

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ACTION ITEM

[Show Your Support for Afterschool & Send a Witness Slip](#)

TOMORROW, March 9 2022, the Illinois House's Economic Opportunity & Equity Committee will review [HR636](#), one of the two resolutions in support of Out-of-School Time (OST) programs across the state! In collaboration with our partner, [the Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs](#), ACT Now is asking our members to [submit a witness slip](#) in support of this resolution! **Remember:** This action must be done **before 12:00 p.m. CST.**

Directions for Filling out a Witness Slip:

- [Click this link to go to the witness slip page for this hearing](#)
- **In Section I:** fill in your identification information
- **In Section II:** fill out your organization if you are representing one or write "self" if you are representing yourself. You can also fill in N/A.
- **In Section III:** select "Proponent" to support.
- **In Section IV:** select "Record of Appearance Only," unless you are submitting other forms of testimony, in which case select those as well.
- **Agree** to the Illinois General Assembly's (ILGA) Terms of Agreement
- **Select** the "Create Slip" button

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Governor Pritzker Lifts Executive Order for Schools](#)

On **March 4, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker released an updated executive order that lifted the school exclusion requirements and shifted schools back to the ordinary processes for handling

infectious diseases. According to this order, "now that the COVID-19 surge has subsided, schools and local health departments can return to exercising their longstanding authority to address infectious disease cases among students and staff."

[Mask Mandate Lifted for Child Care Environments in Illinois](#)

On **March 2, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that day care facilities and child care centers no longer must require masks for children age 2 and over, following the state’s adoption of new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Chalkbeat Chicago](#) reports that "individual daycares and child care facilities may still choose to require masks and more guidance is expected to come specifically for child care settings from the federal government."

Loan Repayment Bill for Human Services Professionals

The Human Service Professional Loan Repayment Program bill, [SB3925](#), was recently introduced in the Illinois House. Under this proposed program, individuals with an Associate, Bachelor’s or Master’s Degree from an accredited college or university and employed by a human services agency that contracts with or is grant-funded by IDHS, DCFS, DJJ, DOA, or IDPH to provide direct or indirect services would be eligible for a loan repayment program for a cumulative maximum 4 years. [Click here](#) for detailed information on eligibility and other program details. **Please consider contacting your State Representatives and asking them to Co-Sponsor SB3925. Find the name of your Representative [here](#).**

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	Coalition for Community Schools	Virtual Youth Town Hall: Ongoing Challenges of Covid-19	March 31, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	NCWIT Counselors for Computing (C4C)	NCWIT Webinar Series: Advising for Future-Ready Careers	March 15, 2022, and March 23, 2022	REGISTER
	Illinois Department of Human Services	Technical Assistance Session: RPSA Youth Development	TODAY, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

		Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)		
Professional Development	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
	ACT Now	Narrative 4 + ACT Now Story Exchange	March 29, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	36th Annual Spring Virtual Conference	March 30, 2022, to April 1, 2022	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	EducationWeek	Tackling Student and Staff Mental Health Issues in COVID-19's Wake	March 31, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

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

March marks the beginning of Women's History month. What was originally known as "Women's History Week" in 1982, has deservedly transformed over the years into an entire month aimed at recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women in our society, throughout history. **This month**, the Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) will pay tribute to the brilliant minds and contributions of female STEM leaders who have impacted not only their field, but the world around them in meaningful ways! **Note: More resources will be archived on our [MGM page](#).**

Webinars and Training Opportunities

- Celebrate Women in STEM Webinar Event: Women in STEM Careers on [March 24, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.](#)
- Parent Workshop: The Engineering Design Process at Home with Technovation - [April 1, 2022, at 8:00 a.m.](#)
- ACRES April Cohort: Elevating Youth Voice and Choice - [April through May](#)

Resources

Toolkits and Activities

- Toolkit: [Brokering Youth Pathways](#) - A Toolkit for Connecting Youth to Future Opportunity
- Toolkit: [Women's History Month | Managing American Spaces \(state.gov\)](#) Resource Toolkit for Women's History Month contains lesson plans, discussion guides, posters, social media, and movies about the struggle for women's equality in the United States, as well as, women's rights globally.
- Article: [State of Girls and Women in STEM, March 2021](#)- This NGCP resource presents a high-level summary of the most compelling statistics and research on the state of girls and women in STEM, focused on K-12 Education, Higher Education, and the STEM Workforce.
- Student Activity: [Smart Skies](#) - In these small-group NASA activities, learners assume the roles of pilots, air traffic controllers, and NASA scientists to solve five Air Traffic Control (ATC) problems. Age range 8-18 Welcome to Smart Skies! Fly By Math
- Student Activity: [Pi Day Fun!](#) - **March 14th is Pi Day (Pi=3.14)!** Celebrate with one of these activities from grades 1st - 12th.
- Website: [Math Communities](#) – Students, parents, and educators coming together to play with math!
- The [Mizzen By Mott app](#) delivers inspiring and engaging activities that spark learning in young people.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Call For Reimagine Public Safety Action Grant Reviewers

[The Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) is seeking subject matter experts to help the agency review Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) applications for the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) Grant opportunity. IDHS is looking for diverse individuals with knowledge about violence prevention efforts, delivery of vital services to vulnerable communities, and grantmaking processes. Please complete the [Reimagine Public Safety Act Grant Reviewer Interest Survey](#) and direct all questions to DHS.ViolencePreventionServices@illinois.gov.

Youth Development

Project Exploration's STEM in the CHI Summer Camp

[Project Exploration \(PE\)](#) has released its Request for Proposals for PE's STEM in the CHI-SUMMER CAMP. PE is seeking partners who can help the organization create equitable opportunities to high-quality STEM programs for students this summer. STEM in the CHI Summer Camp will be provided for FREE to K-8 students - particularly low-income students, students of color, and young women, from **July 5, 2022, to August 26, 2022**. **Proposals are due Monday, April 4, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. CST.**

[Lights On Afterschool Poster Contest!](#)

The Lights On Afterschool poster contest is officially open, and this year the [Afterschool Alliance](#) is changing its theme to reflect how youth see themselves and their futures because of their afterschool program! The winning artist will be featured on the Afterschool Alliance's website, blog, and a national press release, and their afterschool program will be credited on the poster in addition to receiving the grand prize of \$500! **Submissions are due no later than May 16, 2022.**

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Community Schools COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Opportunity

[The Institute for Educational Leadership](#) is partnering with the [National Association of School Nurses \(NASN\)](#) to improve the safety and wellbeing of students, families, and educators with 2022 goals of getting as many students vaccinated against COVID-19 as possible. The first 100 eligible registrants to be awarded \$2,000 and there is potential to win up to \$5,000 per week for each school entered! **Learn more about eligibility for this public health opportunity in a [kick-off webinar being hosted TODAY at 3:00 p.m.](#)**

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

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.**

[Chicago Housing Authority Internship Opportunity](#)

[The Chicago Housing Authority \(CHA\)](#) is soliciting applications for its student internship program. There are three positions open to college-level students that last eight weeks. Interns will be paid hourly. **Applications are due by March 31, 2022.**

REACH STEM Programs for Youth

[The Rush Education and Career Hub \(REACH\)](#) inspires and empowers young people of color to see their potential and their place in health care, beginning in preschool and continuing through college and graduate study. REACH is hosting two STEM-learning opportunities for youth this summer:

- [MedSTEM Explorers](#): A paid enrichment program for rising high school sophomores and juniors. During one six-week summer session, students attend classes at Rush University Medical Center to explore careers and research real-world issues that affect their Chicago communities. **Applications are due March 25, 2022.**
- [MedSTEM Pathways](#): A paid internship program for rising high school juniors and seniors and recent graduates. During the one six-week summer session, students will engage in hands-on learning to strengthen communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Students will have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials. **Applications are due March 25, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

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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