Policy Updates

State Updates

Expanded COVID-19 Testing Opportunities for K-12 Institutions in Illinois

On October 8, 2021, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that the agency had partnered with the U.S. Health and Human Services’ Midwest COVID-19 Testing Coordination Center (MCC) to help increase capacity and facilitate faster access to COVID-19 testing in schools across the state. This partnership will help to support both public and private K-12 institutions with testing students and personnel.

Chicago Public Schools Decreases Quarantine Time for Students

On October 5, 2021, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) leadership announced that the school district will be shortening the quarantine time for unvaccinated students from 14 days to 10 days.

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Area</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name of Event/Training</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Registration Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>Creating Space for Staff: Strengthening Social and Emotional Supports for Staff</td>
<td>October 12, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>Afterschool Advocates Meeting #1</td>
<td>October 14, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Become An Advocate! REGISTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>FY23 Budget Hearing (Virtual)</td>
<td>October 14, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Learn More</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACT Now</strong></td>
<td>Community Partners Grant Prep: Resources for Starting Community Schools and Tips on Grant Writing!</td>
<td>October 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>FY23 Budget Hearing (Virtual)</td>
<td>October 21, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Learn More</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National Summer Learning Association</strong></td>
<td>Summer Changes Everything NSLA Conference</td>
<td>November 8, 2021, to November 10, 2021</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ACT Now</strong></td>
<td>Tips on Grant Writing</td>
<td>November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Illinois State Board of Education</strong></td>
<td>NEW Community Schools Grant - Technical Assistance Webinar</td>
<td>October 13, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All Stars Project, Inc.</strong></td>
<td>The Power of Ensemble Building - An Interactive Workshop</td>
<td>November 5, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Limited to 3 people per organization REGISTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Informal STEM Education Network</strong></td>
<td>Evaluating Educational Experiences During Times of Limited Social Interactions</td>
<td>November 16, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Afterschool Alliance</strong></td>
<td>Lights On Afterschool: River City Drumbeat</td>
<td>October 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT Now and Learn Fresh</strong></td>
<td>NBA Math Hoops!</td>
<td>October 27, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional Development**

**Youth Development**

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

Administration

Afterschool Alliance Funding Database

The Afterschool Alliance has recently updated and released its new Funding Database for providers to utilize and look for sustainable opportunities. There is also information including recovery and COVID-relief funding for afterschool and summer learning providers.

Youth Development

Celebrate Earth Science Week 2021!

This year, Earth Science Week takes place between October 10, 2021, and October 16, 2021. To aid programs in celebrating, the American Geosciences Institute has developed teaching resources on our planet and its systems. Some resources are specific to exploring this year's theme, "Water Today and for the Future", while others include information about online resources and geoscience careers. A printed toolkit is available to order.

NISE Network Halloween-themed STEM Resources

The National Informal STEM Education Network has compiled a variety of Halloween-themed STEM activities for providers to utilize in programming and build up young people’s STEM skills.

Free STEM Teaching Tools

The STEM Teaching Tools site, funded by the National Science Foundation, offers open education resource tools to help teach STEM concepts, including equity-focused practice briefs with recommended actions for attending to equity in STEM teaching.

STEMIE Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education

The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education Center provides evidence-based resources and strategies for program providers and families to engage children with disabilities in STEM learning.

Girls and Women Talking Tech

This digital intergenerational interview project provides an opportunity for youth and young women who are interested in pursuing a career in technology to have a conversation with female role models and leaders.

500 Free Activities for Youth

eSchool News has released an article highlighting Discovery Education’s 500 free activities for youth that help supplement learning in a variety of subjects. The resources are available in the K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade levels. All activities will be released on a monthly basis, are organized to support weekly
instructional goals, and were created based on the most searched terms during each month of the previous school year.

**Safety, Health, and Nutrition**

**COVID-19 Vaccination At-Home Program for Chicago Residents**

The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently announced that all Chicago residents are eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their homes. Up to 10 people can be vaccinated at a time, so Chicagoans can invite family, friends or neighbors to their home to be vaccinated together. **Every individual receiving their vaccination through the City’s At Home program is eligible to receive a $100 visa gift card.** To schedule an appointment you can also call 312-746-4835.

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

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**Opportunities for Providers**

**Youth Development**

**Halloweek Youth Program and Event Submissions are OPEN!**

The City of Chicago has announced the return of Halloweek, a week of fun and spooky Halloween events from **October 23, 2021, to October 31, 2021!** There is a downloadable Halloweek Toolkit for safety guidelines and signage to help providers, families, and youth host an event and participate.

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

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**Youth Opportunities**

**Youth Development**

**Young Arts Virtual Competition for Youth**

Young Arts is hosting a virtual arts competition for youth ages 15 to 18 across the state. The organization is soliciting submissions for visual, literary or performing arts. Winners will receive a cash prize, opportunity for a mentorship, and national recognition. **The deadline to apply is this Friday, October 15, 2021.**

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

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**Funding Opportunities**
Youth Development

Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Opportunity

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) has released a Request For Proposals (RFP) for its new Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention (CBVIP) grant line. A total of $3.8 million in funding is available for a comprehensive array of community-based services for youth, families, and the community at large. There is also funding for larger organizations and agencies with expertise in providing training and technical assistance on trauma informed and restorative justice practices and implementation. The deadline to submit an application is November 1, 2021, at 4:59 p.m.

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

Were you forwarded this email?

Click Here to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!

Call for Resources

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field?

Please click here to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state!

If you have any questions, please contact Emma Spencer (Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org

NOTE: We sort our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click here.