

# ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

# NEWSLETTER

## Congratulations!

On **March 8, 2022**, the Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) initiative publicly announced its first group of the [Moonshot Flight Crew](#). The 2022 Flight Crew features 16 remarkable youth from across the country. Motivated by their impactful STEM experiences beyond the classroom, these young leaders are currently working in their communities to break down stereotypes and spark their peers' curiosity in STEM. This talented group of youth are committed to leveraging afterschool and STEM learning to ensure girls everywhere have opportunities to not only envision themselves in the STEM field but become future role models.

**ACT Now** would like to congratulate [Helena](#) and [Afua](#) in particular for representing the state of Illinois in this inaugural Moonshot Flight Crew!

We are thrilled that you both will continue to advance afterschool STEM and look forward to supporting this exciting initiative.

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## Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

#### [FY22 Budget Update: More Funding for Afterschool!](#)

Congress, after many months of discussion, appears to be moving forward with a FY22 budget bill, which totals \$1.5 trillion. This budget would fund the federal government through **September 30, 2022**. Below, you will find some of budget line items we are following:

- **\$1.289 billion for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)**, an increase of \$30 million and an all-time high level of funding for this grant program. However, this

increase is not sufficient to meet the increased demand for quality afterschool and summer learning programs, nor the increased costs associated with offering high quality afterschool and summer opportunities.

- **\$6.2 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)**
- **\$75 million for Full-Service Community School.** This is an increase of \$45 million, but is significantly less than what was proposed in both the House and Senate.
- **\$17.5 billion for Title I** funding to local education agencies. Afterschool and summer learning programs are an allowable use for this funding.
- **\$1.28 billion for Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants.** This funding goes to school districts to holistically support the needs of students. Allowable uses for the grant include support for afterschool STEM activities.
- **\$2.1 billion for Career, Technical Education (CTE),** an increase of \$61 million, to state education agencies. There is opportunity for community-based organizations to partner with school districts to leverage funding for workforce education or career readiness programming.
- **Continued support for a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Initiative.** The goal is to integrate “whole child” approaches to educational opportunities. Specifically, **\$82 million** is allocated for grants for evidence-based, field-initiated innovations that address student social, emotional, and cognitive needs within the **Education Innovation and Research program.**
- **\$120 million for Project AWARE,** which provides mental health resources for children and youth

To review the [Afterschool Alliance's](#) full blog post on the funding for afterschool in the FY22 budget bill, click [here](#).

## State Updates

### [Illinois Invests in Supports to Grow the Bilingual Educator Pipeline](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) has developed a new grant opportunity, for a total of \$4 million, from federal COVID-19 relief in order to help support and grow the bilingual education pipeline in the state. The goal is to fill teacher vacancies as the state continues to navigate the educator workforce crisis. According to Chalkbeat Chicago, the grant will allow school districts to "pay for tuition for current teachers who have a bilingual endorsement but want to earn professional licensure and for current educators who want to earn a bilingual endorsement." Additionally, the state aims to support a group of bilingual teachers that are able to teach "longer than a five-year term term."

*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
<b>Youth Development</b>	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Education</a>	Supporting the Social and Emotional Learning Needs of Afghan and Other Newcomer Students	<b>TOMORROW</b> , at 2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Professional Development</b>	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Grant Writing Series		<a href="#">Recordings</a>
	<a href="#">Forefront</a>	Looking Back and Moving Forward: Lessons Learned from COVID-19	<b>TODAY</b> , from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	<b>TOMORROW</b> , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Narrative 4 + ACT Now Story Exchange	March 29, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Illinois AfterSchool Network</a>	36th Annual Spring Virtual Conference	March 30, 2022, to April 1, 2022	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Safety, Health, and Nutrition</b>	<a href="#">EducationWeek</a>	Examining the Evidence: Supporting Students Coping with Trauma and Toxic Stress	<b>TOMORROW</b> , at 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority</a>	LGBTQ+ Victims in Illinois: Trauma Experiences, Service Needs, and Help-Seeking	March 24, 2022, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

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

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### [New Job Board for Afterschool Professionals!](#)

**ACT Now** recently revamped our website to host a page specifically for sharing job opportunities within the youth development and afterschool fields. Our streamlined Job Board

is now LIVE! Check out some of our partners' exciting employment openings TODAY and please share any openings your organization might have by [filling out our form here](#).

## Youth Development

### [Lessons for Discussing International Politics](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled several lesson plans on international politics to help educators host tough discussions around the crisis in Ukraine in a trauma informed manner.

## Professional Development

### [Grant Writing Series Archive](#)

During the first week of March 2022, ACT Now facilitated a four-day Grant Writing Webinar Series. Each webinar was dedicated to a specific grant writing topic to get the field ready for upcoming funding opportunities and participants received tangible takeaways. For those that were not able to attend, the series is now archived on our website!

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Administration

### [Summer Planning Bootcamp!](#)

[The National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#) is hosting its free virtual Summer Planning Bootcamp to provide tools and best practices to out-of-school time programs and encourage providers to begin planning for summer. Led by dynamic out-of-school time leaders, participants will delve into strategies to accelerate learning, build critical partnerships, and plan successful strategies to scale impact in a sustainable and measurable way. **The event will occur March 30, 2022 and March 31, 2022.**

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

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# Youth Opportunities

## Youth Development

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

We are continuing to accept applications for our Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2022. This is a full-time internship opportunity. We hope to offer an in-person internship this summer if it is safe to do so. However, ACT Now will consider a remote internship opportunity. We are also providing a stipend for this internship. **Applications are due Monday, April 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

### [Discover Computing 1 Opportunity for Youth](#)

[Discover Computing 1](#) is an opportunity for high school freshmen and sophomores in the City of Chicago to learn more about computer science and tech pathways. This program will be offered FREE from **April 11, 2022 to April 14, 2022**. This program is hosted in collaboration with DPI, Wilbur Wright College, and Google. Breakfast, lunch, and CTA transit cards will be provided to encourage attendance.

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

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## Funding Opportunities

## Youth Development

### [21st CCLC Request for Proposals is LIVE!](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) has released its FY23 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Request for Proposals (RFP). To learn more about this opportunity to fund your afterschool program, click [here](#). **Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. CST on April 25, 2022.** ACT Now recently hosted a [grant writing series](#) to help providers prepare for grant opportunities like this one!

## Safety, Health, and Nutrition

### [Chicago Community Safety Initiative](#)

[The Chicago Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) is sponsoring a collaborative called [Playstreets](#), which aims to support and develop healthier and stronger communities by

creating safe and accessible residential play areas for kids to be active, to learn, and for neighbors to come together. There are currently two Request for Proposals (RFPs) from [Gad's Hill Center](#) which will focus on the West Side, and [Build Chicago](#) which will focus on the South Side. **Proposals are due March 25, 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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