

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

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	Using Data to Design Afterschool Programs		Recording
	ACT Now	October Membership Exchange: Lights On Afterschool 2021 - Sparking Meaningful Connections	TODAY from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Creating Space for Staff: Strengthening Social and Emotional Supports for Staff	October 12, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Afterschool Advocates Meeting #1	October 14, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Become An Advocate! REGISTER
	Illinois State Board of Education	FY23 Budgetary Hearing (Virtual)	October 14, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Learn More
	ACT Now	Community Partners Grant Prep: Resources for Starting Community Schools and Tips on Grant Writing!	October 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois State Board of Education	FY23 Budgetary Hearing (Virtual)	October 21, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Learn More

	ACT Now	Tips on Grant Writing	November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	EducationWeek	Trauma-Informed Practices & the Construction of the Deep Reading Brain	TODAY from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Addressing Challenging Behaviors in New Norm with Family Child Care Providers	TOMORROW from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois State Board of Education	NEW Community Schools Grant - Technical Assistance Webinar	October 13, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Homework Strategies in Action!	TOMORROW from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	\$10 REGISTER
	Baxter Center for Science Education	Session 1: Social Justice Science Issues in your Classroom Planning	October 14, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Baxter Center for Science Education	Session 2: Social Justice Science Issues in your Classroom Planning	October 16, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now and Learn Fresh	NBA Math Hoops!	October 27, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Celebrating Lights on AfterSchool! 10 Leadership Lessons for AfterSchool Professionals	October 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool Youth Town Hal	October 28, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Mizzen by Mott Now Hosts The 1619 Project Curricula](#)

Through a new collaboration between Mizzen by Mott and the Pulitzer Center, afterschool educators will be able to tap into 1619 content tailored for afterschool programs. The 1619 Project is an award-winning and ongoing initiative by the New York Times that aims to inspire national reflection and dialogue about U.S. history, the institution of slavery, racial justice, and the contributions of Black Americans to our democracy and society.

Youth Development

Million Girls Moonshot STEM Resources for October

This month, the [Million Girls Moonshot \(MGM\)](#) initiative is focusing on the theme of Girls in STEM and encouraging girls to pursue STEM opportunities and careers.

Webinars

Engineering Mindsets

- [Introducing Artificial Intelligence Using Curiosity Machine: **October 14, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**](#)
- [Going Deeper: From Curiosity Machine to Technovation Girls Challenge: **November 4, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**](#)
- [Lessons Learned from Equity and Inclusion Community of Practice: **November 16, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**](#)
- [Celebrate Computer Science Education Week with the IF/THEN Collection: **December 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**](#)

- [Exploration and Awareness of Careers that use an Engineering Mindset: The Possible Futures Curriculum Part I: **October 14, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**](#)
- [Exploration and Awareness of Careers that use an Engineering Mindset: The Possible Futures Curriculum Part II: **November 3, 2021: at 2:00 p.m.**](#)

Role Models and Mentors as an Equity Strategy

- [Going to Camp with Camp GoldieBlox!: **October 19, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.**](#)
- [Role Models Matter Training for STEM Volunteers - OPPORTUNITY](#)
- [Parent Workshop: Growth Mindset in STEM: **November 5, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.**](#)

PEAR - Dimensions of Success (DoS) Certification Trainings

- [November 17, 2021, and November 18, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)

PEAR - Dimensions of Success (DoS) Recertification Trainings

- [November 30, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)

Toolkits and Resources

- Article: [Exploring STEM Engagement in Girls in Rural Communities](#)

- Article: [Infrastructures to Support Equitable STEM Learning Across Settings](#)
- Article & Activities: [What is Engineering? Video For Kids | Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grade](#)
- Article: [The Mathephant in the Room](#)

For Families

- Toolkit: [A Parent's Role in STEM Education](#)
- Toolkit: [Engaging Families in Mathematics Education](#)
- Article: [10X: Using Technology to Engage Families](#)
- Research: [Designing Learning Pathways: A research-practice partnership focused on parent brokering](#)

Youth Activities

- [Science Fair Project Ideas](#): Are you stuck looking for a science fair project? Over 1000 ideas and activities are listed.
- [Fun Math Games for Kids - Math Blaster](#): Save the universe as you learn math skills. This free online game engages kids in purposeful, other world (as opposed to “real world”) math.
- [Cool Math for Kids](#): Combine math and education skills with the fun of gaming.
- [SciGirls | PBS LearningMedia](#): These videos highlight girls in STEM programs exploring engineering activities.
- [Fun-A-Day Engineering Activities](#): Engineering activities for youth that include printable instructions and videos.
- [STEAMsational](#): Fun engineering and construction activities for kids and families. Kids make the connection between STEM and art.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Top 10 Youth \(Non-COVID-19\) Health Problems](#)

[Voices of Child Health in Chicago](#) is a program at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago that focuses on surveying Chicagoans to better understand the issues that impact child health in the city. The program has released a new report on the top 10 youth health issues that are not related to the pandemic. **Please note a trigger warning as it relates to mental health and illness.**

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Community Schools Funding Comes to Illinois + Grant Writing Workshop](#)

On **September 28, 2021**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) released historic funding for community schools. To learn more about this framework in Illinois, click [here](#). You can find the request for proposals for

this grant and the application [here](#). ISBE will be hosting a webinar about this grant opportunity on [October 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.](#) Join ACT Now on [October 15, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.](#) for Community Partners Grant Prep: Resources for Starting Community Schools and Tips on Grant Writing! We will have another grant writing workshop on [November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.](#) to share details about these grants and share best practices! For questions and concerns, please reach out to Susan Stanton (Network Lead) at: stantons@actnowillinois.org.

[Chicago Housing Authority Employment Opportunity!](#)

Our partners at the [Chicago Housing Authority \(CHA\)](#) are soliciting applications for its Youth Program Specialist position. Resumes and cover letters will be accepted until **October 12, 2021**.

Youth Development

[The Root of All STEM: Family Engagement in STEM OST Programming](#)

November is National Family Engagement Month and the perfect time to reassess how families engage with STEM out-of-school time (OST) programs! The key to successful STEM family engagement is to find activities and resources that will allow for adults and children to learn together. **ACT Now** has assembled a group of experts and their organizations that are engaging whole families in STEM learning opportunities. Join us and our partners **Rachel Carpenter** (Education Manager – [Children’s Discovery Museum](#)), **Edie Dobrez** (Executive Director – [Homewood Science Center](#)), **Chimere Fox** (STEM Learning Center Program Manager – [Project Exploration](#)), and **Shonali Ditz** (Co-Director – [SparkShop](#)) for a 1-hour webinar on **November 2, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** The webinar will explore:

- How to engage the whole family in learning STEM together
- Specific in-person and virtual activity suggestions for STEM family programming
- The recently published ACT Now Family Engagement Toolkit

For questions and concerns, please contact Lesley Fisher Chapman (Project Coordinator) at: chapmanl@actnowillinois.org.

[My CHI. My Future Youth Impact Report Released](#)

[My CHI. My Future](#) has released a report highlighting youth initiatives across the City of Chicago and the progress made on them between September 2020 and August 2021. Themes include connecting youth to their diverse communities, connecting youth to educational experiences across the city, and ensuring program providers collaborate on youth development experiences.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Student Design Competition for Fall 2021](#)

[The Chicago Architecture Biennial](#) has announced a design competition for youth that focuses on unused spaces within the City of Chicago. Youth are encouraged to explore ideas about architecture and design within their community and presented through any medium or discipline including the humanities, visual and performing arts, writing, and STEM fields. **Register by October 15, 2021, and receive a \$25 gift card. All work must be submitted by midnight on December 6, 2021.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Administration

[Impact100 Chicago Grant Opportunity](#)

[Impact100 Chicago](#) is looking for applications from Chicagoland nonprofits that work outside of the boundaries of the City of Chicago for its grant opportunity. **Letters of Inquiry (LOI) will be accepted October 1, 2021 through October 22, 2021.**

[Impact Grants Chicago Funding Available](#)

[Impact Grants Chicago](#) is now accepting Letters of Inquiry (LOI) from Chicago-based nonprofits for one of their \$100,000 Impact Grants. **LOIs are due by October 29, 2021.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Chicago Creative Worker Assistance Program](#)

Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) developed the Chicago Creative Worker Assistance Program to provide relief to city artists and creatives who lost income due to the pandemic. **Grants are available for teaching artists as well.** There are two upcoming virtual informational sessions for potential grantees: [October 26, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.](#) and [October 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.](#)

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Mental Health Services NOFO for Tier I and Tier II Districts](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) is issuing a Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to school districts for grants related to mental health services. This is also an opportunity for school districts to partner with community-based organizations to provide students with mental health services.

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](#).

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