

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

New ACT Now Team Member!



Meet another new Afterschool Resource and Support Specialist, **Tyrone Taliaferro**! Tyrone joined our team to help support Reimagine Public Safety Act grantees. Read a brief message from Tyrone:

I have had the opportunity to work as a direct service provider for many different organizations that focus on things like youth development, SEL, violence prevention, and crisis intervention. I received my degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

I was born and raised in Chicago! Growing up in the Englewood community, as a child I was exposed to quality programming as well as programming that did provide youth with supports. So, my goal throughout my career was to

provide quality programming and positive experiences for kids who grew up in areas similar to the one I grew up in. I've had the pleasure to gain experience working in the field at places like Lawrence Hall, Playworks, Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club, Chicago Park District, Urbana High School and more! I have seen and experienced what quality programming means to youth, how it can help shape critical thinking and foster SEL skills that youth are able to translate outside of school.

This new position is an important role to me because I feel like my work here is impactful and helps programs give youth a space where they are able to grow mentally, physically and emotionally. I look forward to continuing my career goal by providing programs with support and assistance needed to give youth a quality experience.

Tyrone, we are thrilled to have you! WELCOME!

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[COVID-19 Vaccines for Children Under 5 Years Old Approved](#)

Over the weekend, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) approved COVID-19 vaccinations for children between the ages of six months and five years old. This means over 20 million youth are now eligible to receive the vaccine.

[Child Care Reconciliation Plan Advocacy Needed!](#)

Last month, Senator Murray (D-WA) and Senator Kaine (D-VA) proposed the [Murray-Kaine Child Care Reconciliation Plan](#) that would expand access to child care opportunities to over 1 million children, lower costs of programs and help families return to work. This plan also focuses on school-age youth and provides support in funding to address this age group. If this legislation passes, the State of Illinois will receive annual funding of \$383 million over six years to do the following:

- Serve an additional 29,000 children in Illinois
- Increasing access and quality for families
- Equitable compensation and/or wages
- Investments to improve facilities

State Updates

[Youth Programming in Chicago during Summer 2022](#)

On **June 16, 2022**, the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#) Assistant Secretary of Firearm Violence Prevention Chris Patterson and [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) Chief of Safety and Security Jadine Chou announced a variety of summer opportunities for youth in Chicago that focuses on keeping young people safe and engaged. As a result of this initiative, young people and their families will be able to access intensive wrap-around programming and paid employment in

their own neighborhoods. Community organizations will leverage funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and CPS to provide these summer jobs.

Illinois State Board of Education June Board Meeting Recap

On **June 15, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly meeting in Champaign, Illinois. The Board meeting materials and future meeting dates are available, [here](#). Members of the ISBE Board heard public comment on a variety of topics including state assessments, cyber bullying prevention, and special education supports for students in the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) district. The, the Board turned its attention to a presentation from the Champaign Community Unit School District 4. The presentation focused on how the school district has been leader in supporting the whole needs of youth and leveraging community partnerships to provide trauma-informed services (Champaign Community Unit School District 4 uses the community schools model to offer diverse youth services)! The Board also heard a presentation on instructional environments for students during the pandemic and the correlation to the achievement gap (based upon state assessment data). The Board then discussed the Strategic Plan and shared progress made in its goals. The Board then approved the June consent agenda and all items within the discussion and approval section, and briefly reviewed upcoming board actions for August. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on August 17, 2022.**

Governor JB Pritzker Continues to Support Child Care Providers with Investments in Early Childhood

On **June 13, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker and the [Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) announced further investments for the early childhood education and provider field. Changes included:

- Increasing Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursement rates for all providers by 8% over 2022
- Increasing the CCAP income eligibility limit to include families with incomes below 225% of the Federal Poverty Line
- Continuing the Child Care Restoration Grant Extension through December 2022
- Extending the Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant program through June 2023
- Lowering copays to \$1 for CCAP-eligible families with a parent or guardian working in child care
- Implementing a 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) to the reimbursement rate for all Early Intervention services
- Eliminating copays for families experiencing homelessness
- Expanding eligibility to parents/guardians attending online school from home
- Continuing to provide three months of child care assistance for unemployed parents seeking to reenter the workforce, through December 2022

The changes will take effect July 1, 2022.

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Professional Development	ACT Now	21st CCLC Town Hall	TOMORROW , at 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	National AfterSchool Association	Creating a Thriving OST Workforce	TOMORROW , at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	U.S Department of Education and Coalition for Community Schools	Launching a Community School: Using Deep Engagement and Visioning to Understand Root Causes and Identify Shared Priorities	June 23, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	June Membership Exchange	June 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 1: Program Handbook Development Workshop	July 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now and IDHS	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 2: eCornerstone & Business Objects	July 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now and ICOY	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 3: CBAT-O	July 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 4: Core Service Breakouts	July 29, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	City of Chicago	Black Brown Dialogue: The Southern Route of the Underground Railroad - Afro Descendants' Migration to Mexico	TOMORROW , at 2:00 p.m.	Link to Event
	City of Chicago	Intersections in the Fight for Freedom: UBUNTU Center Chicago Talks Juneteenth	June 23, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER (In-Person) Link to Event

	City of Chicago	Black Culture Wellness: Can Authentic Black Culture Heal Black Communities?	June 28, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
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For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Family and Community Partnerships

[Resources for Learning about Immigrant Heritage Month](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a list of resources and curriculum that afterschool providers may use to teach about immigrant history and heritage.

Youth Development

[Celebrating Juneteenth in Afterschool](#)

While Juneteenth (June 19th) occurred on Sunday, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) has published an article highlighting ways to learn about Juneteenth and celebrate the historic day in programmatic settings.

[Earth and Space / La Tierra y el Espacio Resources](#)

[The National Informal STEM Education Network \(NISE Network\)](#) is sharing its collection of resources on Earth and Space to help educators make this type of science programming more relevant and inclusive of local communities. The collection of resources features written materials, slides, and videos for you to explore at your own pace.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now Employment Opportunities!](#)

ACT Now is hiring for two full-time positions and looking to fill them immediately. While our offices are in Chicago, Illinois, we will explore applications from any part of the state to either work remotely or to establish a satellite office.

- Afterschool Resources and Support Specialist (RPSA)
- Policy, Communications, and Operations Associate

To learn more about these opportunities and eligibility, check out our [employment opportunities page](#). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis and interviews will take place accordingly.

[After School Matters Job Opening](#)

Our friends at [After School Matters](#) are hiring a [Senior Director of Research](#) to lead research and evaluation initiatives at our organization. This individual will manage a dynamic research team and will have the opportunity to advance cutting edge research, evaluations, and special initiatives. It is a great opportunity for a creative and experienced researcher with expertise in youth development who would thrive at one of the country's leading out-of-school-time organizations!

Youth Development

[Feeding Hungry Lives and Hungry Minds Worldwide](#)

[The Center of Science and Industry \(COSI\)](#) is partnering with community-based and youth-serving organizations to feed hungry lives and hungry minds. The COSI Connects: Learning Lunchbox initiative is an innovative program led by COSI which leverages a network of meal providers, libraries, museums, and cultural institutions to deliver hundreds of thousands of free, hands-on science kits, called Learning Lunchbox kits, to support efforts to help address learning loss and disparities in learning that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic—specifically with urban and rural communities. **Learn how your organization could become a Learning Lunchbox distribution partner in your local community.**

[Summer 2022 Program Highlights!](#)

As National Summer Learning Week 2022 (July 11-July 15, 2022) is quickly approaching, ACT Now is looking to highlight some of our program providers and share successes for the summer! To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, promote National Summer Learning Week 2022 and to shine light on the integral role that program staff play in restoring Illinois, ACT Now is looking to showcase staff members and programs on our social media platforms. If you are interested in participating, have photos to share out, or would like to nominate someone you know, please email [Jasmin Flores](mailto:Jasmin.Flores@actnowillinois.org) (ACT Now Summer 2022 Policy and Communications Intern) at FloresJ@actnowillinois.org. Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member or name of the afterschool program, and caption for how this individual or program is working to support young people in the community.

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[Together We Heal - Creative Place Program Grant!](#)

[Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot](#), the [Mayor's Office of Equity & Racial Justice \(OERJ\)](#), and the [Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events \(DCASE\)](#) have initiated the Together We Heal Creative Place Program. This opportunity supports art projects that promote healing and transformation in Chicago's diverse neighborhoods. **Applications for the Creative Place Program will be accepted from June 15, 2022 through July 20, 2022!**

Youth Development

[IF/THEN® Gender Equity Grant Funding](#)

[The American Science and Technology Centers \(ASTC\)](#) is soliciting applications for grant funding of up to \$4,000 to support projects that use materials from our IF/THEN® Project Library. **Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until September 30, 2022, or until all available funds are awarded.**

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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