In response to provider feedback on the Quality Standards 101 Training, ACT Now has developed our Quality Standards 102 training! **Join us on May 5, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,** as we dive deeper into crowdsourced and specific Core Areas! You will indicate the topics YOU want to focus on in this training at registration.
Register [HERE](#)

*NOTE: Quality Standards 101 Training attendance is required prior to Quality Standards 102 Training registration. Please direct any questions or inquiries to Emma Vibber (Quality and Professional Development Specialist) at: vibbere@actnowillinois.org.

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**Policy Updates**

**Federal Policy**

**President Joseph Biden's Administration: Child Care Funding from American Rescue Plan Announced**

On [April 15, 2021](#), the Biden Administration announced the release of $39 billion of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to states, territories, and tribes to address the child care crisis caused by COVID-19. To review the White House fact sheet on this funding, click [here](#). To review the Department of Health and Human Services' document, which hosts allocations for ARP child care funds, click [here](#).

**State Policy**

**Governor JB Pritzker's Office: $1.6 Billion in Federal Aid Allocated for Early Childhood Education and Child Care**

On [April 16, 2021](#), Governor JB Pritzker announced that his administration will be allocating $1.6 billion in federal COVID relief to expand access to early childhood education and child care opportunities across the state of Illinois. Child care providers are expected to receive $140 million in direct grants in the next several weeks in order to support child care providers. The Governor also announced a network of statewide early childhood planning councils to ensure all communities have access to the early childhood services in particular. To read the full press release, click [here](#).

**Illinois State Board of Education: Title I, Part A Fiscal Waiver Public Comment**

On [April 13, 2021](#), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) shared that U.S. Department of Education released an application for an ESEA fiscal waiver for Title I, Part A, among other Title programs, in spring 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. ISBE received approval for this and other waivers at that time and would like to continue to provide this flexibility for school districts during the 2021-22 school year. As a result, ISBE is submitting a waiver to continue to provide the following:

- The removal of the 15% carryover limitation that allows an LEA to carry over more that 15% of unused funds once every three years.
• An extension of the availability of SEA funds that would otherwise expire on September 30, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

ISBE must post the waiver application and collect public comment. Please submit any comments on the ESEA fiscal waiver application by May 4, 2021, to essa@isbe.net.

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click here.

Trainings, Events and Webinars

ACT Now: NEW WEBINAR SERIES!

ACT Now is unveiling our newest webinar series called Afterschool as a Safe Space! This virtual training series will help programs identify the importance of a systematic approach to health and safety as well as tailor professional development assessments to meet unique programmatic needs. Join Us!
Part I: May 12, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Register [HERE](#).
Part II: May 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Register [HERE](#).
Part III: May 26, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - Register [HERE](#).

Each webinar is $10.00. If you would like to register for the ENTIRE webinar series, click [here](#).

If you are interested in group pricing for 5 or more participants within the same organization, please contact Emma Vibber (Quality and Professional Development Specialist) at: vibbere@actnowillinois.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Area</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name of Event/Training</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Registration Link</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>Afterschool Town Hall - COVID, Summer Programming, and Planning for Vaccinations</td>
<td></td>
<td>To access the recording, click <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021 - A Conversation with Statewide Leaders</td>
<td></td>
<td>To access the recording, click <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>21st Century Town Hall Series</td>
<td>May 3, 2021, May 17, 2021, May 1, 2021, June 14, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Click <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>Q4 Community Schools Training for Suburban Providers: Evaluation and Needs Assessment</td>
<td>April 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>To access the recording, click <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>Q4 Community Schools Training for Chicago Providers: Advisory Boards</td>
<td></td>
<td>Click <a href="#">here</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois Partners for Human Services</strong></td>
<td>Conversation with conversation with State Comptroller Susana Mendoza</td>
<td>April 23, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Click here</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference Webinar: ISBE Update</td>
<td>July 19, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference Webinar: Menu Planning</td>
<td>July 19, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Click here</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference Webinar: USDA Foods</td>
<td>July 20, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference Webinar: Financial Management</td>
<td>July 20, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Click here</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference Webinar: Monitoring</td>
<td>July 21, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Click here</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>School Nutrition Programs Back to School Conference Webinar: Wrap-Up Game</td>
<td>July 21, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Click here</td>
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| **Professional Development** | **ACT Now** | Narrative 4: The Power Of Story Exchange | April 27, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Click here |
| **Learning Policy Institute** | Accelerating Learning Webinar: High-Quality Tutoring Strategies | Today, April 2021, from 11:00 a.m. | Click here |
For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click here.

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<tr>
<th>Resources for Providers</th>
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### Administration

Afterschool Alliance: New Website for Providers Looking to Access American Rescue Plan Dollars Live

Last week, the Afterschool Alliance launched a new website called Help Kids Recover in order to serve as a resource for local and state education agencies, as well as out-of-school time (OST) providers looking to access funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). To access a variety of materials and
information regarding partnerships for afterschool and summer learning, click [here](#). To read the blog post on the website, click [here](#).

**Youth Development**

*EducationWeek Resources: Talking to Students about Racism and Police Killings*

*EducationWeek* has compiled 16 resources for educators and afterschool providers looking to host conversations with young people on racism and police violence. Materials include lesson plans, articles and essays, videos, and more. To access these resources, click [here](#).

*eSchool NewsArticle: Five Tools to Amplify Youth Voice*

*eSchool News* has published an article highlighting five tools for engaging youth in virtual and hybrid programming, while simultaneously fostering youth voice. These tools include free and easy-to-use applications. To review the tools, click [here](#).

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

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**Opportunities for Providers**

**Administration**

*Million Girls Moonshot: National Afterschool STEM Program Survey*

*The Million Girls Moonshot* is an afterschool equity initiative that seeks to re-imagine who can engineer, who can build, who can make. This survey will help your statewide afterschool network to better understand how we can best support afterschool and summer programs statewide. We appreciate that COVID has affected afterschool and summer programs' ability to operate, and appreciate your honest responses about your programming. It should take 5-10 minutes to complete. Everyone who completes the survey will be invited to an exclusive webinar on hands-on engineering activities kids can do at home. Plus, 10 respondents will receive a $100 gift card! To complete the survey, click [here](#).

*Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education: 1954 Project*

On April 28, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., *The Cleveland Avenue Foundation for Education* (CAF) is hosting its inaugural 1954 Project Luminary Awards webinar to highlight the new
philanthropic initiative focused on embracing Black leadership to fulfill the promise of an excellent education for all. To learn more about this project, and to register for the webinar, click here.

**Youth Development**

**NASA: PLANETS Project**

NASA is soliciting applications for its PLANETS project, which aims to connect youth with planetary science and engineering experiences. NASA is asking out-of-school (OST) providers to help to identify effective practices for emergent bilingual learners, Native American learners, and learners who are experiencing physical disabilities. Participants will dedicate 90 minutes of their time for a focus group and will receive a $50 gift card. **Applications must be submitted by April 26, 2021.** Focus groups will begin in May. To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, click here.

**Earth Day Org: Earth Day 2021 Events**

Earth Day Org is hosting three days of events in celebration of Earth Day 2021 (April 21, 2021). Hear from activists, educators, artists and climate leaders.

- **Today, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**, the Hip Hop Caucus will be hosting the We Shall Breathe Summit. This summit will examine climate and environmental justice and its connections to pollution, poverty, police brutality and COVID19.
- **On April 21, 2021, from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**, there will be a Global Education Summit for educators.
- **On April 22, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, Earth Day Org is hosting its second annual global digital mobilization with panel discussions and workshops.
- **From April 22, 2021, to April 23, 2021**, President Joseph Biden’s Leaders Summit on Climate will occur. The event will include participation from 40 world leaders to discuss the critical strategies our world needs to embrace to combat the climate crisis. To gain access to the live stream link, click here.

To register for all of these exciting events and access materials to celebrate Earth Day, click here.

*For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click here.*

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**Youth Opportunities**

**Administration**

**STEAMville: Summer Employment Opportunity**
STEAMville is soliciting applications from college students, ages 18 to 24, interested in mentoring youth in STEAM activities during Summer 2021. Successful applicants will participate in paid training between May 17, 2021, and June 11, 2021, before programming begins on June 14, 2021 (depending on site). STEAMville is especially seeking to hire mentors who match the identities of youth we are serving in different communities, prioritizing students who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Latinx. Applications are due April 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, click here.

**Youth Development**

**University of Illinois Chicago: Our Digital Scholars - Computer Science Virtual Summer Program**

The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC) is facilitating a five-week virtual summer program on Computer Science starting on June 28, 2021. This opportunity affords high school sophomores, juniors, seniors and current UIC Students access to computer aided design projects. Participants will gain "hands-on" training and connect with computer science professional during in daily speaker series. To learn more about the application and participant eligibility, click here.

**National AfterSchool Association and STEMfinity: Opportunity to Win LEGO Education Kit**

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) and STEMfinity have collaborated to offer an April giveaway of a LEGO Education Afterschool or Summer Camp bundle and curriculum for one lucky NAA member. To learn more about how to enter this giveaway, click here.

**Earth Day Org: Earth Day 2021 Event for Youth**

Earth Day Org is hosting a Youth Speaks 2021 Summit! Today, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., join youth activists from Earth Uprising, My Future My Voice and OneMillionOfUs will host panels, speeches and discussions on youth climate activism. Look out for a special message from Greta Thunberg! To register, click here.

For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click here.

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**Funding Opportunities**

**Youth Development**

Illinois State Board of Education: FY22 21st Century Community Learning Centers Request for Proposal Released
This past week, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released its FY22 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant program. Proposals are due to ISBE by May 28, 2021. To learn more about this RFP opportunity and to apply, click here. Please note that the documents relating to the FY22 RFP are located under the "Funding Tab."

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, click here.