

# ACT NOW!

## NEWSLETTER

### Policy Updates

## Federal Updates

### [U.S. House of Representatives: National Science Foundation for the Future Act Passed!](#)

On **June 28, 2021**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Science Foundation for the Future Act. This legislation addresses challenges at all levels of STEM education and training by supporting partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs). The Act also broadens current projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Finally, this bill establishes a new directorate to accelerate progress on emerging technologies and advance research-driven solutions to societal challenges like climate change and inequality.

### [Biden Jr Administration Press Release: Youth Development Programming as a Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety](#)

On **June 23, 2021**, President Biden released a statement emphasizing how youth development programming, such as summer programming, may help prevent violence that takes place over the summer. The press release also highlights the importance of providing employment opportunities, and other services and supports for teenagers, young adults, and formerly incarcerated individuals. The document shares guidance on using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to reduce violence. President Biden also announced that the Administration will convene and support a CVI Collaborative of 15 jurisdictions that are committing to use a portion of their ARP funding or other public funding to increase investment in their CVI infrastructure, including to anticipate and respond to the potential rise in violence this summer. Chicago, Illinois is included in this new initiative.

### [Afterschool Alliance: Draft State Child Care Plans for 2022 to 2024 Announced](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has created a website highlighting states' draft child care plans for 2022 to 2024. The plans were due **July 1, 2021**, and will now be reviewed by the Office of Child Care. The finalized versions will go into effect **October 1, 2021**. These plans support programs for children and youth ages 0 to 13, including afterschool and summer programs.

## State Updates

### [Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Expansion of Financial Support for Families Accessing Child Care and Program Providers](#)

On **June 29, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that he will be expanding financial assistance for both families and providers that allow children to return to quality, affordable child care programs. Under this change, 80% of families will pay less for child care via the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Financial assistance includes:

- **Reducing family payments:** Family payments will be permanently lowered to \$1 per month for families with incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). 80% of all families will see a reduction in their monthly co-pay.
- **Preserve co-pay percentage limits:** Family payments will remain permanently capped at 7% of family income, with co-pays for 80% of families falling below that rate.
- **Supporting families as their income grows:** CCAP families will now remain eligible until the family's income surpasses 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), instead of the current cap of 225%.
- **Increasing reimbursement rates:** All CCAP providers will now receive 3.5% for reimbursements to help providers keep their doors open and fully recover from the pandemic.
- **Improving predictability for providers:** If a child receiving CCAP attends at least 70% of eligible days in a month, providers will be paid for the full month. The previous policy required an 80% attendance rate.

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

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## Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
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<b>Administration</b>	<a href="#"><u>Afterschool Alliance</u></a>	Tapping into ARP State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to Support Afterschool and Summer Learning	<b>July 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>REGISTER</u></a></b>
<b>Family and Community Partners</b>	<a href="#"><u>Universal Service Administration Company (USAC)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Emergency Broadband Benefit</u></a> (EBB) Program Overview	<b>July 8, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>REGISTER</u></a></b>
	<a href="#"><u>Mizzen by MOTT</u></a>	Summer Lawn Series: Live Jazz Music	<b>July 11, 2021 July 25, 2021 August 8, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>REGISTER</u></a></b>
<b>Youth Development</b>	<a href="#"><u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u></a>	Curious about Curiosity Camp? IF/THEN® Collection Resources to Support Girls in STEM	<b>August 18, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>REGISTER</u></a></b>
	<a href="#"><u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u></a>	Resources for Afterschool Programs: Using the IF/THEN® Collection for Programming	<b>September 14, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>REGISTER</u></a></b>
	<a href="#"><u>National Girls Collaborative Project</u></a>	Innovative Strategies from the Field: Leveraging the IF/THEN® Collection	<b>November 8, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	Registration Information Forthcoming
<b>Professional Development</b>	<a href="#"><u>STEM Leadership Alliance</u></a>	Virtual STEM Leadership Alliance Summit	<b>July 13, 2021 to July 14, 2021</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>REGISTER</u></a></b>

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

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# Resources for Providers

## Administration

### [ACT Now: Summer 2021 Learning Toolkit](#)

**National Summer Learning Week (July 12, 2021, to July 16, 2021) begins next Monday!** We are thrilled to be celebrating all of the amazing work our summer learning providers are facilitating for youth in Illinois. Please join us in elevating your experiences and stories by utilizing our toolkit. Also, consider [thanking your legislators for supporting summer learning!](#)



### [Learning Policy Institute Article: Mobilizing Technical Assistance, Partnership, and Data to Support School Reopening](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute](#) has published a new article emphasizing the importance of technical assistance, partnership with community-based organizations, and data collection as it relates to helping schools reopen in the fall. The article also provides insight into how specific afterschool programs in San Diego County were able to collaborate with local schools in order to meet the needs of youth and families during the pandemic.

### [Future-Ed: American Rescue Plan COVID Playbook](#)

[Future-Ed](#) of Georgetown University has released a playbook on best practices for utilizing American Rescue Plan aid for summer and afterschool programming. The guide also

touches upon bolstering family engagement, implementing innovative staffing models, and providing mental health interventions for youth and families.

## Youth Development

### [NAPE Education Foundation: Make the Future Campaign](#)

[The NAPE Education Foundation](#) is launching its Make the Future program which aims to encourage women and girls, especially those of color, to take part in STEM education and pursue advanced manufacturing careers. This opportunity provides free methods and tools to help educators, afterschool providers, and employers break down barriers for women interested in pursuing STEM education paths and high-demand advanced manufacturing careers.

### [Million Girls Moonshot Activities: July STEM Resources for Providers](#)

[Million Girls Moonshot](#) has compiled a set of exciting and engaging STEM opportunities for youth during the summer. Take a look!

- **Check out this [activity](#) from NASA!** Select a plant to grow and keep a record of its change over time.
- **Design a [crew model](#) using materials that are easy to find at home!**
- **Let your kids' imaginations run wild. [Build the biggest tower, or the best balanced, or the most attractive](#)...change the criteria to change the design.**
- **Check out these [easy-to-do activities for grades K-8!](#) Use the engineering design process to problem-solve solutions for [survival on the moon](#).**
- **Be "Cool" with [Popsicle Engineering!](#) In this activity, students learn the design process using easy to find materials. Perfect for a summer day with young kids!**

## Safety, Health, and Nutrition

### [Foundations, Inc.: Keep Kids COVID Safe and Healthy Toolkit](#)

[Foundations, Inc.](#) has compiled a toolkit for afterschool and summer learning providers to ensure that programs are confident in keeping young people safe and engaged during Summer 2021. Resources and training materials are now available through the Keep Kids COVID Safe and Healthy Toolkit and will be updated as guidance changes throughout the summer.

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

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

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## Youth Opportunities

### Youth Development

#### [NASA Astrophoto Challenges: Active Galaxy M87](#)

[NASA](#) is hosting its Summer 2021 Astrophoto Online Challenges for youth between **July 1, 2021, and August 16, 2021**. Participants will capture their own telescope image of the iconic active galaxy M87 or work with archived images of M87 taken with NASA space telescope missions and one ground-based radio image. Interested youth will engage in scientific practices through accessible data tools and experiences, and their work may get feedback from scientists.

#### [Google: Google Play Design Challenge](#)

[Google](#) is hosting The Change The Game Design Challenge for young people this summer! This challenge aims to build a more inclusive future through gaming and education. Youth ages 13 through 18 are invited to submit an idea for a mobile game. Challenge period ends on **July 31, 2021**.

#### [Chicago Public Library: 2021 Teen Summer Challenge](#)

[Chicago Public Library](#) is hosting its Make Space. Take Action. challenge for teens across the City of Chicago. This program encourages youth to express themselves via art and empowers them to participate in opportunities related to the protecting the environment and social justice. There are virtual and in-person activities!

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

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# Funding Opportunities

## Youth Development

### [Youth Service America and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation: Afterschool Grant](#)

In collaboration with the [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#), [Youth Service America \(YSA\)](#) is soliciting applications for its Afterschool Grant program. Awardees will receive up to \$500 each to support youth-led service or service-learning opportunities in up to 60 afterschool programs. Grants are offered on a competitive application basis and open to any afterschool program that meets the [requirements](#). **Applications are due July 30, 2021.**

## Safety, Health, and Nutrition

### [Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership: Grant Opportunity](#)

[Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership \(CVP\)](#) is accepting grant proposals from community-based organizations (CBOs) for its Vaccine Mobilization program. This initiative is for CBOs that demonstrate deep community relationships and an ability to improve both vaccination rates and access to public health services. **The application closes July 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.!**

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

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