

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Governor JB Pritzker Announces Investment in Pre-Apprenticeship Program](#)

On **August 18, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker and the [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity \(DCEO\)](#) announced that the state is soliciting applications for the second round of Illinois Works Pre-Apprenticeship Program funding. This grant program totals \$15 million and aims to "increase training opportunities, expand the talent pipeline, and boost diversity in the construction industry and building trades." Approximately \$8 million in funding will target increased geographic diversity and participation from diverse groups not represented in current programming through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and approximately \$7 million will be available through a contract extension to current grantees who have excelled at key benchmarks.

[Increased Investment for Early Childhood Education Programs in Illinois](#)

On **August 18, 2022**, Governor Pritzker and the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) announced a \$54 million increase in funding for the Early Childhood Block Grant as authorized by the Governor in the FY23 state budget. The funds, which reflect a ten percent increase in the overall Early Childhood Block Grant budget, will serve 4,500 additional Illinois students, adding to the more than 112,190 children who receive early childhood learning supports through state funded programs.

[Illinois State Board of Education August Board Meeting Recap](#)

On **August 17, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly meeting in Springfield, Illinois. The Board meeting materials and future meeting dates are available [here](#). ISBE Board members heard public comment on a variety of topics including the pending

decision to reinstate North Chicago’s elected school board, charter school renewals, state assessments, and the Literacy Summit. ACT Now virtually testified on the topic of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), urging ISBE to immediately restore the budgets for all 21st CCLC grantees and support programs that are not attaining deliverables. Maricela Bautista from Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC) also spoke about the 21st CCLC issue. The Board then proceeded with a presentation on the Competency-Based Education Pilot, which will be extended for 3 years to review data from the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation highlighted different ways to assess learning through competency-based education and the importance of allowing teachers to innovate in how they teach and evaluate students. The Board also heard a panel discussion with superintendents on Learning Renewal progress. Panelists highlighted the pandemic’s impact on student learning, disproportionately affecting low-income students, and the benefits of high impact tutoring. The Board then approved the August consent agenda and all items within the discussion and approval section, and briefly reviewed upcoming board actions for September. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on [September 20, 2022](#).**

For an archive 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	The Scope of Afterschool in Illinois <i>*Audience: school districts and administrators</i>	August 31, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training (QST) 101	September 1, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Chalkbeat	After the Bell: Back to School with Dr. Kem	August 31, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Illinois Department of Public Health	COVID in Schools, Guidance and Q & A (Second Session)	TODAY, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	The U.S. Department of Education and the Office of National Drug Control Policy	Understanding the Connection between Substance Use, Mental Health, and Student Learning: Part 1 - What the Data Tells Us	August 24, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	REGISTER
	Partnership for America's	Help Families Claim the 2021 Expanded Child Tax Credit	August 30, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

Family and Community Partnerships	Children and Coalition on Human Needs			
	Chicago Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice	The Year of Healing Summit	September 22, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Quality Afterschool Programming Tools from Federal Government](#)

[The U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences](#) recently released a new tool for providers to leverage when planning for quality afterschool programming. The tool walks through several steps for continuous improvement and shares best practices and strategies for implementing high-quality opportunities for youth.

Youth Development

[How Educators Can Support LGBTQIA Youth](#)

[Chalkbeat National](#) published an article on how formal and informal educators can work to affirm, support, and uplift LGBTQIA youth in programming. These suggestions and resources were submitted on behalf of Chalkbeat's reader membership.

[New DEAI Tools Booklet For STEM Programming](#)

[The NISE Network](#) works to support a lifetime of STEM engagement for all communities. The Network has recently developed a toolkit on Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI), which focuses on tools for engaging communities and incorporating DEAI practices into informal STEM projects. "The tools, practices, and project examples are designed to support NISE Network partner efforts in making their experiences more relevant and inclusive in order to promote a more equitable STEM future in our local communities."

[Lights On Afterschool 2022 Resources](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has continued to generate resources for programs, families, and youth to use to plan for events as we get closer to Lights On Afterschool 2022 (**October 20, 2022**). There is now a new social media kit with updated content and light bulb art! Check it out now!

[Artemis I Launch Is Happening Soon!](#)

Artemis is the name of NASA's program to return astronauts to the lunar surface and **Artemis I is scheduled to launch on August 29, 2022!** [The NISE Network](#) has compiled a variety of resources on the Moon, Space, and Artemis to engage your youth.

[Civil Rights Movement Resources for Programs](#)

August 28, 2022 marks the anniversary of the historic March on Washington and Martin Luther King Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech. To help with facilitating programming on the Civil Rights Movement, [ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled 86 teaching resources.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Predictions for Chicago Public Schools School Year](#)

Yesterday, August 22, 2022, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) welcomed students back for school year 2022-2023. [Chalkbeat Chicago](#) highlighted some of the goals for this school year, with emphasis on focusing on the social-emotional wellbeing of students due to the mental health crisis and pandemic. While CPS administrators appear optimistic after allocating funding to increase support services and partnerships, and providing universal child care, the school district continues to struggle with staffing, transportation, and low enrollment.

[Trauma-Informed Care White Paper](#)

[The Crisis Prevention Institute](#) has written a white paper for out-of-school time (OST) professionals to use to support students and prevent crisis.

[How to Engage Families in Social-Emotional Learning](#)

[EducationWeek](#) and [CASEL](#) have shared six strategies for program providers to utilize when engaging families in social-emotional learning. The article emphasizes the benefits for families and students!

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

STEM Resources for Program Providers

- [Invention Convention Training for Educators](#): Would you like to get your students involved in the Chicago Invention Convention and bring their creativity and ingenuity alive? Then this is for you!
- [Girls Who Code Club](#): Girls Who Code has launched new Clubs initiatives to support our community. Sign up today to take advantage of new benefits like \$300 Clubs Funds, CSTA standards-aligned coding lessons, scope and sequence resources, and templates for meeting slides and student letters of recommendation. Indicate you're part of ACT Now on the Clubs application to access additional support, special events, and exclusive opportunities for swag. No coding experience is required!
- [NCWIT Learning from Young Women Study](#): This National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) study explores why some women pursue and/or persist in computing fields, while some do not. Data included a large sample of women from around the United States in high school, college, and the workforce over six years. Key findings underscore the importance of recognizing institutional and cultural factors that reinforce and maintain exclusionary practices, highlighting how gender and ethnicity-blind meritocracy perpetuate systemic biases.

Family and Community Partnerships

CLOSING SOON - Chicago Moves - Transportation Cost Relief

[Chicago Moves](#) is a financial assistance program aimed at providing financial relief for Chicago residents struggling with transportation expenses. The program is comprised of \$7.5 million earmarked for \$150 prepaid cards eligible for redemption at local Chicago gas stations as well as \$5 million earmarked for \$50 prepaid cards eligible for use on public transit.

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

Youth Development

[NASA Funding Opportunity](#)

[NASA Teams Engaging Affiliated Museums and Informal Institutions \(TEAM II\)](#) is now accepting proposals for the new Community Anchor Awards for TEAM II (ANCHR). This funding opportunity aims to support institutions in strengthening themselves as a local NASA STEM informal education community resource. **Proposals due October 18, 2022.**

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** (Policy and Communications Manager) 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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