

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Reimagine Public Safety Act Signed into Law](#)

On **December 10, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker signed the Reimagine Public Safety Act into law. The legislation was passed in the Illinois General Assembly on **October 28, 2021**, and aims to leverage community-based interventions and programming to reduce gun violence within the City of Chicago and around the state. Youth development programming is highlighted as a critical strategy for supporting communities! To learn more about the initiative, check out our [one-pager](#).

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	December Membership Exchange: COVID-19 Vaccine Education Efforts	December 16, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Advisory Boards		Recording Password: 9MKc34^5
	ACT Now	IL-QPSA Returning User Webinar #1	January 12, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

	ACT Now	IL-QPSA New User Webinar #2	January 13, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	STEM Webinar #3: Supporting Staff	January 19, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

[America After 3PM Special Report on Rural Afterschool Programming](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has released a new special brief on the state of afterschool programming in rural communities. This new data indicates that barriers for youth and families to participate in afterschool persist while the demand for programming increases. This information can be leveraged in conversations with policymakers to make the case for collaboration and funding!

[Community is Integral to Supporting Students' SEL Needs](#)

[EducationWeek](#) has developed a short article on the importance of engaging community members in order to support young people's social-emotional learning (SEL) needs. The article also showcases The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning's (CASEL) SEL framework and provides context for how to begin implementing SEL into programming.

[Resources for Understanding Human Rights](#)

December marks Human Rights Month and many educators and afterschool providers can take this time to encourage youth to learn more about the importance of human rights. [ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a variety of resources on globally recognized human rights topics, including education, equality, and food, water and housing.

[College and Career Readiness Programming Centered in Equity](#)

[The Education Trust](#) has developed a blog series on College and Career Readiness. This series focuses on supporting young people of color in their college and career exploration experiences and provides strategies for hosting tough conversations around race, gender, and other structural barriers.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[Winter Community Kickbacks Throughout the Month of December](#)

Starting last week, organizations in 14 different communities throughout the City of Chicago are planning kickback events for teens and families during the month of December. These events are all designed by local youth and range in theme, location, and age group.

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Brother Mike Award Nomination Deadline Extended](#)

[The Chicago Learning Exchange \(CLX\)](#) has extended the deadline for its Brother Mike Award, which includes a \$5,000 prize, to **December 31, 2021**. This opportunity is a chance to honor and recognize an outstanding out-of-school time (OST) "connected mentor"!

Family and Community Partnerships

[Individual Artists Program Grant](#)

[The City of Chicago](#) is soliciting applications from artists for its Individual Artists Program (IAP) Grants. These grants support individuals in the following fields: film & media arts, literary arts, performing arts, music, and visual arts & design. **Applications are due January 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

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

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[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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