

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



November

- 11/5** STEM Webinar #2: How to Make STEM At-Home Kits
- 11/10** Million Girls Moonshot STEM Webinar: Engineering Practice Support Equity Part III
- 11/11** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part I
- 11/12** Downstate Community Schools Convening
- 11/18** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part II
- 11/25** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part III

Call for Phenomenal Staff and OST Programming!

To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, and to shine light on the integral role that program staff play in restoring Illinois, ACT Now will continue to showcase staff members and programs on our social media platforms and in our weekly newsletter. We will 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 a caption for how this individual or program is working to support young people in the community.

Phenomenal Afterschool Staff Highlight!

Remington Price

Title: Associate Director of Culinary Arts
Location: Greater Grand Crossing Neighborhood
Organization: Gary Comer Youth Center (GCYC)

Remington Price and the Culinary Team at Gary Comer Youth Center have worked tirelessly to provide families with meals, using produce cultivated onsite in the GCYC Garden. They also facilitated cooking classes, and provided apprenticeships for youth during the summer.

GARY COMER YOUTH CENTER
on the Comer Education Campus

ACTNOW!
Afterschool for Children and Teens

Policy Updates

State Policy

Illinois State Board of Education: Public Comment in Support of 21st Century Waiver Received

On **October 28, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) closed its Public Comment period for the U.S. Department of Education's 21st CCLC Waiver. ISBE has confirmed that it is in receipt of ACT Now's public comment in support of the agency's intent to apply for the waiver. ACT

Now would like to thank its members, Coalition partners, and program providers for submitting comments in support of the waiver.

Illinois Department of Human Services: Clarification on Federal Funds Utilized for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training

On **September 22, 2020**, the Trump Administration issued an [Executive Order](#) in order to affect the ability of federal grant recipients to facilitate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training. On **October 27, 2020**, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) issued guidance to clarify grantees' concerns. IDHS stated that the federal Executive Order appears to have no immediate impact on federal grants to IDHS, nor does the agency believe it should affect either training or federal funding for IDHS federal grant recipients. IDHS also shared that providers are still able to use non-federal funds to conduct these important trainings. To read the full press release, 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. The next training will take place on **November 12, 2020**, for Downstate providers. The training will surround the topic of Advisory Boards. To register for this event, click [here](#). More information regarding the regional convenings is located on our Community Schools Corner page [here](#).

ACT Now STEM Webinar: How to Make STEM At-Home Kits

On **November 5, 2020, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, **ACT Now** will be hosting its second STEM webinar on the importance of engaging youth in STEM programming while at home, or in a virtual environment, via STEM at-home kits. Participants will learn how to develop their own STEM kits with low-cost and household items for young people in your program to utilize. Featured trailblazing STEM organizations include Project Exploration, Homewood Science Center, and the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI). Hear from these diverse entities as they describe the

various stages of the STEM kit process and give tips on distributing them too! To register, click [here](#).

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 25, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, attend 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.



Youth Development

Million Girls Moonshot Webinar: Engineering Practice Support Equity Part III

On **November 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** Million Girls Moonshot is hosting part three of its webinar series on engineering practices to support equity. Participants will dive deep into the importance of fostering an engineering mindset in youth and highlight how to evaluate and iterate, navigate failure, and promote teamwork and STEM identity. Attendees will also

learn how to create inclusive learning experiences for young people. To register, click [here](#).

Family and Community Partnerships

American Institutes for Research and The Wandersman Center Webinar: The Role of Readiness in Education: How Can Families Be Ready for the "New Normal" in Education?

On **November 6, 2020, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CST**, the American Institutes for Research and the Wandersman Center will be hosting a webinar to discuss what we know about readiness, how readiness in education has changed due to COVID-19, and how a major disruption can lower readiness in one area while potentially building it in another for families and program providers working to support youth. To learn more about the event, 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 Blog: Elections

Afterschool programs are excellent resources to support youth and families, including during a stressful election season. Our Network Lead, Susan Stanton, wrote a blog post outlining some suggestions for afterschool

providers to keep in mind with regard to the elections, today, in order to support the youth and communities they serve, as well as staff. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

My CHI. My Future.: Mental Wellness Resources Relating to Elections

Over the summer, My CHI. My Future. worked alongside Youth Commissioners to understand that what young people want most is a space with caring adults, to be heard, and a place to reflect on current events. To help to process current events, My CHI. My Future compiled a variety of mental wellness resources for young people, communities, and providers looking to foster conversations around the elections in their programming.

- [Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility's Election Week 2020 Conversation Guidelines](#)
- [Headspace's Article on Navigating Election Anxiety](#)
- [Facing History's Educator Resource on Responding to the 2020 Presidential Election](#)

To access the full list of resources, click [here](#).

Food Research and Action Center Report: Afterschool Suppers: A Snapshot of Participation

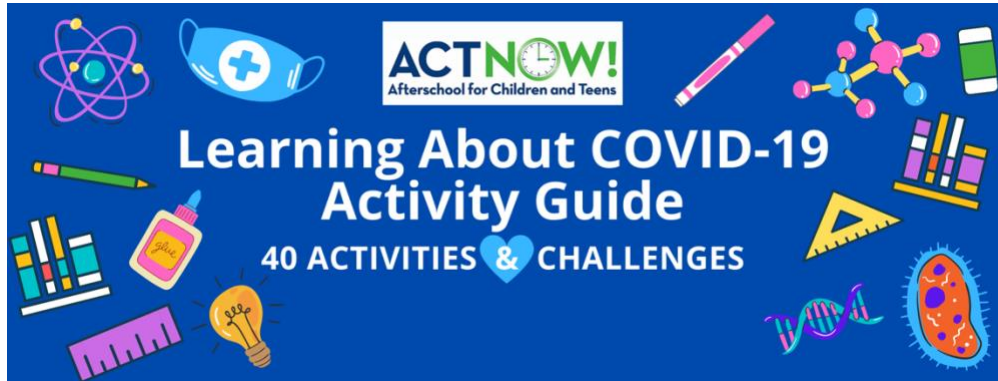
On **October 20, 2020**, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) released a report highlighting the federal Afterschool Meals Program. According to the report, more than 1.4 million low-income youth participated in the Afterschool Meals Program on an average day in October 2019, an increase of more than 86,900 participants. The report also calls for significant investments at the federal, state, and local levels in order to create more opportunities for afterschool programs to provide integral enrichment activities and meals for young people. To read the full report, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ACT Now: The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide

The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide has been developed for the [50 State Afterschool Network](#), with leadership from the [Alaska Afterschool Network](#), to help educate youth on the science behind COVID-19 and to help foster greater social awareness and empathy in communities. The guide hosts 40 activities and challenges and is organized by four different age groups (5-9), (10-12), (13-15), and (16-18). It is also adaptable for in-person and virtual instruction, or a hybrid, and providers are able to develop take-

home packets using the sessions. Featured activities use low-cost and household items and are based on skill-building, STEM, and social-emotional learning competencies. To access the activity guide, click [here](#).



The Wallace Foundation Report: Early Lessons from Schools and Out-of-School Time Programs Implementing Social and Emotional Learning

This report presents findings from the first two years of the Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative, a multiyear effort supported by [the Wallace Foundation](#), and explores whether and how children can benefit from partnerships between schools and Out-of-School Time (OST) programs focused on fostering social and emotional skills. To review the findings, click [here](#).

Learning in Afterschool & Summer Blog: Addressing the Needs of Girls in Afterschool

This blog focuses on addressing the needs of girls in the afterschool field. The blog features an interview with Allison Dymnicki, a researcher at American Institutes for Research (AIR), who recently published a study about promoting the healthy development of girls at Girls Inc. To read the post, click [here](#).

Family and Community Partnerships

City of Chicago: Rental Assistance Program

The City of Chicago has created the Rental Assistance Program (RAP) to support Chicago residents who are at risk of becoming homeless due to lost income or due to another emergency that prevents them from paying rent. The RAP is open to all Chicago residents regardless of legal immigration status. To clarify, rental assistance is not a “public-charge” benefit. **Applications are due online on November 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m.**

CST. To learn more about eligibility and to apply, click [here](#). *Please note: assistance in Spanish is available.*

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

National Geographic Society: National Geographic Explorer Classroom

This fall, the National Geographic Society is hosting a series of [National Geographic's Explorer Classroom](#) events designed specifically for Out-of-School Time providers. Two versions are offered: one is recommended for grades 1-3 and the other recommended for grades 4-8. All Explorer Classroom events are supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The live YouTube sessions connect young people with cutting-edge scientists, researchers, and powerful storytellers around the world. The events are free and include opportunities to ask questions and receive guidance for facilitating conversations between youth and STEM professionals. To learn more and to register, 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 our Policy and Communications Internship for spring 2021. 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 communication 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](#).

Youth Development

CyberUp: PowerUp: Cyber Games

CyberUp's PowerUp: Cyber Games is a monthly capture the flag (CTF) competition for middle school and high school students that takes place during the school year. A CTF is a special kind of cybersecurity competition designed to challenge its participants to solve computer security problems and/or capture and defend computer systems. Youth can participate via a school affiliated team, as individuals, and on a team of up to four students. [CyberUp](#) is offering scholarships to registrants. To learn more about the events and eligibility, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

Youth Service America: Afterschool Grant Opportunity

With support from the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#), Youth Service America (YSA) is awarding [Afterschool Grants](#) to organizations for the 2020-2021 school year. Grants will total up to \$500 each and are geared towards supporting youth-led service projects or service-learning in afterschool programs. Activities may take place between mid-December to the end of the school year. **Applications are due by December 4, 2020.** For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

Association for Library Service to Children and Candlewick Press: Light the Way Grant

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Candlewick Press are soliciting applications for their "Light the Way" grant. The award consists of a \$3,000 grant to assist a library in conducting exemplary and replicable outreach to underserved populations through a new and innovative program or an expansion of work already being done by a

youth-serving organization. **Applications are due on December 1, 2020.** For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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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