

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

Afterschool in Governor Pritzker's FY23 Budget + Take Action

On **February 2, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced his [Fiscal Year 2023 Budget](#). The budget proposal includes:

- **\$54.4 million** for the Early Childhood Block Grant
- **\$2.988 billion** for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- **An additional \$350.2 million** for the Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) Formula, for a total of \$7.9 billion for FY23. This is a large increase from FY22, which totaled \$7.2 billion.
- **\$180 million** to preserve and grow the healthcare workforce through the Healthcare Workforce Initiative
- **\$14.81 million** for DHS's Teen REACH program. This is an increase of \$290,400 from FY22 appropriation!
- **\$20 million** for ISBE's After School Programs
- **\$3.44 million** for After School Matters
- **\$50 million** for ICJIA's Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program
- **\$240 million** for DHS's Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) grant program
- **\$6 billion in remaining federal COVID-19 response funds** for K-12 through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)

While we applaud the inclusion of substantial funding increases for early childhood education, K-12 education, including evidence-based funding for school districts, child care, and the health and human services, unfortunately, afterschool funding remains insufficient. This action further exacerbates the workforce crisis and causes fewer youth to be served. It is imperative that we come together to support our young people and communities by funding afterschool programs and community schools in Illinois. In particular, Teen REACH is underfunded and always has more grant applications than funding available.

Governor Pritzker's Budget is Now in the Hands of the Illinois General Assembly. Tell the Illinois General Assembly to:

- Restore the Teen REACH line item to the funding appropriated in FY18, at \$19.6 million
- Fund the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) at \$2.989 billion, of which \$300 million will go to support provider stabilization payments
- Include \$3.44 million for After School Matters
- Include \$20 million in direct funding for ISBE's After School Programs line
- Allocate funding for afterschool and Community Schools from the remaining COVID-19 relief

[ACT Now and Send Our Action Alert](#)

Tell your Policymakers to [Fund Afterschool and Community Schools TODAY!](#)

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Youth Development	ACT Now	SEL Webinar #2: Creating an Intentional SEL Framework in Afterschool Environments	TODAY from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Department of Human Services - Office of Firearm Violence Prevention	Technical Assistance Session: RPSA-Violence Prevention Services Notice of Funding Opportunity	February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	Forefront	What Nonprofits Need to Know About Lobbying in Illinois: Changes in 2022	February 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Advisory Boards	February 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training 101 - VIRTUAL	February 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	The February Membership Exchange: Funding Afterschool	February 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.,	REGISTER

		Programs: Updates on Current Opportunities		
	Illinois Resource Center	2022 ESSA/Multilingual Illinois Conference *ACT Now will be presenting on Family Engagement	February 22, 2022, to February 25, 2022	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	February 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	March 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Administration	Illinois Partners for Human Services	State of the Illinois FY23 Budget and Implications for the Health and Human Services Sector	February 15, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnership	Social Current	The Power of Technology to Facilitate Community Investment	February 10, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Public Narrative	A Virtual Discussion to Understand the Impact of COVID-19 from a Parent's Perspective	February 16, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Institute of Medicine of Chicago	MENTAL HEALTH DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC: A Status Report	February 25, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[New Credit-for-Learning Advocacy Toolkit](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has issued a new toolkit for provider to leverage in conversations around credit-for-learning opportunities for youth interested in becoming part of the afterschool field. The toolkit includes talking points, data, and more!

[Strategies for Supporting Women of Color in the Afterschool Space](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) released a new article highlighting a few key insights for supporting and elevating women of color in the out-of-school time field. The article focuses on a specific organization in California but makes the case for instituting organizational supports for women of color in general.

Youth Development

[Celebrating Black History Month Resources](#)

[eSchool News](#) has compiled several high-quality resources for celebrating Black History month during February and throughout the year. These resources include media, lesson plans, and engaging discussion prompts that encourage students to share and learn about our country's history.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[White Paper on Dealing with Grief and Loss at School](#)

[eSchool News](#) has released a new white paper on coping with grief and loss at schools. The resource shares insights into how prepared educators feel to support students through these tough periods and highlights the need for professional development for the field and support services for youth.

Family and Community Partnerships

[We <3 Afterschool!](#)

This **Valentine's Day (February 14, 2022)**, we are joining our friends across the country to celebrate our afterschool providers and show them some extra love. There are millions of reasons to love afterschool. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families. [The Afterschool Alliance](#) has curated templates and small activities to help tell the world why you, your students, and your community love your afterschool program!

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Afterschool Workforce Survey](#)

ACT Now developed a [brief 15-minute survey](#) for the field to understand the key reasons for why individuals choose to stay and/or leave their OST positions. We will analyze this data and leverage your responses to inform our policy campaigns and advocate on behalf of afterschool providers with policymakers. This [survey](#) will be live until **THIS THURSDAY (February 10, 2022) at 5:00 p.m.** Please note that all information will be confidential unless otherwise indicated by the individual in the submission. [Complete the Survey!](#)

In addition to our survey, we are holding [several focus group opportunities](#) to invite programs to share additional thoughts on the current afterschool workforce. Each [focus group](#) participant will receive a \$25 Target gift card for their participation. **Note: Individuals interested in taking part in these focus groups must complete the survey to be considered.** [Register for a Focus Group!](#)

Please direct any questions or concerns to Susan Stanton (Network Lead) at StantonS@actnowillinois.org.

[Enlace Chicago Employment Opportunity!](#)

Our friends at [Enlace Chicago](#) are soliciting applications for its Violence Prevention Evaluation and Data Specialist position. This role is full-time and focuses on supporting the Violence Prevention team in tracking data and outcomes as well as developing tools and reports/visuals to assess impact. **Applications are being reviewed as they are submitted.**

Professional Development

[Funding Afterschool Programs: Updates on Current Opportunities](#)

We invite you to join us on **February 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, for the February Membership Exchange, a monthly virtual forum that facilitates networking, resource sharing, and topical discussions for those in the field of afterschool, out-of-school time, and community schools. This month, Susan Stanton (ACT Now Network Lead) will provide insider updates on currently available state funding streams specifically for afterschool programs. She will also share some tips and tricks to grant writing and obtaining funding. Specifically, we will discuss:

- The Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA)
- Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) funding
- Updates for 21st CCLC cohorts
- ISBE's Afterschool Programs funding

Family and Community Partnerships

[Chicago Resilient Communities Monthly Cash Assistance Pilot](#)

[The City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services \(DFSS\)](#) is soliciting applications for its Chicago Resilient Communities Monthly Cash Assistance Pilot program. DFSS is seeking an agency to manage five core program administration functions for the cash assistance program: end-to-end participant experience, technology platform, application verification, onboarding, and payment distribution & management. **Applications are due February 18, 2022.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Celebrating High School Innovators](#)

[Illinois State University](#), [Illinois Wesleyan University](#), and [Pontiac Township High School](#) are presenting the 7th annual Celebrating High School Innovators competition. This celebration encourages students to submit 1,000 words and a short video on what makes them exceptional using the [online application portal](#). **The first round of the competition takes place virtually between February 14, 2022 to March 4, 2022. The Innovators finals will be held on April 9, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at Illinois State University.** Teams can choose to attend the event virtually or in person.

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

Funding Opportunities

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

CLARIFICATION: [Reimagine Public Safety Act Grant LIVE for Eligible Chicago Neighborhoods](#)

On **February 2, 2022**, the [Illinois Department of Human Service's \(IDHS\) Office of Firearm Violence Prevention \(OFVP\)](#) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for **violence prevention work** within the 22 eligible communities in Chicago. [A technical assistance session will be offered on February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. for potential grantees.](#) While this session is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged. **Proposals are due March 9, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.**

CST. The NOFO for Youth Development work has not been released yet.

ACT Now has [updated our one-pager](#) to reflect this announcement and continues to partner with the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) to provide capacity building technical assistance.

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

Were you forwarded this email?

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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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101 North Wacker, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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