

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Level

21st CCLC RFP

The Illinois State Board of Education will be discussing a new 21st Century Community Learning Centers RFP at the ISBE Board meeting on January 15, 2020. The Board will vote to approve the release of this RFP in February. This means a new 21st Century RFP is coming soon. If you are interested in applying for a 21st Century grant, we recommend you start reviewing [past RFPs](#) and assembling your paperwork.

Funding for Youth Development Programs from Cannabis Legalization

With the legalization of recreational cannabis in Illinois, the state created a grant program to fund human services in the communities the hardest hit by the war on drugs. This program is called Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3). One of the allowable uses of R3 funding is youth development programs, such as afterschool programs. Yesterday, the R3 Board met and approved the eligible areas for R3 funding. The Board will meet again in March to approve the NOFO for this funding. You can determine if your community is eligible for these funds by accessing the map [here](#). ACT Now will forward this NOFO as it becomes available.

ISBE Strategic Plan

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has been working to redefine ISBE's mission, vision, and goals as the state's preK-12 education agency. Beginning next week, agency staff and Superintendent Dr. Carmen I. Ayala will be traveling to listen to participants' input on the draft strategic plan. Attend the following events on January 13, 2020 at St. Clair County Regional Office of Education; February 3, 2020 at Carbondale Middle School; February 6, 2020 at DuPage County Regional Office of Education; February 24, 2020 at Springfield School District 186's district office. Please encourage educators, families, school

board members, students, and community members to participate. For more information, click the [event flyer](#).

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

Don't forget to join us for our upcoming Community School Networking and Training Events! Each meeting provides an opportunity to hear policy updates from ACT Now, hear from a speaker on topics voted on by the group, and time to workshop ideas with your peers. See details below.

Downstate—January 28, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Building Partnerships
- **Speakers:** Joie Frankovich, WeGo Together for Kids of West Chicago
- **Location:** Wanless Building, 2120 E Reservoir St., Springfield, IL
- Register [here](#)

Suburbs—February 7, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Effective Messaging
- **Speakers:** Susan Stanton, ACT Now
- **Location:** Skokie District Office, 5050 Madison St., Skokie, IL
- Register [here](#)

Chicago—February 20, 2020 10:00 a.m. to noon

- **Topic:** Trauma Informed Care
- **Speakers:** Illinois Collaboration on Youth
- **Location:** National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W 19th St., Chicago, IL
- Register [here](#)

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

School Wellness Conference

Registration is under way for the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) School Wellness Conference that includes two pre-conference session options on **February 24, 2020** and a full-day conference on **February 25, 2020** in Bloomington. The free conference will feature three session tracks: Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Social Emotional Health. To register and for more details, go to [ISBE's School Wellness Conference webpage](#).

Professional Development and Qualifications

ACT Now 2020 Winter/Spring Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing FREE in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. The trainings will: provide participants with a background in the Standards; assist providers in creating a plan for implementing Standards; and help to develop strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives. The trainings dates for 2020 are listed below.

Homewood – February 12, 2020

- Location: Homewood Science Center, 18022 Dixie Hwy, Homewood IL 60430
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Springfield – March 19, 2020

- Location: Capital Area Career Center, Toronto Rd, Springfield IL 62712
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Chicago – April 23, 2020

- Location: YMCA Learning Institute, 1030 W. Van Buren St., Chicago IL 60607
- Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Register [here](#)

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

ACT Now STEM Webinar: Developing STEM Projects

ACT Now is hosting another series of 4 STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. Our next webinar is focused on **Developing STEM**

Projects and will occur on **February 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** You can register for the webinar [here](#). Our final webinar of the year will be on **STEM and the Workforce** on **April 8, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

ACT Now SEL Webinar on Social Awareness

Join ACT Now for our upcoming Social Emotional Learning (SEL) webinar series! The second webinar will cover **social awareness**. This webinar will be held on **January 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** with guest speakers Susan Stanton (ACT Now), Bryan Kelly (Skokie District 69), Sarah Rankin (Skokie District 69), Susan Castrogiovani (DREAM West Chicago), and Enrique Alvarez (Central States SER). In addition to the webinar, ACT Now will be sharing our *Social Emotional Learning in Afterschool* guidebook! Register [here](#).

IAN Regional Professional Development Opportunity

The “Gangs – then and now – What is different?” workshop held by the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) will provide youth and staff personnel with basic information about current gang culture and behavior and the supports needed. This awareness will help participants to better understand the ideology that triggers gang activity inside and around schools and afterschool program space. The event will be held on **February 21, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** and be facilitated by IAN Trainers Terrance Smith, Carlos Vega, and Devon Tims with the BUILD Intervention Team. Cost is \$10.00 per person. Please email Sharryon Dunbar at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620 to register.

Partnerships with Schools

ESSA Conference

Registration is now open for the 2020 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Conference to be held on **February 10, 2020 to February 12, 2020**. The theme this year is *The Equity Imperative*, reflecting Illinois’ commitment to practices that lead to improved outcomes and opportunities for all students in diverse communities around the state. Attendees will participate in dynamic workshops and hear from state and national leaders in education. ISBE staff will also be in attendance to provide technical assistance on a variety of topics. [Registration is now available](#) and closes on **January 24, 2020**.

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

Opportunities for Providers

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

Funding Opportunities

IACA and ISBE – Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant

The Illinois Arts Council Agency and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have created funding opportunities for school districts and other eligible applicants through the Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant. The deadline to submit proposals is **January 13, 2020**. Award decisions will be announced in April 2020. [Learn more on the Illinois Arts Council Agency website.](#)

Spencer Foundation – Chicago Education Community Micro-Grants Program

The Spencer Foundation is seeking nominations for its Chicago Education Community Micro-Grants Program. Chosen organizations will be awarded a \$5,000 one-time grant for general operating expenses. [Learn more and nominate](#) an organization before this opportunity closes on **January 27, 2020**.

Motorola Solutions Foundation – Annual Grant Program

The Motorola Solutions Foundation's annual grant program is now live and accepting applicants. Funding is intended for work related to education, public safety, disaster relief, and employee giving. Inquiry forms must be submitted by **February 3, 2020**. [Learn more about this year's grant program.](#)

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

Resources for Providers

Partnerships with Schools

What is a Community School?

Need some clarification on what a community school is and what they do for children and youth? Need help explaining community schools to others? Click [here](#) to see a quick 3 minute video provided by the Partnership for the Future of Learning on what a community school is.

Were you forwarded this email?

[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!

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 (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org

NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).