

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

December Membership Exchange Event Canceled

ACT Now has made the decision to cancel the December Membership Exchange that was originally meant to take place on **December 13, 2022**. The next Membership Exchange will take place in February. We apologize for any inconvenience.

For questions and concerns, please reach out to Lesley Rivers (Program Coordinator) at chapmanl@actnowillinois.org.

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[U.S. Education and Labor Departments Announce Initiative to Focus on Student Career Experiences](#)

On **November 14, 2022**, the [U.S. Department of Education](#) announced its initiative "Raise the Bar: Unlocking Career Success". It is an initiative to connect K-12 education, post-secondary education, and workforce programs to prepare youth for the jobs of tomorrow. Afterschool programs across the country have already been doing great work in helping to prepare youth for the workforce, and they will continue to play a consequential part in this new initiative.

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!

ACT Now Events:

- **New User IL-QPSA Webinar #2:** January 10, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **Returning User IL-QPSA Webinar #1:** January 12, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **School Partnerships Series: Curricula and Activities:** January 17, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

External Events:

- **Advocates for Children:** [Cumpliendo 5: Entendiendo el IEP para kínder](#) (Understanding the IEP Process for your Kindergarten Student): December 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.
- **Illinois Collaboration on Youth:** [IDHS Trauma Training: Holiday Blues](#): December 16, 2022, from 12:00 pm to 2:00 p.m.
- **DeKalb County:** [Family Fun Science: STEM Gingerbread Houses](#): December 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **Crisis Prevention Institute:** [Trauma-Informed Schools 101: Best Practices & Key Benefits](#): January 20, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Resources for Providers

Administration

Making More Space In STEM

A short video was shared by CNN that shows a field trip that [Million Girls Moonshot](#) took to the [Adler Planetarium](#). Million Girls Moonshot went on a field trip with Dr. Katya Echazarreta,

the first Mexican-born woman in space. The goal of the field trip was to inspire a new generation of female explorers.

Safety, Health, Nutrition

[Flus, Colds, RSV](#)

[EducationWeek](#) posted an article highlighting some of the unique challenges brought on by the flu, colds, COVID-19, and RSV. The article also discussed strategies to combat these illnesses and how to keep youth safe this season.

Youth Development

[How to Incorporate the 2022 World Cup into the Classroom](#)

The 2022 World Cup is one of the most watched sporting events in the world! [Participate Learning](#) has come up with ideas on how educators can incorporate this event into the classroom, as a way to engage students and integrate their interests into the classroom.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[STEM in the CHI Winter Break Camp](#)

The [Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative](#) is looking for partners who can help them create free, equitable STEM programs for students over Winter Break. **The deadline to apply is December 16, 2022.**

[ULBGC Resident Camp Director](#)

The [Union League Boys and Girls Club \(ULBGC\)](#) is looking to hire a Resident Camp Director. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Youth Development

[Nominate a Student With Perseverance](#)

[NASA's](#) "You've Got Perseverance!" award opportunity invites U.S. teachers, educators, and community members to nominate students in grades six to twelve who have shown great perseverance to reach their academic goals. The program will reward that dedication with recognition from the Perseverance rover all the way on Mars! **Nominations are due December 19, 2022.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Scratch](#)

Scratch is the world's largest coding community for children and free coding language designed for children ages eight and older. Scratch easily allows young people to create digital stories, games, and animations.

[ScratchJr](#)

This is a free application for young children (ages five to seven) to get their first introduction to coding. Through the app, children code their own interactive stories and games. Additionally, they learn to solve problems, design projects, and express themselves creatively on the computer.

[Spring 2023 Midwest Young Advocates Program](#)

[Young Invincibles](#) is accepting applications for the Midwest Spring 2023 [Young Advocates Program \(YAP\)](#). It is a paid and virtual fellowship program which trains young adults ages 18 to 34 on ways to address inequities in higher education and healthcare, and access to

quality jobs through advocacy and the legislative process. **Applications are due January 13, 2023.**

[Beyond the Diploma PCT Pathway Program at RUSH](#)

[Rush University Medical Center](#) is hosting a hybrid, 15-week program where participants will be able to obtain basic nursing assistant certification at Tukiendorf Training Institute. The program will start on **February 27, 2023**, and take place on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. There will be a number of virtual information sessions taking place from **December 20, 2022, to December 29, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

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

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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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