

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[FY22 Appropriations Update](#)

This past week, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee proposed a \$50 million increase to the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grant program. Other key funding for afterschool and summer learning programs within the bill include the following:

- \$7.31 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grant
- \$33 billion for ESSA Title I grants to Local Education Agencies. Allowable uses of funding include afterschool and summer learning opportunities.
- \$1.32 billion for Title IV Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants. These funds can be used for academic enrichment such as afterschool STEM, physical activity, and more!
- \$370 million increase for Full-Service Community Schools for a total of \$400 million
- \$1.38 billion for Career and Technical Education grants to state education agencies
- \$15 million for Career Pathways for Youth Grants with funding prioritized for national OST organizations that serve youth and focus on workforce readiness programming
- \$1.2 billion for AmeriCorps positions to support staffing shortage

FY 2022 began on October 1, 2021, however a continuing resolution is funding the federal government through December 3, 2021.

[White House Outlines COVID-19 Vaccination Plans for Kids 5-11](#)

Last week, the Biden Administration shared its COVID-19 vaccination plan for children age 5 to 11 as federal agencies consider granting emergency use authorization to provide both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccinations. Here are some of the key takeaways:

- Partnerships with schools and community-based organizations to provide vaccinations at locations that families can access and trust
- Rapid shipment of vaccinations to sites
- No federal mandate for pediatric physicians to be vaccinated

State Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for Licensed Day Care Center Providers Released

On **October 22, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker and several state agencies announced a new vaccination mandate for licensed day care providers. Employees in these settings who are unable or unwilling to receive the vaccine will be required to get tested for COVID-19 at least once per week. Increased testing frequency may be required in certain situations.

Illinois State Board of Education FY23 Budget Hearing Summary

In **October**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) hosted three Budget Hearings to encourage the public to weigh in on the agency's budget recommendations for the state's Fiscal Year 2023. **ACT Now** would like to thank **Teresa Dothard-Campbell** (Glenview Middle School Lights ON for Learning), **Kenny Riley** (Carole Robertson Center for Learning), **Christy Filby** (Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs), and **Eric Weis** (Kendall County State's Attorney) for providing testimony in support of out-of-school time (OST) programming. Teresa spoke to the importance of afterschool in supporting students' social-emotional wellbeing and academic outcomes. Kenny highlighted how afterschool programming is critical in supporting low-income families and that there is a need to increase salaries for program providers. Christy shared that programs across the state oftentimes also double as childcare opportunities for families. Eric stated that the continuum of care we make available to young Illinoisans must continue through their teen years to ensure that youth are safe and engaged. That is why the law enforcement leaders of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids also support the quality afterschool programs. In specific, **ACT Now** and our partners advocated for:

- **Sustained funding of \$20 million for the After School Programs line**
- **A new \$15 million grant program for Community Schools** to build upon the recent investment in the strategy through the Community Partnerships Grant.

We also urged ISBE to encourage districts to continue to partner with community-based organizations in creating learning renewal plans and using ESSER funding. Our final ask involved providing more transparency in the afterschool programs line to ensure that school districts use this funding to OST programs.

ISBE heard testimony from **Tony Diaz** (**After School Matters**) who elevated the importance of **maintaining level funding of \$3.4 million for After School Matters programming for youth throughout the City of Chicago**. The agency also heard testimony from a variety of individuals in support of:

- A substantial increase of at least \$54.5 million to the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) to support early childhood program providers and educators in Illinois
- \$350 million for the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) line that supports school districts and alternative schools in providing quality education and resources for youth from primarily underserved populations across the state.
- Sustained funding for Agricultural Education and youth programming related to the agricultural sector

ISBE will review these budget recommendations in the November Board meeting.

Illinois State Board of Education October Board Meeting Recap

On **October 19, 2021**, the Illinois State Board of Education met for its monthly Board meeting in Macomb, Illinois. To access the recording and meeting materials, click [here](#). ISBE heard public comment on why the state

agency must collaborate more with school districts and advocate for local control with the Governor’s Office. **The Board also voted to add the FY22 After School Programs grant line to the November Board Meeting agenda. This grant is for school districts and community-based organizations (CBOs) and totals \$20 million, with \$3 million earmarked to CBOs. Once approved by the Board, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for CBOs will be released. The next ISBE board meeting is scheduled for **November 18, 2021.****

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	Educator Preparation Laboratory	Strengthening the Educator Workforce: The Importance of Pre-K–12 Partnerships	November 11, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Tips on Grant Writing	November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	National Center for Community Schools	Community Schools: Fundamental Conference	TODAY through October 29, 2021	REGISTER
	mHub Chicago	2021 Women in Manufacturing and Engineering Day	October 28, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Supporting Transgender and Gender Expansive Students	December 1, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	15 Ways to Keep Youth Active Indoors if Space is Tight	December 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool: River City Drumbeat	October 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now and Learn Fresh	NBA Math Hoops!	TOMORROW from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	Illinois State Board of Education	The Road to Authentic Family Engagement: Understanding and Working Through Barriers	November 16, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

UPDATED LINK - [FY21 Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment \(IL-QPSA\) Tool Final Report](#)

As the world grappled with the effects and uncertainties of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, organizations from a variety of community and school-based organizations, collectively serving thousands of youth, participated in the strengths-based self-assessment tool, the IL-QPSA, throughout 2020-2021. This is a report that captures the process, data collection, and lessons learned during that time.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Tools for Supporting Young Peoples' Emotional Wellbeing](#)

[The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) have released several resources for providers and families to utilize in order to support children's emotional wellbeing. There are toolkits and interactive small assessments to review the necessary "tools" for doing so.

[Vaccine Resources for Educators and Immigrant Communities](#)

[The National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants](#) created this toolkit to help educators and afterschool providers in sharing information on COVID-19 vaccinations and combating misinformation among students – particularly those from immigrant communities. The toolkit includes social media content, myth busting one-pagers and more translated into 40 languages.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now Constituent Equity Survey](#)

Last call to participate in our comprehensive organizational equity strategy! Your participation in this initiative is deeply appreciated and important to our evolution as a coalition. **The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is due by Thursday, November 4, 2021.** The survey is administered by Thrive Paradigm and they will uphold the confidentiality of participants. Identifying information will not be shared with **ACT Now** staff nor coalition members. Our goal is to have every member participate as **survey** findings will inform the baseline equity report for the Coalition.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[INTONATION Youth Music Workshops](#)

[INTONATION](#) is hosting Saturday Band Classes for young musicians age 7-18, with a separate youth and teen band. **Classes last until June 2022!**

[Illinois Manningham Trust Student Poetry Competition](#)

[The Illinois State Poetry Society](#) is soliciting applications for its Illinois Manningham Trust Student Poetry Competition. **Students must submit their work by January 31, 2022, deadline to be considered!**

[NAPA Boost Scholarship Program](#)

[NAPA Auto Parts](#) is soliciting applications for its scholarship program. Students can use the scholarship towards an automotive, vocational, or any other education of their choice. **Applications will be accepted through October 31, 2021. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners in November.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[CHI Biz Strong Grants for Business and Non-Profit Recovery](#)

Chi Biz Strong Grants will provide between \$5,000 and \$10,000 dollars to small business and non-profits to further aid recovery within the City of Chicago. **Applications close November 12, 2021.**

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

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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](#).

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