

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

### Federal Updates

#### FY23 Budget Update

On **July 28, 2022**, the U.S. Senate Appropriations committee released a Labor, Health, and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) spending bill for FY23. Within the legislation were the following proposed line items that support afterschool and summer learning programs:

- **\$85 million increase for 21st CCLC program**, for a total of \$1.375 billion.
- **\$1 billion increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant**, for a total of \$7.2 billion. This funding supports afterschool and summer learning opportunities for school-age youth and child care services for toddlers and children.
- **\$2.6 billion increase for ESSA Title I grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs)**, for a total \$20.137 billion. While funding goes directly to school districts, community-based organizations may partner with these LEAs to leverage dollars for afterschool.
- **\$1.345 billion for Title IV Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants**. This is \$10 million less than the House proposal, but more than what was allocated in FY22. These funds can be used for afterschool STEM, physical activity, and more!
- **\$150 million for Full-Service Community Schools**.

To learn more about more proposed funding for afterschool and summer learning for FY23, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) has written a [blog post](#). Congress is scheduled to leave for its August recess and there is an upcoming campaign season with mid-term elections. As such, there will not be a lot of action on FY23 spending bills until after the mid-term elections. Further, it continues to be likely that a continuing resolution (CR) will be passed to keep the federal government funded until the FY23 budget is completed.

## State Updates

### [Governor JB Pritzker Launches the "I Got Love / ¡Siento Amor!" Campaign](#)

On **July 26, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker launched the "I Got Love / ¡Siento Amor!" enrollment campaign for child care and early education services across the state. The goal of this campaign is to spread awareness of the high-quality services available to families and program providers and showcases the [Illinois Cares for Kids website](#), which has a search engine for local programs, information on child care subsidy programs, and many other resources on the importance of early learning. Governor JB Pritzker announced that Illinois Cares for Kids is a place parents, grandparents, caretakers, teachers, and childcare providers can access all things related to early childhood 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	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	August Membership Exchange: Introducing the ACT Now Academy: An Online Learning and Training Platform for Illinois OST Providers	August 3, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) Youth Development Services (YDS) 101	August 9, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Addressing the Crisis in the Afterschool Workforce: A Conversation with Legislators and Afterschool Providers	August 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Teen REACH 101	August 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Chicagloland Vaccine Partnership	Health for Healing Series, Part 3: Mind & Motion	August 10, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Illinois AfterSchool Network</a>	Emergency Preparedness Plans - Part One	August 31, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

	<a href="#">Illinois AfterSchool Network</a>	Emergency Preparedness Plans - Part Two	September 14, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
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For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### [NEW Report on Teen OST Experiences!](#)

To better understand teen experiences, instructor perspectives, and program quality during the pandemic, [After School Matters](#) partnered with the [American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#) to learn more about teens' lives today. Findings from the newest report highlight that while teens and instructors are still facing challenges during the second year of the pandemic, ASM's high-quality, relationship-based programs continue to inspire teens and instructors, support skills development, and contribute to teens' sense of belonging and hopefulness for the future.

#### [Partnerships with School Districts to Offer Equitable Afterschool Opportunities are Key](#)

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) is highlighting the state afterschool networks in [Maryland](#) and [Minnesota](#) as both organizations have recently released reports around summer learning in 2021. Specifically, these reports focus on partnerships, equity, and sustainability of programming and share useful findings, best practices, and areas for future growth. There is also information on how these two states are leveraging COVID-19 federal relief to support out-of-school time (OST) and summer learning opportunities.

#### [Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Hiring and Staff Development in OST](#)

The [National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) recently wrote a guest blog post on the importance of racial equity and inclusion practices in the out-of-school time (OST) field. The blog emphasizes the importance of integrating these strategies into hiring and staff development and shares resources for doing so. The blog post also showcases a recent brief on the hiring trends in the afterschool workforce.

#### [2022 College Changes Everything Recorded Conference Sessions](#)

Nearly 1,200 attendees and session speakers participated in the 2022 College Changes Everything conference July 11-15, 2022! Session recordings and presentation materials, including those from ACT Now's session, are now available [online](#).

# Safety, Health, and Nutrition

## [Chicago Students Speak Up in Support of Mental Health Days](#)

[Chalkbeat Chicago](#) interviewed a few Chicago students to learn more about the thoughts on the [new law that allows students to take up to five excused mental health days](#). According to the article, "the law came at a critical time as youth are experiencing the mental effects of the pandemic and rising violence in Chicago, but there are indications that communication about the law has been inconsistent across schools." Learn about what some students are doing to ensure they are able to access mental health support, leverage these days, and share information on their rights with their peers.

## [Chicago Public Schools Approves Budget for School Resource Officers](#)

[Chalkbeat Chicago](#) reports that Chicago Public Schools (CPS) will spend \$10.2 million to station police officers at 40 school sites starting this fall. This is an \$800,000 decrease from the previous school year and reflects the current climate in which dozens of campuses have voted in recent years to "shift funds away from punitive discipline measures and toward more restorative practices, such as healing circles and alternative interventions." According to CPS representatives, the new [Whole School Comprehensive Safety Plan](#) was developed after significant collaboration with five community groups, including Mikva Challenge and COFI. Ultimately, the goal was to empower school communities to make the decision of retaining or removing officers.

## [Mental Health Funding to Support Students](#)

[EducationWeek](#) published an article on two historic investments in mental health supports for students across the United States. Both the U.S. Department of Education and President Joseph Biden have pushed for increased investment in wraparound services and secured \$300 million for grants. Schools can access funding for mental health services through two new grants that aim to build a pipeline of support in schools.

## [Resources for Supporting the Wellbeing of OST Professionals](#)

[The Office of Child Care of the Administration for Children and Families](#) has shared resources to support a culture of staff wellness:

- [Supporting and Promoting Mental Health in Out-of-School Time](#) is a practice brief that explores some current mental health needs of school-age children, their families, and the out-of-school-time workforce.
- [Caring for Ourselves as We Care for Others](#) is a brief from the [Understanding Trauma and Healing in Adults](#) series that provides information about trauma and how traumatic events can affect families and staff.

# Youth Development

## [Cracking the Gender Code in Computing](#)

Recently, [Accenture](#) and [Girls Who Code](#) developed and published a report detailing the gender gap in Computer Science (CS). The report highlights some of the main causes for this gender gap and key strategies to increase the number of women in CS by 2025.

## **Million Girls Moonshot STEM Resources for August**

This month, Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) is helping program providers rev up for the school year by focusing on opportunities and resources for Networks and partners to build the capacity of program providers around the four transformative programming areas: 1) Equity and Inclusion, 2) Engineering Mindset, 3) Role Models, Mentors and Families, and 4) STEM Pathways and Transitions. **For the full list of opportunities in August's Asset Package, click [here](#).**

## **Webinars and Trainings**

- **Techbridge Girls Curriculum & Training:** Techbridge Girls (TBG) is an award-winning national nonprofit bringing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education to all girls across the U.S. For 20+ years, TBG has reengineered the way STEM education is taught, centering our girls' brilliance and potential, emphasizing increasing STEM access, belonging, and persistence for BIPOC youth from systematically marginalized communities. TBG will offer three different curriculum training programs for afterschool staff: 1) Ignite for 3-8th grade youth, 2) Inspire for 4-5th grade girls, and 3) Changemakers for 6-8th grade girls. [SUBMIT AN INTEREST FORM](#)
- **Afterschool Math Plus Curriculum and Training:** In this workshop series, participants will be introduced to evidence-based strategies to support students in developing a positive math identity by exploring mathematics in everyday experiences. The highly engaging, hands-on experiences of After-School Math Plus (ASM+) also build students' awareness of the importance of math skills for future educational choices and career options. The program engages students in grades 3-8 who are attending out-of-school-time programs. [SUBMIT AN INTEREST FORM](#)
- **[Role Models And Mentors as an Equity Strategy](#):** Access STEM Role Models & Mentors: Create a free VolunteerMatch account and post volunteer opportunities to connect STEM role models and mentors to work with your youth today! To find role models and mentors in STEM [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Activities and Resources** (Celebrating National Aviation Day on **August 19, 2022**)

- [Try Engineering Lesson Plan: Take Flight!](#) - This lesson for ages 8-12 explores how flight is possible and how engineers have improved glider designs and materials to improve flight accuracy and distance.
- [NASA's Aerospace-related STEM Resources for K-12](#) - A collection of aerospace resources including lesson plans and more.
- [AeroEducate](#) - AeroEducate is a Teacher's Toolbox for aviation and STEM activities. Enhance your existing K-12 curriculum with free, standards-compliant, grab-and-go activities.
- **Videos:** [Jasmine Sadler On-the-job](#) and [Jasmine Sadler STEM Journey](#)
- **Video:** [Mission Unstoppable: How Do Planes Stay in the Air?](#)
- **Video:** [Can a Satellite Drop From the Sky Into Your Backyard?! | Curiosity Camp](#)
- **Activity Sheet:** [Camp GoldieBlox Activity Sheet: DIY Model Satellite](#)

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

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## Opportunities for Providers

### Professional Development

#### **RPSA Youth Development Services Grantee Webinar!**

Are you a NEW Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) Youth Development Services (YDS) grantee this year? Is this your first year working within the afterschool or out-of-school time (OST) field? Do you feel like you could use an organizational and programmatic refresher? If you answered YES! to any of these questions you are in luck! **ACT Now** is hosting an online RPSA YDS 101 webinar on **August 9, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Attendees will:

- Understand the required policy and procedure of the grant
- Discuss in-depth the goals and outcomes of each of the Core Services
- Review the current training and technical assistance and support agencies that all RPSA YDS grantees have at their fingertips

Register through the **ACT Now Center for Afterschool Learning (ANCAL)** system by [clicking here](#). If you are already registered for ANCAL, go to the 'Events' tab in the system and register for the event there.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to **Tyrone Taliaferro** at [TaliaferroT@actnowillinois.org](mailto:TaliaferroT@actnowillinois.org).

#### **ACT Now Teen REACH 101 Webinar!**

Are you a new Teen REACH grantee this year? Do you feel like you could use an out-of-school time organizational and programmatic refresher? If you answered YES! to any of these questions you are in luck! We will be hosting an online Teen REACH 101 webinar that will help participants to understand the required policy and procedure of the grant, discuss in-depth the goals and outcomes of each of the Core Services, and review the current training and technical assistance and support agencies that all Teen REACH grantees may access. Join **ACT Now** on **August 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Register through the **ACT Now Center for Afterschool Learning (ANCAL)** system by [clicking here](#). If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to **Chelsea Corbett** at [CorbettCh@actnowillinois.org](mailto:CorbettCh@actnowillinois.org).

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

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## Youth Opportunities

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

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## Funding Opportunities

### Family and Community Partnerships

#### [Promise Neighborhoods Program Funding](#)

In late June, the U.S. Department of Education announced a new round of funding available for the Promise Neighborhoods Program. The goal of this initiative is to significantly improve the academic and developmental outcomes of children living in the most distressed communities of the country. **Applications for this new round of federal funding are due on October 7, 2022.** [Register to join Start Early for an informational webinar](#) on **August 9, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.** to learn about:

- Preparing a successful Promise Neighborhood grant application for your community
- Ensuring you receive all the available points for including early childhood education and priority populations
- Opportunities for technical assistance and support for implementing your community's vision

*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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101 North Wacker, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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