

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



Presents

Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021:
A Conversation With Statewide Leaders



Ask Questions
Plan for Summer
Support Youth
Help Illinois Recover

JOIN US
March 30, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The graphic features a green background with blue and white polka-dot patterns. At the top is the ACTNOW! logo with a clock icon. Below it, the word 'Presents' is written in yellow. The main title is in white and bold. A central image shows children jumping with confetti. Below the image, there are two stylized figures at podiums, one male and one female. The text 'Ask Questions, Plan for Summer, Support Youth, Help Illinois Recover' is centered between them. At the bottom, the event details are listed in white and yellow.

ACT Now: Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021 - A Conversation with Statewide Leaders

Join **ACT Now** on **March 30, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** for an engaging conversation with state leaders to discuss the role of summer programs in supporting youth and families this year as our communities continue to address academic loss, food insecurity, isolation, and more. Panelists will include:

Secretary Grace Hou - Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services

Tim Verry - Director of Division of Family & Community Services for the Illinois Department of Human Services

Krish Mohip - Deputy Operational Educational Officer at the Illinois State Board of Education

Cara Wiley - Director of Regulatory Support and Wellness and Acting 21st CCLC Supervisor at the Illinois State Board of Education

Representative Aaron Ortiz - Illinois General Assembly

Fanny Diego Alvarez - Program Officer for the Grand Victoria Foundation

Register [HERE](#)

Please note that when you register, you will be able to submit your questions for our panelists.

ACT Now: New Blog Post

Afterschool as a Substance Misuse and Violence Prevention Tool: Funding Youth Development Programs through Adult-Use Cannabis Tax Revenue in Illinois

ACT Now's Network Lead, Susan Stanton, and Spring 2021 Intern, HannaMarie Hohener, have written a blog post on the historic Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program, which directs state funding to communities across Illinois that have disproportionately been affected by the war on drugs. The blog post elevates the use of funding for youth development programming and afterschool and shares examples of the projects four partner organizations are facilitating for young people in the state. Learn more about how our friends at the YMCA of Rock Valley, the United Way of Greater St. Louis, Springfield Urban League, and the Center for Community Academic Success Partnerships (CCASP) are all utilizing their funding to support and serve young people in Illinois! To read the blog, click [here](#).

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

U.S. Senate: American Rescue Plan to Provide Funding for Afterschool and Summer Learning Providers

On **March 6, 2021**, the U.S. Senate joined the U.S House of Representatives in passing President Biden's [American Rescue Plan](#), which supports afterschool and summer learning providers. In total, the Senate bill could make **\$8.75 billion available for afterschool and summer programs, across all states, which would be administered by State Education Agencies (SEAs)**. Funding at this level, will potentially provide opportunities for more than 9 million young people across the country. There will also be **\$21.9 billion**

available for afterschool and summer programs, administered by local school districts. This bill was revised by the Senate and the House is expected to pass it before sending it to President Biden to sign into law later this week. To read the Afterschool Alliance's blog post on this legislation, click [here](#).

State Policy

Governor Pritzker's Office: Education and Workforce Equity Act Signed into Law

Yesterday, on March 8, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Education and Workforce Equity Act ([HB 2170](#)) into law, which aims to strengthen the state's priorities in delivering high-quality learning for early-learners and K-12 students by supporting public schools, making college education more affordable, investing in vocational training, and expanding the teacher workforce. As it relates to the afterschool field, the Act requires the Illinois P-20 Council to make recommendations for both the short-term and long-term learning recovery actions for students in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also creates the Whole Child Task Force, which will focus on expanding trauma-responsive school services. To read the full press release, click [here](#).

Illinois Department of Human Services: The Child Care Restoration Grants 2021 Program Now Open

Last week, the [Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) announced that the agency is soliciting applications for the agency's Child Care Restoration Grants 2021 program (CCRG). This \$331 million program is funded by the federal relief package passed by the US Congress and exists in order to sustain child care as the economy continues to reopen. The CCRG 2021 first round of grants will be retroactive to January 2021 and cover the months of January, February, and March 2021. Monthly reporting will be required and can be submitted at the end of the 3-month grant period. Eligible applicants include:

- Licensed child care center providers
- Licensed family home and group home providers
- License-exempt school-age child care providers and Out-of-School Time (OST) providers

Please note that the amount of funding differs between the groups of providers.

- Licensed child care center providers will receive grants on a quarterly-basis and as funding is available.
- Both licensed family home and group home providers, as well as license-exempt school-age child care providers and OST providers, will receive limited one-time stipends for the months of January, February, and March 2021.

To review the total amount of stipends available by group and access more information on the CCRG 2021 program, click [here](#). The CCRG helpline is continuing to offer assistance and answer questions by email at ccrg@inccrra.org.

ACT Now would like to acknowledge the leadership from the [Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs](#) and the [Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs](#) for the ongoing advocacy around the need to include license-exempt school-age and OST child care providers in grant programs administered by IDHS.

ACT Now thanks these Alliances for continuing to fight for our afterschool providers and congratulate them on this success!

City of Chicago: Guidance on Out-of-School Time Programming

Last week, the [Chicago Department of Public Health](#) released new guidance as it relates to COVID-19 restrictions and Out-of-School Time (OST) programming. OST providers are now allowed to host indoor group exercise or fitness classes capped at 20 individuals (e.g., dance, yoga). Programs in which participants are primarily seated/stationery may continue in cohorts of up to 20 people (e.g., painting, creative writing, homework help). Day camps are still limited to 50% of facility capacity with no more than 15 participants per group. To learn more, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Administration	ACT Now	Afterschool Town Hall - COVID, Summer Programming, and Planning for Vaccinations	March 2, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	To access the recording, click here
	ACT Now	21st Century Community Learning Center RFP Webinar for Prospective Grantees	March 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Downstate Providers: Family Engagement	March 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	National Summer Learning Association	Ten Big Bets: Transforming Education During the Pandemic and Beyond	March 10, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Click here

	Environmental Education Association of Illinois	2021 Annual Conference: A Virtual Learning and Networking Experience	March 11, 2021 to March 13, 2021	Click here
	Illinois Student Assistance Commission and Illinois State Board of Education	Rock the FAFSA Week Events	March 15, 2021 to March 19, 2021	Click here
	Afterschool Alliance and Every Hour Counts	Reimagine the Future of Afterschool: Building Back Better with Youth and Communities Conference	April 28, 2021 to April 30, 2021	Click here
Youth Development	ACT Now	FY21 SEL Webinar #3: Self-Management	March 4, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	To access the recording, click here
	ACT Now	FY21 STEM Webinar #4: Connecting STEM to Everyday Life & Career Exploration	March 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
Family and Community Partnerships	ACT Now	FY21 Family Engagement Webinar Series Each webinar is \$10. Please note that these trainings are not recorded. <i>For group pricing for more than 5 participants within the same organization, please contact Emma Vibber at VibberE@actnowillinois.org</i>	Part II: March 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Part III: March 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Illinois Commission to End Hunger	From Food Insecurity to Food Equity: A Roadmap to End Hunger in Illinois	March 10, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.	Click here

For an archive

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Education Week Article: Strategies for Teaching Students Online & Face to Face at the Same Time

[Education Week](#) has published an article highlighting strategies for afterschool providers and educators that are instructing virtually and in-person simultaneously. There are best practices for managing both types of teaching environments. To read the article, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ShareMyLesson: Women's Suffrage and Equal Rights Resources

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a variety of resources on women's suffrage and equal rights resources in celebration of Women's History Month. There are videos, curricula, activities, and more for afterschool providers to easily integrate into programming. To access these resources, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Illinois Department of Public Health: V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker

As more Illinois residents become eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) (IDPH) is encouraging those who receive a COVID-19 vaccination to utilize the V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker (v-safe). The V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker is a free program that also allows people to communicate directly with the CDC regarding any potential side-effects they may experience. To learn more about the program, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

ACT Now: Diversity, Racial Equity, and Inclusion Consultant Request for Proposals Released

ACT Now is seeking a consultant to conduct a review of ACT Now's diversity, racial equity, and inclusion (DREI) practices, assist in developing activities to improve in our DREI practices, develop a DREI needs assessment for our members, and assist in creating resources to meet the needs of our members. For more information regarding this opportunity and the RFP, click [here](#). **Submissions are due by March 30, 2021**, to stantons@actnowillinois.org. All submissions must be in PDF format.

Afterschool Alliance: COVID-19 Program Survey Now Open!

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) is looking for program providers interested in sharing the challenges associated with the ongoing pandemic, in order to highlight some of the long-term effects of COVID-19 on the afterschool field. This is the fourth wave of Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19 tracking survey, which will be shared with federal policymakers. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and responses will be anonymous. Submit your comments and gain a chance to win a \$50 gift card! **Survey responses are due March 14, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. PDT.** To complete the survey, click [here](#).

STEM Next and Public Profit: Million Girls Moonshot STEM Survey Opportunity!

[STEM Next](#) has partnered with [Public Profit](#) to evaluate the Million Girls Moonshot initiative as a whole and help support our data collection efforts via a STEM survey. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and each program that participates will be invited to an exclusive webinar on hands-on engineering activities youth can do at home. Complete the survey and gain a chance to receive a \$100 gift card as well! To access the survey, click [here](#). **The survey is open now and will close on April 30, 2021.**

Youth Development

STEM Next and Intel: Intel Future Skills Educator Academy Virtual Opportunity

[STEM Next](#) and [Intel](#) are inviting middle school educators and afterschool providers to participate in an [Intel Future Skills Educator Academy](#) virtual training! Intel created [Future Skills](#) to ensure that future generations have access to the skills needed for a lifetime of problem solving and discovery through STEAM learning. The sessions are interactive and hands-on.

- Training Session 1 - **March 29, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
- Training Session 2 - **March 31, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

To register for this opportunity, click [here](#). The deadline to register is **March 18, 2021**.

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2021

ACT Now is seeking applicants for our paid Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2021. Applications are due to Emma Spencer at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org on **April 2, 2021, by 5:00 p.m.** To review the full posting, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Mikva Challenge: Issues to Action Kickoff Event

[The Mikva Challenge](#) is inviting young people to join a community of like-minded individuals from around the country for its Issues to Action Kickoff event on **March 11, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** The event focused on the how-to's of youth-led community action. Participants will gain tools and strategies for designing their own community action project, and hear directly from a panel of young people who have completed powerful projects in the past. To register, click [here](#).

Lt. Governor Stratton's Office: Women and Girls Summit

Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton is inviting young people, girls, and women to join her in celebrating Women's History Month during the month of March by participating in the events of the Women and Girls Summit. These virtual events will take place on **Wednesdays during March** and can be viewed by visiting the Lt. Governor Stratton's social media pages ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)), as all the events will be livestreamed there. **The events will all take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

Afterschool Alliance and Facebook: Funding Available for Engineer for the Week

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) and [Facebook](#) are providing \$200-\$500 stipends to afterschool programs for participating in the Facebook Engineer for the Week (EFTW) program. Engineer for the Week provides a high-

quality, cost-free curriculum that helps students ages 11 to 18 develop Computer Science skills and explore engineering as they design a prototype to achieve positive social impact. **Registration is due March 14, 2021.** To sign up for this opportunity, click [here](#).

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

Call for Phenomenal Staff and OST Programming!

To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, and to shine a light on the integral role that program staff plays 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!

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.

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