

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

#### [FY23 Budget Update](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) released a brief update on the federal FY23 budget process. There appears to be increased support for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st Century) with President Biden proposing \$21 million more in funding for the grant program. Within the FY23 proposed budget there are also historic amounts for federal education funding. In addition to the appropriations hearings in the House of Representatives, late last month Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.), co-chair of the House Afterschool Caucus, sent a [bipartisan Dear Colleague letter](#) in support of out-of-school time (OST). There was also a letter of support sent to the House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee to encourage members to increase 21st Century.

*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
Professional Development	<u><a href="#">ACT Now</a></u>	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Policy and Advocacy		<u><a href="#">Recording</a></u>
	<u><a href="#">Forefront</a></u>	Introduction to Finding Grants	<b>TODAY</b> , from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	<u><a href="#">REGISTER</a></u>
	<u><a href="#">ACT Now</a></u>	SEL Webinar #3: Integrating SEL with Classroom Learning	<b>May 23, 2022</b> , from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<u><a href="#">REGISTER</a></u>

	<a href="#">ACT Now</a> and <a href="#">ICOY</a>	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #4	May 24, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Forefront</a>	Telling Your Nonprofit's Story With Candid Profiles	June 1, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">EdPrep Lab</a> and <a href="#">Learning Policy Institute</a>	Voices from the Field: What Early Career Teachers Need Right Now	June 8, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Administration</b>	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	21st Century Town Hall	May 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Safety, Health, and Nutrition</b>	<a href="#">EducationWeek</a>	How Does Educator Well-Being Impact Social-Emotional Awareness in Schools?	May 20, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">The Greater Chicago Food Depository</a>	Impact of Food Inflation on Food Insecure Families and the Nutrition Safety Net	May 23, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

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

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### **Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) Support**

**ACT Now's** online self-assessment system, the IL-QPSA, has recently been experiencing some technical difficulties. If you are a user that should have been sent an email from the IL-QPSA system prompting you to create a login and password or you had requested a new password, please follow the following detailed instructions below:

- Please note that Google Chrome works best
- In your browser settings, disable cookies/cache
- Use this link to access the system: <https://ilqpsa.actnowillinois.com/admin/login.html>
- Click 'Forgot Your Password?'
- When you try to set the password: does it indicate that it is a 'good' or 'strong' password?
- If the password is 'poor,' then it will not save. Try setting another password.
- Then, follow the necessary prompts between the system and your email account



Reach out to **Emma Vibber** (Quality and Professional Development Manager) at [VibberE@actnowillinois.org](mailto:VibberE@actnowillinois.org) if you still do not gain access.

### [ESSER III Funding Update from Districts Across the United States](#)

[The 74 Million](#) developed a new interactive database showcasing how school districts across the country are using the federal ESSER III funding.

### [Suggestions for Funding STEM and Career Technical Education Opportunities](#)

[eSchool News](#) published an article highlighting some ways school districts may leverage federal funding for STEM and Career, Technical Education (CTE) experiences for students in Illinois. While this funding goes to state education agencies that later administer it to local schools, there is opportunity for afterschool and community-based organizations (CBOs) to collaborate to facilitate programming.

## Youth Development

### [Resources for Celebrating AAPI Heritage Month](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) has compiled 12 high-quality and equity-centered resources for celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month. These resources may also be leveraged throughout the year!

### [STEM Resources to Support Student Interest in Aerospace!](#)

[eSchool News'](#) newest article hosts lesson plans, activities, and curricula that will help to spark students' interest in aerospace such as engineering and rocketry.

## Safety, Health, and Nutrition

### [What to Know About Paid COVID-19 Sick-Leave for Illinois Educators](#)

[Chalkbeat Chicago](#) recently wrote an article detailing seven things that Illinois staff may want to know about the recent law allowing school districts to grant paid leave for COVID-19-related reasons.

### **Mental Health and Social-Emotional Learning Resources**

- [Growing Teacher Well-Being](#): [The Institute of Education Sciences](#) created this document with guidance on what schools and organizations can do to increase educator well-being.
- [Addressing Education Burnout and Demoralization](#): [The National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments \(NCSSLE\)](#) and AIR Center on Great Teachers and Leaders have developed this resource to help school district and program administrators support the well-being of educators in rural and urban environments.

- [Spotlight on SEL for School Staff: EducationWeek](#) wrote a brief article highlighting some of the findings that support adult social-emotional learning activities and the impact SEL awareness has on students and young people.
- [4 Steps to a Successful SEL Implementation: eSchool News](#) has a resource with a few strategies for integrating SEL learning into programming to benefit both students and educators.
- [Illinois State Board of Education's \(ISBE\) SEL Hubs](#)
- [ISBE's Student Advisory Council Mental Health Videos](#): ISBE's Student Advisory Council has developed a series of videos that help to define key terminology to decrease stigma around mental health issues.

### [New Brief on Food Insecurity](#)

[The Greater Chicago Food Depository](#) released a white paper discussing the impact of food inflation on food insecure families and the nutrition assistance safety net. The organization is also hosting a [webinar](#) to diver deeper into this paper on [May 23, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.](#)

### [Meal Ideas for Youth During the Summer](#)

[The U.S. Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) has developed a few posters with ideas on what delicious meals and snacks can be served every day through the Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP).

## Family and Community Partnerships

### [Ready4K Text Messaging Program](#)

[Illinois Cares for Kids](#) has developed [Ready4K](#), a free research-based text messaging program for Illinois families and parents in Illinois. This program is a free family engagement tool that aims to increase children's learning and provides a method for the state to consistently share customized early childhood messaging. Resources are available in a variety of languages.

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Administration

### [Afterschool for All Challenge Tweetstorm](#)

**This week**, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) and afterschool networks across the United States are [engaging federal legislators to raise awareness](#) of the importance of the field. Please join us on **Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. on Twitter** to help us amplify why more funding for out-of-school time (OST) is critical to the wellbeing of youth and families. Don't forget to use the hashtag [#AfterschoolWorks](#) and tag ACT Now at [@ACTNowCoalition](#)

### [Upcoming 21st Century Town Hall](#)

Similar to the series, last summer, **ACT Now** will be hosting a Town Hall for 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st Century) providers in Illinois. This event will take place on [May 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.](#) and participants will have the opportunity to discuss grant sustainability and management, as well as

budgeting best practices for the field. For questions and concerns, please contact Susan Stanton (Network Lead) at [stantons@actnowillinois.org](mailto:stantons@actnowillinois.org).

### [2022 Community Schools Resource Survey](#)

**Calling all Community Schools Providers!** Please take our annual [Community Schools Resource Survey](#) to help us gather feedback from the diverse field. What you share with us will help us to strengthen our professional development opportunities as well as craft our Community Schools trainings for next year! **The survey closes May 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. By completing the survey, you have entered a chance to win a gift card!** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact **Lesley Fisher Chapman** (Program Coordinator) at: [ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org](mailto:ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org).

### [National STEM Survey for OST Programs](#)

The [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) (NGCP) is administering a survey to investigate its reach and impact as it relates to STEM resources, professional development offerings, and more. Responses are confidential and reported in aggregate. We are asking all individuals who have been involved with NGCP in any way to please respond. **The survey will close June 17, 2022.** Contact Brenda Britsch at [bbritsch@ngcproject.org](mailto:bbritsch@ngcproject.org) with any questions.

## Youth Development

### [Chicago Youth Summit Opportunity](#)

[This Chicago Area Health Education Center \(CAHEC\)](#) is hosting its second annual Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit **in-person on June 4, 2022.** Students in third grade and higher are encouraged to attend and participate in mentoring opportunities, medical exposure, and networking sessions.

### [My CHI. My Future Application Launches TOMORROW](#)

We are excited to announce that the [My CHI. My Future. \(MCMF\)](#) mobile app will launch **TOMORROW, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.** Now is your chance to be part of the launch by creating a MCMF account and adding your youth programs, events, and job offerings to the platform. Creating an account and uploading programs can be done in a few simple steps.

- Click [here](#) to request your account
- Click [here](#) to sign into a pre-existing account

By clicking "Submit" on your program on MCMF, your program information will be searchable on both our current website and new mobile app simultaneously!

## Professional Development

### [Free Trauma-Informed Mental Health Trainings for Providers](#)

**This summer**, the [Center for Healing and Justice through Sport \(CHJS\)](#) will be hosting free in-person trauma-informed mental health skill-building trainings for youth-serving organizations in the City of Chicago. There will be 12 cohorts, including training on building relationships, creating trust, engagement approaches, and more! **Trainings begin this week and span throughout neighborhoods and the summer.**

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

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## Youth Opportunities

### Youth Development

#### [City of Chicago High School Senior Essay Contest](#)

The City of Chicago's Treasurer is hosting an essay contest for high school seniors. Two seniors will be awarded scholarships based on their academic achievement, community involvement, and written essay on a topic related to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. **The deadline to submit pieces is May 31, 2022.**

#### [Sail GP Chicago Contest](#)

Youth and families are encouraged to submit designs for [Sail GP's](#) F50 racing boats. The design should focus on increasing the sustainability and speed of the boat and model submissions must use household and recycled materials. **Submissions are due June 8, 2022.** The top five creative submissions will win a pair of tickets to the Chicago SailGP event on **June 18, 2022.**

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

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## Funding Opportunities

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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