

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022 Spotlights!

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! If you are interested in participating, email **Jasmin Flores** (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. **Submissions are due by 10:00 a.m. on July 8, 2022.**

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

FY23 Budget Update

On **June 23, 2022**, the U.S. House of Representatives Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHSS-ED) Appropriations committee approved the FY23 spending bill for the federal government. Within the legislation were the following proposed line items that support afterschool and summer learning programs:

- **\$120 million increase for the 21st CCLC program**, for a total of \$1.4 billion.
- **\$1 billion increase for Child Care and Development Block Grant**, for a total of \$7.2 billion. Funding supports school-age afterschool programs as well as child care programs.
- **\$3 billion increase for ESSA Title I grants** to school districts, for a total \$20.5 billion. Community-based organizations are able to partner with these local education agencies (LEAs) to leverage funding for afterschool and summer programming.

- **\$75 million increase for Title IV Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants**, for a total of \$1.4 billion. These funds can be used for afterschool STEM programming, physical activity and more!
- **\$393 million increase for Full-Service Community Schools**, for a total of \$468 million.

To learn more about more proposed funding for afterschool and summer learning for FY23, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) has written a [blog post](#). The annual spending process continues as **Congress has until September 30, 2022, to pass all spending bills or a continuing resolution (CR). As the Senate has not yet started the markup process, it is likely, the federal government will pass a CR.**

[Bipartisan Safer Communities Act Proposed](#)

After the events in the past several weeks, Congress proposed the bipartisan [Safer Communities Act](#). On **June 23, 2022**, the Senate passed the legislation and on **June 24, 2022**, the US House of Representatives passed the act. This legislation includes gun safety measures, mental health support investments, and school safety provisions that aim to prevent gun violence in learning environments for youth. According to the [Afterschool Alliance](#), among the youth and school related provisions is \$50 million in additional funding to the 21st CCLC grant program. The bill now goes to President Biden to be signed into law.

[Summer and School Meals Legislation Makes Headway in Congress](#)

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) authorized several waivers to allow community-based afterschool and summer program providers as well as school nutrition programs to provide meals to students even during school closures and remote learning. These waivers are set to expire on **June 30, 2022**. On **June 21, 2022**, Congress released the bipartisan, bicameral Keep Kids Fed Act, which will extend the summer meals waiver and provide funding and flexibility for the coming school year to address the increased costs of meals, and the transportation and delivery of the items. [The Afterschool Alliance](#) reports that the Senate passed an amended version of the bill (removing the provision that would have allowed reduced price meals to be free next school year), on **June 24, 2022**, and the US House of Representatives followed by passing the legislation. President Biden will now sign the act into law.

State Updates

[Illinois Primary is TODAY!](#)

The Primary election for the State of Illinois is scheduled for **TODAY, June 28, 2022**. Voters looking to find their polling place can access information, [here](#)!

[Restore. Reinvest. Renew \(R3\) Grantees Announced](#)

On **June 23, 2022**, the Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) publicly announced the full list of nonprofits and community-based organizations (CBOs) that will receive the second round of funding from the Restore. Reinvest. Renew. (R3) Grant Program. Funding for this grant program comes from revenue from adult-use cannabis sales and totals \$45 million. This funding will be distributed to 148 programs, many of which run youth programming and afterschool opportunities. The program aims to support organizations working in communities most impacted by the failed war on drugs. Initiatives surround the principles of youth development, violence prevention, legal aid, and re-entry services. To access the press release and review the full list of grantees, click [here](#).

ACT Now would like to congratulate our partner organizations that have received this round of funding. We are here and ready to support your youth development initiatives with our free resources and services!

[Monetary Award Program Receives Funding to Support Students Attain Higher Education](#)

On **June 21, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly announced that the state's Monetary Award Program (MAP) will receive an additional \$122 million in funding for FY23. This action is in direct response to ensuring that college is more affordable for low-income students across Illinois. As a result of this increase in funding, MAP will total a historic high of approximately \$601 million, and allow 151,000 more students to access high-quality higher education opportunities in Illinois.

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	June Membership Exchange	TODAY, 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

	ISBE	Active Recruitment of Special Populations into CTE Programs and Nontraditional Careers - Educator Panel	July 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	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
	ISBE	Elimination of Barriers for Individual CTE Students - Educator Panel	August 2, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Webinar Recording to Help Strengthen Summer Programming](#)

On **June 14, 2022**, the [Education Development Center, Inc. \(EDC\)](#) hosted a webinar in partnership with The Wallace Foundation to share findings from its new report: [Supporting Quality in Summer Learning: How Districts Plan, Develop, and Implement Programs](#). The report and webinar highlight how school districts are key partners during summer and can help to strengthen the work that is already being done by community-based organizations.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[City of Chicago Family Vaccine Clinics](#)

[The City of Chicago](#) is hosting family vaccine clinics in an effort to help children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years old get vaccinated against COVID-19. These opportunities are available to everyone at not cost. To learn more and register to confirm your spot, click [here](#).

[Toolkit for Promoting Health and Well-Being](#)

[The National Recreation and Park Association](#) released a new resource, [Community Wellness Hubs: A Toolkit for Advancing Community Health and Well-Being Through Parks and Recreation](#). This toolkit highlights the role park and recreation professionals play in advancing community health and well-being but summer learning providers may leverage the toolkit to support programming!

[Moving Our Bodies During Summer 2022](#)

[Sesame Street in Communities](#) has created ways to incorporate reading and math with physical activity to keep kids learning and moving all summer long. These resources are geared towards students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade.

Youth Development

[UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report](#)

This annual report key challenges and barriers to achieving equity in education across 120 countries and highlights the impacts of gender stereotypes and biases on girls' access, performance, and pursuit of STEM. The [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's \(UNESCO\)](#) resource highlights key findings on girls' performance in mathematics reasoning behind why many girls do not pursue science-related careers.

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.

[21st CCLC Advisory Council](#)

ACT Now is starting a group to help further work on specific issues related to 21st CCLC and Chicago Public Schools (CPS). This group will meet on an ongoing basis with CPS. **If you are interested in joining the 21st CCLC Advisory Council please fill out this form by July 1, 2022.**

Youth Development

[Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative Citywide Convening](#)

The Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative will be hosting a citywide meeting **tomorrow!** All past and prospective members are welcome to attend for an update on the present work and collective planning around the future of the STEM Co-op. **The event will take place in-person on June 29, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center** Note: there is a virtual opportunity to attend.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[2022 SUMMER STEAM ACADEMY](#)

[Olive-Harvey College](#) is hosting a STEAM program to encourage students to keep learning during summer 2022. Programs are offered as remote and in-person courses **beginning June 27, 2022 and ending August 12, 2022.** Join Olive-Harvey College for a variety of fun and engaging programs for youth of different ages and interests!

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?

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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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