ACT Now & Register: Addressing the Crisis in the Afterschool Workforce

A Conversation with Legislators and Afterschool Providers

The afterschool workforce in Illinois and across the nation is facing an unprecedented staffing crisis. With factors such as compensation and burnout only being worsened by the pandemic, providers are leaving the workforce at an alarming scale. ACT Now recently surveyed the out-of-school (OST) field and compiled data on some of the key strategies for supporting staff and encouraging individuals to enter the afterschool community. We will be launching a one-pager on this data and on how to address this issue. Join us on **August 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

**Federal Support for Afterschool: Engage Every Student Initiative Has Launched!**

On **July 14, 2022**, the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the start of the Engage Every Student Initiative, which aims to ensure that every child across the United States has access to high-quality afterschool programming. The initiative is a "bold new call to action to utilize American Rescue Plan funds alongside other state and local funds" to expand out-of-school time (OST) opportunities for children and families that want to participate in these experiences. This is the first time that leaders in the federal government are pushing for afterschool for all and plans focus on partnerships between a variety of stakeholders. There is also emphasis on building upon the 21st Century Community Learning Centers framework in
place to support more students with OST programming. Read more about this historic moment, here.

State Updates

**Governor JB Pritzker Releases Updated Executive Order Related to COVID-19 Protocols**

On **July 13, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker shared his next step in ramping down the state's COVID-19 Executive Orders, which included updated vaccine requirements and testing protocols for specific industries. Specifically, "the updated executive order amends testing requirements for some unvaccinated healthcare employees and removes mandates for some other industries." Some of the important changes included:

- reduced requirements for school exclusion
- removed provisions relating to setting up alternative care facilities
- a return to non-emergency hospital oversight by removing several provisions
- a restart to normal jail-to-prison transfers
- lifting provisions in an effort to ensure governments are resuming normal operations

Related to afterschool and child care programming, Governor JB Pritzker also announced that

- **vaccine mandates for higher education** employees and students and emergency medical service providers **will not be reissued**
- **vaccination mandates will remain in place in K-12 schools, daycares**, state-run 24/7 congregate care facilities, and any health care facilities not covered under the federal CMS vaccine mandate (including independent doctors' offices, dental offices, urgent care facilities, and outpatient facilities)

*For a list of previously listed policy updates, click here.*

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### Trainings, Events and Webinars

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<td>Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 1: Program Handbook Development Workshop</td>
<td>July 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Organizers</td>
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<td>ACT Now and IDHS</td>
<td>Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 2: eCornerstone &amp; Business Objects</td>
<td>July 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>For Teen REACH Providers</td>
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<td>ISBE</td>
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<td>ACT Now and ICOY</td>
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<td>ACT Now</td>
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<td>ACT Now</td>
<td>August Membership Exchange: Introducing the ACT Now Academy: An Online Learning and Training Platform for Illinois OST Providers</td>
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<td>Black Youth Leadership 21 and Gary Comer Youth Center</td>
<td>Educational Leadership Summit 2022</td>
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<td>Family and Community Partnerships</td>
<td>NISE Network</td>
<td>Tools for Engaging Communities and Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion Practices</td>
<td>TODAY, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Youth Development</td>
<td>American Youth Policy Forum</td>
<td>AYPF Youth Summit</td>
<td>August 3, 2022, August 17, 2022, August 31, 2022 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Safety, Health, and Nutrition</td>
<td>ShareMyLesson</td>
<td>Mental Health in the Classroom</td>
<td>August 4, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
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For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).
Resources for Providers

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

TW: This section shares resources related to self-harm and suicide prevention as well as violence in communities.

New 988 Crisis Line

On July 15, 2022, Governor JB Pritzker announced "that the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Division of Mental Health, in coordination with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is expanding Illinois' mental health safety net by rolling out 988, a new, nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis line." Now, individuals in crisis may dial 988 to access support services for youth and adults.


EducationWeek published an article for both formal and informal educators regarding school safety. This guide may help program providers develop a safe and trauma-informed environment for youth to discuss and process the recent violence in communities across the nation. In particular, the article share practices for talking about the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Youth Development

Ten Durable Skills For Future Success

eSchool News recently published a list of ten skills that employers view as the most desirable in employees. This article will help afterschool providers to integrating these skills into programming and help to ensure learners will reach success in the future.

Social-Emotional Learning Games

Playworks released a guide of games and activities that focus on the social-emotional learning (SEL) competencies in youth. The guide includes more than 150 activities that can be standalone sessions or combined to build upon one another. There are also tips for facilitation and other resources!

Family and Community Partnerships
**My CHI. My Future Scholarship for Allschool Opportunity**

*My CHI. My Future* has partnered with Allschool to provide 1,000 scholarships to families to try free online classes for students. Allschool is an innovative virtual platform that delivers highly interactive small group & 1:1 live classes to students around the US. Classes available include Art, Coding, English, Health, Life Skills, Math, Music, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. For questions and concerns, families may contact Jacob Kantor at jacob.kantor@sparkedu.com or 818-355-4179.

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

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**Opportunities for Providers**

**Professional Development**

**Leadership Opportunity (Board Membership)**

*The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network (YNPN)* - Chicago, is seeking applicants for its 2022-2023 Board. **Applications are due July 29, 2022.**

**Joyce Awards for Artists of Color**

*The Joyce Foundation* is soliciting applications for its annual Joyce Awards, which focuses on supporting artists of color in Great Lakes including Chicago. New organizational applicants must register to apply before **September 7, 2022.**

**Family and Community Partnerships**

**We Will Chicago - Chicago Citywide Plan**

Mayor Lori Lightfoot recently announced the Draft of the We Will Chicago Plan. This is Chicago's first citywide plan since 1966 and reflects the vision and data of communities across the city. Now, the Mayor is asking youth, program providers, families, and residents to read the plan and provide feedback!

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

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**Youth Opportunities**
Youth Development

City of Stories: Summer at CPL

The Chicago Public Library System (CPL) is offering events and opportunities for children, teens and adults across the City of Chicago to celebrate stories that explore people, community and culture and the common themes that connect us together. Participants will receive a free family ticket to the Art Institute of Chicago. The events span from June 27, 2022, to August 14, 2022.

Dual Enrollment Information Session

On July 27, 2022, Forefront will be hosting a virtual session on dual enrollment in Illinois for high school students enrolled in college courses. During this session, participants will learn about the dual enrollment policy landscape, remote dual enrollment, and equity in dual enrollment.

Newberry Book Fair

Between July 29, 2022, and July 31, 2022, the Newberry Library in the City of Chicago, will be hosting a free book fair. This event includes a range of activities for youth of all ages!

Discover Computing Sessions Are Quickly Approaching!

The Discovery Partners Institute (DPI), Wilbur Wright College and Google Chicago are partnering to offer Discover Computing for students in Illionois. The goal of these sessions is to build a deeper and more diverse pool of students pursuing computer science and tech pathways in the state. The first opportunity will be offered Monday - Friday (August 8, 2022, through August 12, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) for high school freshmen and sophomores. These sessions will be held in person at DPI’s downtown office (200 S. Wacker).

For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click here.

Funding Opportunities

Professional Development

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teaching Grant
The National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS) is soliciting applications for its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teach grant. This grant offers $1,500 to educators who serve in rural areas, diverse student populations and/or those who are actively promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives in their school or greater community. The grant funding must be utilized for supplies, materials, field trips or other resources to enhance the delivery of courses. The deadline to apply is August 15, 2022.

Youth Development

Full-Service Community Schools RFP!

On July 13, 2022, the U.S. Department of Education announced $68 million in grants to support students through Full-Service Community Schools. You can review the most updated grant timeline here. The Coalition for Community Schools is hosting several webinars to help interested applicants learn key ways to successfully access this funding! Learn more about the ongoing weekly webinar series. The deadline to notify the U.S. Department of Education of your intent to apply is August 12, 2022. The deadline to submit the full application is September 12, 2022.

Early Childhood Education Grant Opportunity

On July 13, 2022, Governor JB Pritzker announced a $60 million grant opportunity for early childhood education providers through the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program. The funding aims to support the "construction, expansion, and renovation of facilities that support early student learning." Eligible entities include public school districts and nonprofit early childhood facilities that provide "educational, health, social, or child development services to children aged zero to five years old and their families." The grant opportunity also prioritizes centers that will increase their capacity to provide care or educational opportunities for children in underserved communities are eligible. Applications will be accepted until October 10, 2022.

For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, click here.
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.