

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Teen REACH Technical Assistance

ACT Now is excited to announce that we will be taking over as the primary technical assistance provider for Illinois' Teen REACH program. In this expanded role, we will be working with Teen REACH providers to provide training, administer the IL-QPSA, conduct site visits, host quarterly meetings, and collaborate with the Illinois Collaboration on Youth and the Illinois AfterSchool Network on additional supports for programs. Visit the [Teen REACH section of our website](#) for a full calendar of Teen REACH events and for more information!

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Governor Pritzker's Office: \\$200 Million Allocated to Supporting Childcare Workforce Development](#)

On **July 28, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that the state will invest \$200 million of federal funds in additional training, mentorships, and scholarships to pursue advanced credentials for the childcare workforce over the next two years. Governor Pritzker also signed HB 2878, which established a statewide early childhood association to strengthen access to high quality child care and direct this funding to where it can be most effective.

[Illinois Department of Health: CDC Masking Recommendations Adopted for State](#)

On **July 27, 2021**, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) announced it is fully adopting updated [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) masking recommendations to protect against COVID-19 and the Delta variant. **The CDC recommends that everyone, including fully vaccinated individuals, wear a mask in public indoor setting in areas with substantial and high transmission. CDC is also recommending universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination**

status. Finally, IDPH announced that the agency has released [updated guidance for K-12 institutions](#) as it relates to starting the new school year in Illinois.

[Governor JB Pritzker's Office: \\$742 Million in COVID-19 Relief Now Available to Illinois Small Local Governments](#)

On **July 22, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that small cities, towns and villages across Illinois that have not already received aid from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) can apply for a total of \$742 million in federal funding. The money can be used to cover expenses incurred while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first payments are expected to be made in August. **The deadline for municipalities to apply for funding is September 30, 2021, and there will be no other opportunity for municipalities to apply for later distributions.**

[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
Administration	ACT Now	Membership Engagement Exchange: "Back to Basics"	August 10, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH 101	August 11, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #1	August 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH Quality Standards Training 101	August 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Mizzen by MOTT	Summer Lawn Series: Live Jazz Music	August 8, 2021, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	REGISTER

Professional Development	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Principal Matters: Tips for Creating Collaborative and Strategic Relations Between After School Programs and School Leaders	August 18, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	We're Back in Person, Now What – Program Check-in using a Trauma Informed Lens	August 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[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 **TODAY** or **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.

[Learning Policy Institute Blog: Leveraging Recovery Funds to Prioritize Wellness and Accelerate Learning](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute](#) and the [School Superintendents Association](#), facilitated a series of five webinars in Spring 2021 in order to learn about and share best practices for accelerating learning for youth during the pandemic. The new blog post highlights many of the practices elevated by district and state leaders during the series for collaborating with schools to access recovery funds as well.

Youth Development

[Million Girls Moonshot: Upcoming Events and Professional Development Trainings](#)

Engineering Mindsets

- Looking for hands-on project-based STEM activities for your students? Technovation will guide you through the suite of free design challenges on the Curiosity Machine website. [Curiosity Machine Design Challenges: September 16, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- Artificial intelligence can be fun, hands-on, and connected to real life, even for kids. In this training for educators of upper elementary or middle school students, Technovation will showcase the Curiosity Machine artificial intelligence lessons that can be facilitated in a variety of afterschool environments. [Introducing Artificial Intelligence Using Curiosity Machine: October 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- Take your exploration of open-ended design challenges with your students to the next level by learning about this multi-week opportunity for students to dive deep into coding or AI and a passion project that could change the world and themselves. [Going Deeper: From Curiosity Machine to Technovation Girls Challenge: November 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.](#)
- [The M in STEM: Making Mathematics Meaningful webinar](#) that highlights how to engage girls and women in mathematics and is organized by the National Girls Collaborative Project, will take place on [October 5, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.](#)
- [Exploration and Awareness of Careers that use an Engineering Mindset: The Possible Futures Curriculum Part I](#) is scheduled for [October 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.](#) Please note that [Part II will take place on November 3, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.](#)

Equity Mindset

- [National Girls Collaborative Project is hosting a virtual Tour of the IF/THEN Collection: Million Girls Moonshot Portal on September 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.](#) This opportunity is for afterschool providers and STEM experts alike!
- The [Going to Camp webinar](#) with Camp GoldieBlox and the National Girls Collaborative Project will take place on [October 19, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.](#)
- Techbridge will be supporting providers by facilitating a training for volunteers and role models in their afterschool program. [Complete this form to learn more and register for the training.](#)

Professional Development

[Ed Trust Report: A Natural Fit: Supporting After-School Staff of Color in Teacher Pipelines](#)

Last week, Ed Trust released a new report on afterschool programs and the teacher pipeline and specifically highlights the importance of staff diversity. The resource also sheds light on the practices for recruiting diverse out-of-school time providers and preparing them to become full-time educators.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Professional Development

[Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network: Grant Application Reviewers Opportunity](#)

[The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network \(GSAN\)](#) is looking for grant application readers to help evaluate grant applications for its afterschool programs and summer enrichment programs. Each reader would be assigned 10-15 applications. **A one-hour training will be recorded to provide readers with training to discuss the program requirements, and additional reader questions will be answered via email. This process will be conducted entirely online. Readers will be provided a stipend of at least \$300 if all the assigned applications are scored using the online form by the September 6, 2021, at 8:00 p.m.** For questions or concerns, please contact GSAN staff at BOOST@georgiavoices.org.

[The Purposeful Careers Initiative: 2021-2022 Application Open!](#)

[The Purposeful Careers Initiative \(PCI\)](#) at The Loyola Baumhart Center for Social Enterprise & Responsibility is soliciting applications for the 2021-2022 cohort. The PCI seeks to equip highly accomplished professionals with the tools and support to reflect on their life journeys, examine pathways for greater purpose and impact, and build a network of support for meaningful career exploration. **Applications are due at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021.**

[The Allstate Foundation: Leadership Program for Educators and Providers](#)

[The Allstate Foundation](#) is seeking talented nonprofit leaders to join its Executive Leadership Program Class of 2022. Don't forget to [submit your application here](#) **before Friday, August 20, 2021.**

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

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 by **Monday, September 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

[Mayor Lightfoot's Office: Hire Chicago Events Live!](#)

Throughout August, Hire Chicago will provide real opportunities for Chicagoans to pursue their passions through free virtual career exploration, learning, and hiring events. Areas of interest include: manufacturing, transportation, distribution, logistics, healthcare, IT, food service hospitality and tourism. **The events start this week and span until September 2, 2021.**

Youth Development

[Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation: Scholarship Opportunity](#)

Each year, the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation (ILLCF) solicits applications from young people who meet the eligibility criteria to receive Foundation scholarships to help them achieve their educational objectives. Scholarships are granted to undergraduate college students whose home residence is in Illinois. This year, \$2,000 will be granted to approximately 25 undergraduate college students whose home residence is in Illinois. **The deadline for applications is September 17, 2021.**

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

Funding Opportunities

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

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