

# ACTNOW!

## NEWSLETTER

### The Monthly Membership Exchange!

You are cordially invited to

**THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP EXCHANGE**

**This month's topic:  
Back to Basics**

Expert advice and information on how to navigate the transition back to full in-person learning and ensure support to students and staff

Tuesday, August 10, 2021  
10:00am-11:00am on Zoom

[Announcing the latest in ACT Now Member Engagement: The Monthly Membership Exchange!](#)

In order to facilitate the sharing of experiences and resources, we are creating a monthly forum that will be open to all **ACT Now** members. This once a month, 1-hour Zoom meeting will:

- Feature themed conversations on improving afterschool programming
- Share state and policy updates in real time
- Connect you with other out-of-school-time professionals across the state

The first **Membership Exchange, Back to Basics, will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** and focus on how to successfully return to full in-person learning. Many students began the transition to in-person learning last spring, but the upcoming school year will be filled with new challenges and opportunities as we complete the transition. **ACT Now** will bring together expert advice and information on how to navigate the transition and how you can best provide support to your students and staff.

**We can't wait to see you at The Exchange**  
**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

For questions, please contact Lesley Fisher Chapman (ACT Now Program Coordinator) at [chapmanl@actnowillinois.org](mailto:chapmanl@actnowillinois.org).

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# Policy Updates

## Federal Updates

### [Chalkbeat Chicago Article: Head Start Grant for City of Chicago Redistributed by Federal Government](#)

On **July 20, 2021**, the federal government shared that it will be breaking up the City of Chicago's "monopoly" of the \$145 million Head Start grant program and redistribute almost \$95 million in grants to five community-based organizations across the city. One of the grantees will be led by former Illinois First Lady Diana Rauner and City Hall will remain in control of \$51.8 million of the grant. The new federal grantees will also oversee a small group of partner agencies, with Start Early's roster including two charter schools that run preschool programs and kindergartens. Our colleague, Bela Moté, the CEO of the Carole Robertson Center for Learning, said her organization will "focus immediately on doing more to [boost salary and benefits for educators](#) and help stem the loss of teachers to the public school district, where pay is on a unionized pay scale."

## State Updates

### [P-20 Council: July Meeting Recap](#)

On **July 23, 2021**, the P-20 Council met for its monthly convening. The P-20 Council announced that it would be writing a report on learning renewal pursuant to [HB 2170](#). There will be opportunities for stakeholder participation in writing this report. **ACT Now** provided public comment about the need for greater school district and community organization collaboration in learning renewal and mentioned our upcoming webinars on this topic. The next P-20 Council meeting is **September 24, 2021**.

**[Chicago Public Schools: Masks for Unvaccinated Personnel and Youth Will be Mandatory for School Year](#)**

On **July 22, 2021**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) representatives announced that **masks will be mandatory for school personnel, visitors, and youth, regardless of their vaccination status**. Masks will not be mandatory for youth while eating or drinking indoors, or for outdoor activities including recess and sports. This change in regulation will span the entire school year to ensure that students and educators remain safe from COVID-19. However, district officials stated they cannot guarantee three feet of social distancing within school premises at all times given the student population and classroom constraints.

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

## Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
<b>Administration</b>				
<b>Youth Development</b>	<a href="#">Start to Finish Coalition</a>	Roundtable on Mental Health, Learning Loss and Recovery, and Youth Employment	<b>TODAY, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</b> <i>*ACT Now will be speaking!</i>	<b><u><a href="#">REGISTER</a></u></b>
	<a href="#">Mizzen by MOTT</a>	Summer Lawn Series: Live Jazz Music	<b>August 8, 2021, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b><u><a href="#">REGISTER</a></u></b>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<a href="#">Learning Policy Institute</a>	Virtual Briefing: Mentoring to Build SEL Skills, Habits, and Mindsets	<b>July 29, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b><u><a href="#">REGISTER</a></u></b>
	<a href="#">Grand Victoria Foundation</a>	Racial Justice and Radical Imagination: Our Path to Joy and Abundance in Illinois	<b>August 10, 2021, from 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b><u><a href="#">REGISTER</a></u></b>

			to 5:00 p.m.	
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For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

# Resources for Providers

## Administration

**ACTNOW!**  
Afterschool for Children and Teens

**CALLING ALL PROVIDERS**  
share our newest webinars with your district administrators!

**Creating Afterschool Partnerships to Support Students Learning**

August 3, 2021  
August 26, 2021

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### [ACT Now Webinar: Creating Afterschool and Partnerships to Support Students Learning](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) recently announced that it will be awarding ESSER III afterschool and summer learning funding DIRECTLY to school districts. To review ISBE's ESSER III allocations, click [here](#). In response, along with the [Illinois Principals Association](#) we are hosting webinars for school administrators in order to encourage collaboration between schools and community-based organizations for afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Join us on [August 3, 2021](#), and [August 26, 2021](#), from

**10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, to hear from school districts that have plans to operate programming in conjunction with out-of-school time providers, and MORE! **INVITE your local school partners to participate in these webinars by using our flyer [HERE!](#)** If you have any concerns or questions, please contact Susan Stanton (Network Lead) at [stantons@actnowillinois.org](mailto:stantons@actnowillinois.org).

### **[Culturally responsive practices: Insights from a high-quality math afterschool program serving underprivileged Latinx youth](#)**

[The American Journal of Community Psychology](#) has published an article on how culturally responsive practices are necessary to achieve high-quality and equitable science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) afterschool programs. The overall purpose of the study was to identify and examine culturally responsive practices in the context of a high-quality university math enrichment afterschool program serving approximately 120 low-income LatinX middle school youth from underserved schools in Southern California.

## **Youth Development**

### **[Afterschool Alliance Article: 5 Things You Can Do Today to Support LGBTQ Youth](#)**

This year alone more than 250 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in states across the country, many of which directly affect young people. In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the national [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance](#) report showing that LGBTQ students are more likely to be bullied than their straight, cisgender classmates. In response, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) has written an article with five strategies for supporting LGBTQ youth in out-of-school time environments.

### **[eSchool News Article: 5 Fun Tools for Student Collaboration](#)**

[eSchool News](#) has compiled five online tools for educators and afterschool providers to utilize during the fall in order to bolster student collaboration. These resources range from programs that allow for feedback on assignments to platforms for roundtable discussions and individualized conversations with youth.

## **Safety, Health, and Nutrition**

### **[The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment Brief: Supporting and Promoting Mental Health in Out-of-School Time](#)**

[The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment \(NCASE\)](#) recently released a preliminary brief that elevates some of the current mental health needs of youth, their families, and the out-of-school time (OST) workforce.

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Professional Development

### [Advance Illinois: Educator Advisory Council Application Open!](#)

[Advance Illinois](#) is seeking innovative and passionate educators who have made a significant impact in the lives of students, peers, and/or their community to join the 2021-2023 cohort of its Educator Advisory Council. The Council gathers on a regular basis to build an understanding of the education policy landscape in Illinois, and develop a statewide policy agenda.

### [Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Chicago: Board Member Recruitment](#)

[Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Chicago \(YNPN Chicago\)](#) is currently recruiting board members for 11 available co-chair positions. **Applications are due August 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

### [The Project Real Job Staffing Summit: New Opportunity](#)

[The Project Real Job Staffing Summit](#) is currently seeking HR/Staffing professionals from outside the camp industry who may be able to provide some fresh insight and/or strategies. People from within the youth services sector are also more than welcome to submit proposals as well (or register for the conference!). **The deadline for submissions is September 15, 2021.** If you have any questions about the conference or submitting a proposal, feel free to reach out to Kim Aycock at [kimdaycock@gmail.com](mailto:kimdaycock@gmail.com).

## Family and Community Partnerships

### [Learning Technology Center of Illinois: Family and Community Empowerment Networking Opportunities](#)

[The Learning Technology Center of Illinois \(LTCI\)](#) has opened registration for its Family and Community Empowerment Monthly Virtual Networking Meetings. **These events will take place on the second Tuesday of each month (English) and the second Thursday of the month (Spanish) from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

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

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# Youth Opportunities

# Administration

## [ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Fall 2021](#)

We are seeking applicants for our Policy and Communications Internship for Fall 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 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 work full-time for a minimum of 10 weeks at ACT Now. Applications are due to Emma Spencer at [SpencerE@actnowillinois.org](mailto:SpencerE@actnowillinois.org) by **Monday, September 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CDT**

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

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# Funding Opportunities

## Youth Development

### [Wallace Foundation: Arts Funding Opportunity](#)

The [Wallace Foundation](#) is soliciting applications from organizations and researchers that will work in performing, visual, literary, or media arts, or be community-based organizations that focus on artistic practice. For researchers, please read the [research Request for Proposals](#). **The deadline for both grant applications and letters of intent is August 13, 2021.**

### [NextWaveSTEM: Equity STEM Grant](#)

In partnership with Chicagoland corporations, [NextWave STEM](#) is soliciting applications for its new "Equity in Education" grant for pilot programs. Pilot programs allow schools and afterschool providers to integrate STEM programming in robotics, 3D technology, drones and coding, and artificial intelligence at a fraction of the price.

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

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One North Dearborn, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60602 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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