

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER



Afterschool NASA Event

On Thursday, **October 20, 2022**, [NASA](#) and [Million Girls Moonshot](#) will host a virtual event featuring a pre-recorded International Space Station interaction. During the event, NASA will host a live Q&A with scientists and engineers to answer participant's questions.

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Illinois Department of Public Health Endorses Bivalent COVID-19 Booster Recommendation for Children 5 and Older](#)

The [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) is recommending parents and guardians get children vaccinated with the new Bivalent COVID-19 booster. This push from the IDPH comes after CDC released data showing that 16 counties in Illinois are rated at Medium Community Level for COVID-19.

[Governor JB Pritzker Recognizes Lights On Afterschool](#)

Governor J.B. Pritzker has proclaimed **October 20, 2022**, as Lights On Afterschool Day! In the proclamation, Governor JB Pritzker spoke to the importance of afterschool programs their role in helping students in their social and emotional development. We are thrilled to have support from the Governor and appreciate his recognition of the out-of-school time (OST) field in Illinois!

For an archive of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

To register for all upcoming **ACT Now** trainings, please sign up for the [ACT Now Center for Afterschool Learning \(ANCAL\)](#). ANCAL is an online learning and training platform that is FREE for all Illinois afterschool and OST professionals. Within this new online learning system, you will be able to access a full list of all of our professional development opportunities!

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	ACT Now	SEL Webinar #1: Youth and Self	October 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Food Research & Action Center	Opportunities to Connect Eligible Immigrant Families to SNAP: Reflections from USDA and Community Partners	October 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	ACT Now Quality Standards 101 Training	November 2, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	21 st CCLC Town Hall	November 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Learning Policy Institute	Whole Child Policy: Putting the Science of Learning and Development into Practice	October 26, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Gender Summit	Gender Summit 2022	October 31, 2022	REGISTER
	National Girls Collaborative Project	STEM Stories: Women's Experiences Advocating for Equity	November 1, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

	Click2ComputerScience	Preparing yourself to Lead Computer Science: A Virtual Workshop	November 8, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	University of Sydney	International STEM in Education Conference	November 23 2022, to November 26, 2022	REGISTER
Youth Development	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool 2022!	October 20, 2022 (ALL DAY)	Register YOUR EVENT
Family and Community Partnerships	Schaumburg Township District Library	Flu Shots	October 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Update: ACT Now Advisory Council Meeting](#)

ACT Now has made the decision to cancel the 21st CCLC Advisory Council meeting for Wednesday, **October 19, 2022**, to ensure that there is representation from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The meeting has been canceled and will be rescheduled in the next few days. so please keep an eye out for further communication. For questions or concerns, please contact Nikki Gillani (Afterschool Resources and Support Specialist – School Partnerships) at gillanin@actnowillinois.org.

Safety, Health, Nutrition

[Vaccine Equity](#)

The [Vaccine Equity Cooperative](#) developed a set of recommendations to ensure all children receive equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Youth Development

[YOU Belong in STEM Initiative](#)

[The U.S. Department of Education](#) launched the "YOU Belong in STEM" Initiative on **October 12, 2022**. The goal of this initiative is to help school districts and their programmatic partners redesign systems and learning spaces to make sure students receive a well-rounded STEM education.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Fall Field Trip Planning](#)

The [Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#) released a Fall Field Trip Planning Guide. The guide is designed to help prepare students for their field trip experience and contains tips to make the most out of a visit to the Nature Museum. To schedule field trip at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Teen Innovators Club](#)

[Teen Innovators](#) is a program for students ages 11 to 16 practice creative thinking through mentoring and leadership classes that are led by teens, for teens. Youth in 4th -to 8th grades are able to join Teen Innovators clubs this fall to take part in building practical life (and leadership) skills and advocating for climate change awareness.

[TechGirls Opportunity](#)

[TechGirls](#) is an interactive technology and computer camp and cultural immersion opportunity for girls ages 15 to 17. Girls participate in skill-development workshops with tech professionals, engage in job shadow experiences in various cities, and visit sites in Washington D.C.

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

Funding Opportunities

Administrators

CLARIFICATION: [After School Programs Grant](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education](#) has released the After School Programs Grant. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to establish and sustain high-quality after-school programs for students across the state of Illinois. This Request for Proposals (RPF) is specifically for community-based organizations (CBOs) and totals \$3 million. **Proposals must be submitted no later than November 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

Safety, Health, Nutrition

[Expanded Mental Health Services Grant](#)

On **October 3, 2022**, the [U.S Department of Education](#) released two grants centered around mental health. [School-Based Mental Health Services \(SBMH\)](#) provides funding to schools to increase the number of credentialed school-based mental health professionals. The second program, the [Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration \(MHSP\) grants](#), support districts in hiring additional school-based mental health service providers in high-need districts by boosting the mental health profession pipeline. There is a technical assistance [webinar](#) **TODAY** on **October 18, 2022**. The deadline for submitting applications is **November 3, 2022**.

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

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Call for Resources

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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