

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Federal Support of Afterschool and Potential Funding Opportunities](#)

Last month, President Joseph Biden signed the [FY22 federal spending bill](#), which included community project funding (previously known as earmarks) for the first time in more than 10 years. Community Project Funding (CPF) allows members of Congress to request direct funding for projects that benefit the communities they represent. In the past, programs in Illinois have received this direct funding to provide youth development programming and specifically afterschool offerings. [The Afterschool Alliance](#) has written an article detailing the advocacy process for securing this type of federal funding.

State Updates

[FY23 State Budget Agreed Upon and Passed in Illinois General Assembly](#)

On **April 9, 2022**, the Illinois General Assembly passed a \$46.5 billion state budget plan ([HB900](#)) for FY23. The state budget will include:

- **\$16.81 million for Teen REACH.** This is a \$2.3 million increase in funding! While this is exciting, there remains need for significant investment to ensure the expansion of the grant program.
- **\$20 million for the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) After School Programs grant.**
- **\$4.0 million for After School Matters.** This is a \$600,000 increase from previous funding levels for After School Matters.
- **\$17 million for Freedom Schools**, administered by ISBE.

- **\$7.57 billion for the evidence-based funding (EBF) line for K-12 schools across the state.**
- **\$1.689 billion for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).**
- **\$240 million for the Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) Grant program.** This funding is administered to the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and will be used to provide funding for youth development opportunities and violence prevention services in areas across Chicago and the state with high rates of firearm violence.
- **\$2.0 million for the Restore. Reinvest. Renew (R3) Grant program.** This funding is administered by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA).
- **\$5.5 million for YouthBuild Illinois.** This program supports low-income youth and young adults 16 to 24 years of age who have dropped out of school and are unemployed and/or have limited job skills.
- **\$2.5 million for the School STEAM Grant Program,** administered by ISBE. While school districts receive this funding, programs may access these dollars via partnership.

[COVID-19 Sick Leave Protections for Vaccinated School Staff](#)

On **April 5, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker signed **[HB1167](#)** into law allowing vaccinated school staff to take sick leave if the individual or a dependent such as children receive a positive COVID-19 result. Governor JB Pritzker shared that this measure will help keep students and teachers safe in the classroom and ensure support for all working families. Further, this legislation protects all hourly school employees in addition to classroom teachers, such as bus drivers, food service providers, and administrative personnel.

*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	STEM Webinar #4: Big, Blue Rock: Integrating Geoscience Curriculum into STEM OST Programming		Recording
	National Girls Collaborative Project	Girls STEAM Ahead with NASA Free Resources	May 3, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	IL-QPSA Webinar #3 for NEW Users	TOMORROW, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

	Afterschool Alliance	Webinar Launch: America After 3PM Special Report on Promoting Healthy Futures for Youth	TOMORROW , from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	IL-QPSA Webinar #2 for RETURNING Users	April 14, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ShareMyLesson	Literacy and ELLs: Using Academic Language Instruction to Unlock Success	April 14, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	April Membership Exchange: Crisis in the Field - Using Data to Support the Afterschool Workforce	April 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Family Engagement	April 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Every Hour Counts	Putting Data to Work for Young People A Virtual Event	May 4, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	ED Leaders Network	What's Fatigue Got to Do With It? A deep dive into educator fatigue and how to address it	April 26, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	Parent Engagement Institute	PMP RFP for New Partner Info Session 2	April 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Updated COVID-19 Guidance and Resources

- On **March 30, 2022**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) released an updated [COVID-19 guidance](#)

[document](#) for school districts and program providers. This guidance surrounds strategies for addressing COVID-19 Cases Contacts and Outbreaks

- Unfortunately, the prospect of new variants of concern, the potential seasonality of transmission, and underlying social and medical vulnerabilities increase the likelihood that communities across the state of Illinois will encounter future waves COVID-19. To ensure the state is prepared for the next surge of COVID-19, ISBE and the IDPH ask that Illinois schools have updated emergency plans in place now. [Read the letter here.](#)

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Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[STEM Summer with Techbridge Girls](#)

Out-of-school providers and schools are invited to join Ignite, a fun and equitable program, designed to spark girls' and gender-expansive youth's (grades 3 through 8) interest in STEM through lessons with hands-on activities that draw on girls' interests and lived experiences. Educators will be equipped with ongoing training, a community of practice, pre-kitted materials, and an innovative curriculum. **To bring this program to your youth, contact partners@techbridgegirls.org by May 20, 2022.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Parent Mentoring Program Opportunity for Illinois Families](#)

[The Parent Engagement Institute](#) is looking for community organization and school partnerships in Illinois to apply for this grant to start the Parent Mentor Program in public schools. The Parent Engagement Institute anticipates the average grant amount would be \$80,000 to start up and run the Parent Mentor Program in two schools, with a cohort of eight parent mentors in each school during the 2022-23 school year. For more information, please review this [document that demonstrates the Illinois Statewide Parent Mentor Initiative Program impact](#). **The application deadline is May 20, 2022.** The Parent Engagement Institute is also hosting an [informational session on April 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.](#)

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

[Chicago Transit Authority - High School Internships Available!](#)

[The Chicago Transit Authority](#) is soliciting applications for its One Summer Chicago High School Internship program. **Applications are open until April 29, 2022.**

Youth Development

[Juneteenth Essay Contest for Youth](#)

To celebrate Black physicists and their contributions to the scientific community, [Black in Physics](#), the [American Institution of Physics](#), and the [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) are hosting a Juneteenth Essay Contest. These organizations invite Black and/or African American youth grades 6 through 8 to write an essay (1,000 words or less) about a Black physicist and how their contributions have shaped how youth see themselves represented in STEM. The winner, plus 2nd-5th place, will receive a cash prize. **Submissions are May 22, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Summer Project Grant Opportunity](#)

[Civic Spring National](#) is soliciting applications from youth-driven organizations that aim to pursue a summer project. Grants of up to \$25,000 must be leveraged to encourage civic engagement and meaningful change within youth populations. **Applications are due April 29, 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

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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