

# ACT NOW!

# NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

#### [FDA Approval of COVID-19 Vaccination for Youth](#)

On **October 29, 2021**, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5 to 11. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is projected to receive around 100,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for youth and will be [calling on local schools, health departments, and community partnerships](#) to encourage families to vaccinate their children.

### State Updates

#### [Governor JB Pritzker Announces \\$250 Million Investment to Prevent Gun Violence](#)

**On November 1, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker, alongside state legislators and state agencies, declared gun violence a public health crisis in Illinois. Governor JB Pritzker issued an [Executive Order](#) and also announced a **\$250 million investment over the next three years to implement the Reimagine Public Safety Act, a data-driven and community-based violence prevention initiative. Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for qualified organizations will be released before the end of 2021 to keep in line with the goal of having programming start summer of 2022.** This grant program will be overseen by the new Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) within the Department of Human Services (IDHS). This violence prevention initiative includes four key elements:

- **High-risk youth intervention programs** that have been proven to reduce involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice system, referrals of teens into therapeutic programs that address trauma recovery and other mental health services.
- **Violence prevention services**, including street-based violence interruption work, emotional or trauma related therapy, housing, employment, job training/placement, family engagement, and wrap-around support services.

- **Youth development programs, including after school and summer programming** to increase school attendance and school performance, reduce criminal justice system involvement, and build social-emotional persistence and intelligence.
- **Trauma recovery services for young people**, funded by Medicaid, designed and implemented by the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, to address trauma recovery from chronic exposure to firearm violence. A team-based model of care will include case management and school support services, group and individual therapy, and evidence-based family systems interventions

**In the upcoming weeks, the OFVP will announce competitive funding opportunities for grants focused on technical assistance for violence prevention and youth development and intervention.** \$50 million in funding has been budgeted for the remainder of the state's fiscal year 22, and \$100 million for each of the subsequent two fiscal years will be requested.

IDHS and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) are collaborating to provide technical assistance and training opportunities for community organizations across the state to apply for funding that will help address factors that contribute to gun violence.

### **Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) Board: October Board Meeting Recap**

On **October 25, 2021**, the Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) Board met for its monthly meeting. To access the meeting agenda and review future meeting materials, click [here](#). The Board heard a presentation from Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) on the second round of funding for the historic grant program. **The second Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), totaling \$35 million, will be released during Winter 2021. This NOFO is only for new grantees and ICJIA announced that it will be connecting with current R3 grantees to share that they will be eligible for continued funding.** Reviewers to evaluate applications to the R3 program and other state grant opportunities are also being sought at this time. If you are interested in becoming a reviewer, [please sign up using this survey](#). If you have any questions or are interested in hosting a presentation, please contact Emily Harwell at [Emily.harwell@illinois.gov](mailto:Emily.harwell@illinois.gov).

### **Chicago Public Schools Anti-Violence Youth Program**

On **October 25, 2021**, [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) announced that it will allocate \$7.5 million to expand an anti-violence program for teens in “high-risk situations.” This initiative, called Choose to Change, aims to connect 1,000 young people to wraparound services such as weekly therapy and dedicated mentors. CPS leadership shared that four community groups will help provide services to students most impacted by violence and trauma during the school year. Finally, the program is being funded by the district, the city of Chicago, and philanthropic donations.

*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
Administration	<a href="#">Illinois Partners for Human Service</a>	More Essential than Ever: Illinois Partners Workforce Report Launch Event	November 10, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Tips on Grant Writing	November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Professional Development	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Family Engagement	<b>TOMORROW</b> , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Youth Development	<a href="#">Afterschool Alliance</a>	Q&A with NASA Deputy Administrator and Astronaut Pam Melroy	November 8, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Youth Guidance Chicago</a>	Reconnecting and Healing: A Conversation with Youth Guidance Leaders	November 10, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Family and Community Partnerships	<a href="#">Chicago Park District</a>	The Girls Play Initiative	November 5, 2021 at various times (dependent upon location)	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Aspen Institute</a>	Cultural Competence Secrets to Success with Immigrant Families: Spreading and Adapting 2Gen Working Practices	November 10, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

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

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### [Families Indicate Need for Expanded Access to Afterschool Programming](#)

[Chalkbeat Chicago](#) released an article indicating increased support and need of afterschool programming in Illinois by families. Even though schools remain open, many families find themselves in greater need of affordable care and supports for their children outside of traditional school hours.

## [New Report on the Importance of Human Services Providers](#)

[Illinois Partners for Human Services](#) recently issued a new report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health and human services sector. In particular, the report calls out the importance of sustainable funding, mitigating inequity, and wages for providers. The organization will be hosting a report launch on [November 10, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#)

## Youth Development

### [Strategies for Incorporating Art into Programming](#)

[EducationWeek](#) has published an article showcasing 13 strategies for incorporating art into programming. There are ideas for full sessions and recommendations for icebreaker activities!

### [Million Girls Moonshot STEM Resources for November](#)

This month, the Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) initiative is focusing on equity and promoting career exploration opportunities for youth of all ages.

### Webinars and Recordings

#### Engineering Mindsets

- [Exploration and Awareness of Careers that use an Engineering Mindset: The Possible Futures Curriculum Part II: TOMORROW, at 2:00 p.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 IF/THEN Collection: December 7, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.](#)
- [Curiosity Machine Design Challenges](#)
- [Introducing Artificial Intelligence using Curiosity Machine](#)
- [Exploration and Awareness of Careers that use an Engineering Mindset: The Possible Futures Curriculum Part I](#)

#### Role Models and Mentors as an Equity Strategy

- [Parent Workshop: Growth Mindset in STEM: November 5, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.](#)

### Quality Trainings

#### ACRES November Cohort: Modeling Math Practices

- [November 15, 2021, and December 6, 2021, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.](#)

#### ACRES December Cohort: Developing STEM Identities and Making Career Connections

- [December 2nd, 9th, and 16th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.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

- **Toolkit:** [Broadening Perspectives in Broadening Participation in STEM toolkit, developed by CAISE](#)
- **Research to Practice:** [Designing Learning Pathways: A research-practice partnership focused on parent brokering](#)
- **Article:** [Infrastructures to Support Equitable STEM Learning Across Settings](#)
- **Article:** [BP-Conversation-Guide.pdf \(informalscience.org\)](#)
- **Article:** [BP-4-Cultural-Norms.pdf \(informalscience.org\)](#)
- **Website:** [DiscoverE | Engineering activities for kids, resources for teachers and volunteers, and more!](#)

#### For Families

- **Toolkit:** [Engaging Families in Mathematics Education](#)
- **Article:** [10X: Using Technology to Engage Families](#)

#### Youth Activities

- **Bouncy Ball Factory:** Using the engineering design process, youth develop bouncy balls and test them to meet specific criteria.
- **Paper Table:** Youth must develop a table out of newspaper that is strong enough to hold a book.
- **Take Flight:** Using everyday materials youth will create a glider that will hit STEM concepts.
- **Keep Your Cool! Design Your Own Cooler Challenge:** Students will design a mechanism for keeping a water bottle cool and calculate the effectiveness of their solutions.
- **Design a Watercraft:** Youth will engineer a small boat out of straws and plastic wrap that can hold weight.
- **Get it Write!:** Students will design a writing device utilizing household items.
- The [Mizzen By Mott app](#)

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Administration

### [Full-Time Employment Opportunity Related to Family Engagement!](#)

[Logan Square Neighborhood Association \(LSNA\)](#) is soliciting applications for a Parent Engagement Institute Research and Evaluation Manager. This lucky nerd will get to join our loving LSNA and Parent Mentor family and help us unpack and tell the stories of parent mentor power from coast to coast.

### [Building a Positive School Climate Through Restorative Practices](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute](#) has released a new brief on the science of learning and the benefits of utilizing restorative practices in school settings, including the afterschool space. The brief highlights why these practices create positive school climates and relationships with youth that foster feelings of trust, safety, and belonging.

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

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# Youth Opportunities

## Administration

### [ACT Now Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2022](#)

**We are seeking applicants for our in-person Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2022.** 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 part-time at ACT Now. We are providing a stipend reflective of the intern's experience. Please review the entire application package thoroughly. **Applications are due to Emma Spencer at [SpencerE@actnowillinois.org](mailto:SpencerE@actnowillinois.org) by Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

## Youth Development

## [World Chicago's Youth Diplomat Opportunity](#)

[WorldChicago](#) is currently seeking Chicagoland students in grades 9 through 11 interested in careers in diplomacy, international affairs, cross-cultural connections with peers and leaders across the world, and becoming more engaged as global citizens. The Youth Diplomats program fosters an educational exchange rich in culture, concepts, and communication between students in the U.S. and inspiring changemakers across the globe. Participants will be able to travel with WorldChicago to Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2022 and receive service-learning/community service hours. [Applications](#) are due **November 22, 2021**.

## [2022 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards!](#)

[The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers](#), presenter of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, is soliciting applications from teens with exceptional artistic and literary talent! The contest aims to bring young people's remarkable work to a national audience. Each year the Alliance presents \$10,000 each to 16 Gold Medal Portfolio recipients and \$1,000 to 30 Silver Medal with Distinction Portfolio recipients. **The deadline to submit your work is December 8, 2021.**

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

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# Funding Opportunities

## Family and Community Partnerships

### [Community Engagement Grant Opportunity](#)

[Arts Midwest](#) is soliciting applications for its 2022-2023 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read Program. The NEA Big Read is a community engagement opportunity with grants of up to \$20,000 for community-wide reading programs (in-person and/or virtual). **The deadline to apply is January 26, 2022.**

*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](mailto: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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