

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

[U.S. Congress: Youth Workforce Readiness Act Reintroduced in Senate and House of Representatives](#)

On **May 19, 2021**, the bipartisan Youth Workforce Readiness Act (YWRA) was reintroduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives. The Act would create investments in youth workforce readiness programs in order to prepare young people for the 21st century workforce and ultimately address the skills gap. The legislation would establish a grant program through the U.S. Department of Labor to support youth-serving, out-of-school time programs in providing programming for youth ages six to eighteen.

[Afterschool Alliance: Department of Treasury Guidance Released for American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding](#)

On **May 10, 2021**, the U.S. Department of Treasury released guidance on the American Rescue Plan's State and Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFRF) funds that can be used by local and state governments for a variety of uses including compensating essential employees and supporting education and learning loss recovery. Governors in both Wisconsin and Minnesota have announced using their state SLFRF dollars to fund afterschool and summer learning programs.

[Afterschool Alliance: American Rescue Plan Child Care Stabilization Funding Update](#)

On **May 5, 2021**, [The Afterschool Alliance](#) received guidance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on the American Rescue Plan child care stabilization funds. This guidance clearly states school-age and licensed exempt programs are eligible for these funds. Illinois is expected to receive:

- \$497 million for the Child Care Development Block Grant, which must be used to supplement and not supplant
- \$796 million for Stabilization Grants (similar to previous BIG grants)
- \$40 million for Head Start

The Afterschool Alliance is also hosting a webinar on **June 3, 2021**, for child care providers looking to gain insight into accessing this COVID-19 relief (link to register is in the Trainings, Events, and Webinars section).

State Policy

[Illinois State Board of Education: COVID Funding Updates and May Board Meeting Recap](#)

On **May 19, 2021**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its monthly meeting. The Board heard public comment about the Reopening Resolution and state assessments. Afterschool leaders from across the state also presented testimony about how the state should spend its COVID relief funding. ISBE adopted a Reopening Resolution with much debate, including how schools will handle outbreaks or students too young to receive a vaccine. ISBE provided an update on its ESSER funds. [The full update on the ISBE Board meeting and ESSER funding.](#)

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

NOTE: We have canceled the 21st Century Town Hall that was scheduled for **June 1, 2021.**

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Administration	ACT Now	21st Century Town Hall Series	June 14, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Afterschool Alliance	American Rescue Plan: School-Age Child Care Opportunities for Afterschool and Summer Webinar	June 3, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER

Professional Development	EdSystems	Rescheduled: Chicago Equity-Centered Innovation Forum Kickoff Webinar	May 27, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Exploring Best Practices for Working with Youth	June 2, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	My CHI. My Future.	Trauma-Informed and Mental Health Virtual Conference for Youth Developers	June 8, 2021 and June 9, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Registration link forthcoming
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	National AfterSchool Association	Back to Afterschool: Creating a Safe Environment with COVID-19 Testing	TODAY at 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.	REGISTER
	Laureus Sport for Good USA and Illinois Department of Public Health	IDPH Vaccination Rollout Through Sports Programs	TODAY at 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center	Protective Factors for Children: Part I	TODAY at 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Afterschool Alliance: America After 3PM Summer Edition](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) recently shared a summer edition of its America After 3PM report which highlights how summertime is a transformative period of time for young people across the nation.

[**Afterschool Alliance: 2021 Summer Programs Toolkit**](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has released a toolkit for afterschool and summer learning providers to utilize in order to engage families, stakeholders, staff members, and more.

[**Learning Policy Institute: Social Media Toolkit - Community Schools and COVID-19 Recovery**](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute](#) has curated a variety of resources for community schools providers to utilize in advocacy efforts surrounding topics of funding the strategy, COVID-19 recovery, and more.

Youth Development

[**Afterschool Alliance Resources: Reengaging Young People Utilizing Social Emotional Learning Practices**](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has released an article for afterschool and summer learning providers looking for resources on reengaging young people. This article draws upon data and insights from the Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative (PSELI), a podcast series hosted by the Afterschool Alliance.

[**DefinedLearning White Paper: Empowering Students with Equitable Access to Career Experiences**](#)

[DefinedLearning](#) has published a new white paper on the importance of supporting students and youth in accessing college and career exploration experiences. The piece also describes the strategies for doing so successfully, whether in a school district or afterschool program environment.

[**ShareMyLesson Webinar Recording: Supporting K-12 Students for Success During Transition Times**](#)

[ShareMyLessons](#) has shared the recording to its webinar on supporting youth during transitional periods, including moving from remote and hybrid programming to in-person experiences.

[**Mizzen App: End of May Lesson Plans Released**](#)

[The Mizzen App](#) by Mott Foundation has uploaded new lesson plans and activities for program providers to utilize. Topics surround health and wellness, critical thinking, creativity and art, social-

emotional learning competencies, and more. Program providers will need to make an account to access these free resources.

[Learning Policy Institute Report: Social Justice Humanitas - A Community School Approach to Whole Child Education](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute](#) has released a new report on the community school framework and highlights the Social Justice Humanitas Academy as a model for replication. The paper highlights how there is a common misperception that community schools primarily focus on the provision of external supports rather than influencing the character of teaching and learning to enable student success.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Illinois Department of Public Health: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Partnership Opportunity for Afterschool Providers](#)

On **May 19, 2021**, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) hosted a brief conversation with afterschool and summer learning providers to share an opportunity to partner with the agency to provide COVID-19 vaccination clinics for youth and families. **IDPH encourages out-of-school time (OST) program providers to reach out to the agency if they are interested in collaborating to host a short-term or long-term clinic.** IDPH also announced that all individuals ages 12 and older should utilize the [new website](#) to check and book an appointment for a vaccination. For questions, please connect with Jordan Hatcher at jordan.hatcher@illinois.gov.

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Illinois Student Assistance Commission: Student Job Board for Summer Jobs and Internships](#)

[The Illinois Student Assistance Commission](#) has created a Student Job Board for youth that are looking to work or participate in an internship over the summer. A variety of experiences from all areas of the state are listed and updated on a regular basis.

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[JPMorgan Chase & Co.: Advancing Cities Grant Opportunity Open](#)

[JPMorgan Chase & Co.](#) are soliciting Requests for Proposals (RFPs) from community-based organizations that work to assist and empower Black and Latina women and their communities in particular. **The application period closes June 28, 2021.**

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

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