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 21<sup>st</sup> Century waiver. This decision will allow ISBE to waive the definition of Community Learning Center(s) as being entities only allowed to provide services during "non-school hours or periods when school is not in session (such as before and after school)" during school year 2020- 2021. **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. **ISBE has 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**

Starting on **October 7, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will be hosting its FY22 virtual Budget hearings over the course of the month. For more information on the hearings, 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 are encouraging 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

Downstate	Suburbs	Chicago
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 Event: Community Schools in Illinois - An Effective Strategy to Address Equity, Health, and Academics in Our Schools**

**ACT Now** has collaborated with community schools to develop a report on their impact. **ACT Now** seeks to share our findings on these effective partners and holistic support systems with you. We will hear from community schools providers themselves as they describe the diverse actions they took to respond to their youths' and communities' needs relating to COVID-19 and racial injustice.

**Today at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, join us for an engaging virtual discussion of our research. Featured speakers include Representative Theresa Mah and more! To register, click [here](#).



## **ACT Now Training: Illinois Quality Standards 101**

**ACT Now** is providing free online training on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. Join us on **October 8, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** to:

- dive deep into the background in the Standards
- discuss the benefits of the Standards and the research that link links quality programming to positive outcomes for youth
- explore how to align the Standards with other quality tools
- create a plan for implementing the Standards and developing strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives
- discuss how to use the Standards in work

To register for the training, click [here](#).

## **Youth Development**

### **Illinois Afterschool Network: Upcoming Webinars on STEM, Resources for Child Care Providers, SEL and Lights On Afterschool**

The Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) will be hosting a variety of webinars for afterschool providers during the month of October:

- On **October 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, IAN will be hosting a webinar on STEM education for afterschool providers interested in receiving resources for facilitating coding and STEM programming. For more information and to register for this opportunity, click [here](#).
- On **October 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**, IAN is facilitating a training to help providers understand how to plan engaging activities using household items for children learning from home. To register, click [here](#).
- On **October 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**, IAN will be sharing with afterschool providers best practices for creating safe spaces for youth participating in virtual and in-person programming. Attendees will also learn about the importance of incorporating social-emotional learning (SEL) competencies into these spaces. To register, click [here](#).
- On **October 22, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**, join IAN in celebrating Lights On Afterschool 2020. Attendees will participate in

drumming, rhythm activities, and more. For more information and to register for the event, click [here](#).

### **National Girls Collaborative Project Webinar: Picture a Scientist: Bringing Gender Equity in Science to the Big Screen**

On **October 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP) is hosting a webinar to promote "Picture a Scientist: Bringing Gender Equity in Science to the Big Screen." This webinar will discuss the film, highlighting women in STEM and the challenges that many face in the field, and attendees will have the opportunity to listen to the filmmakers and scientists in the documentary. **Registration close on October 7, 2020**, and the film is suitable for ages 14 and above. For more information, click [here](#).

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

## **Resources for Providers**

### **Administration**

#### **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](#).

#### **Education Week Article: Tips for Building Relationships with Remote Students**

Education Week has written an article for educators and afterschool providers working with students they may have never met before in a remote environment. The article outlines four tips for fostering strong student-teacher relationships and the positive outcomes from implementing these practices. To read it, click [here](#).



## Youth Development

### **The American Geosciences Institute Resource: Earth Science Week**

Between October 11th and 17th, educators and afterschool providers across the nation will celebrate Earth Science Week. [The American Geosciences Institute](#) has developed a toolkit and compiled a variety of Earth Science resources to help educators teach about the planet and its systems. To access these diverse materials, click [here](#).

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

## Opportunities for Providers

### Administration

#### **My CHI. My Future: Remote Learning Supervision Hub**

My CHI. My Future. has updated its list of organizations that are providing supervision and care during the remote learning school day for children ages 3 through 14. Also, now you are able to see where these opportunities are located, based upon their zip code in the City of Chicago. To view the map and learn more information about supervision and care, click [here](#).

#### **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. 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](#).

### Family and Community Partnerships

#### **The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: COVID-19 Immigrant Family Support Project (Lottery Program)**

On **October 1, 2020**, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) launched the COVID-19 Immigrant Family Support Project



(IFSP). The \$20 million program will provide financial support to immigrants and those who were excluded from receiving federal stimulus checks. Eligible applicants will be awarded \$1,000 per household. **Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on October 15, 2020.** For more information and to apply, 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

### Administration

#### Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Department of Human Services: Child Care Restoration Grants Round II

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) are seeking applicants for the second round of the Child Care Restoration Grant program for licensed child care providers. This round's grant funding is limited and applications will be processed in the order they are received. The application period closes on **October 15, 2020**. *Please note: if your program was eligible in round one,*

there is no need to apply again as it is automatically eligible for the second round. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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](mailto: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](#)