

The logo for ACT NOW! features the word "ACT" in dark blue, "NOW!" in green with a clock face integrated into the letter "O", and "Afterschool for Children and Teens" in dark blue below it.

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

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](#).

Policy Updates

ISBE Board Meeting & Budget Hearing

The Illinois State Board of Education met on November 16, 2018 for its monthly meeting and budget hearing. At the board meeting, there was public comment about reaching funding adequacy targets, the lack of public input in ISBE decisions, and issues with special education in Chicago. The Board heard a presentation about strategic planning in North Chicago. The Board was also updated on the inquiry into special education at CPS. To see the board packet, click [here](#).

ISBE's third budget hearing this year followed the Board meeting. At the Board hearing, advocates testified about the importance of alternative school, agricultural programs, ELL, and dual credit programs. ACT Now members Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Youth Guidance, and After School Matters all testified about the importance of afterschool. ACT Now members advocated for funding for afterschool programs, community schools, the Healthy Communities Investment Grant, and continuation of grants for the FY15 21st Century cohort. We Go Together for Kids/West Chicago Elementary District 33 and Skokie School District 69 also testified in support of community schools. To read ACT Now's full comments, click [here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Welcome to ACT Now (Webinar/E-Meeting)

November 20, 2018

ACT Now will be holding a webinar for new ACT Now members to learn more about the work of ACT Now and how to navigate the many [free](#) resources we offer to support afterschool programs. Additionally, program providers and staff will have a chance to share information about their programs. This webinar/e-meeting will be held on **November 27th from 10 AM to 11 AM**. To register, click [here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Creating Hands-On STEM Experiences

The Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) is offering a training that will provide resources and best practices for creating fun and interactive hands-on STEM activities to inspire youth. This training will be held in **Chicago on December 13th from 10 AM to 12 PM**. (This training is \$15 for IAN members and \$30 for non-members.) To register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Trauma-Informed Settings in Afterschool

During this webinar, the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) will discuss how to implement the five core principles of trauma-informed care in an afterschool setting. This webinar will be held **January 30th from 10 AM to 11:30 AM CDT**. (The webinar is \$15 for IAN members and \$30 for non-members.) To register, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Healthy Out-of-School Time

Join the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) as they explore ways your Healthy Out-of-School Time Program can begin fostering community connections, as well as strengthen the healthy eating and physical activity environment for the students you serve. This training will be held in **Bloomington, IL on December 4th from 6:45 PM to 8:45 PM** (This training is \$10 per person.) To register, click [here](#).

To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

November 20, 2018

Leaders & Achievers Scholarship

The Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program recognizes students for their community service, academic performance and leadership skills. Scholarships of \$2,500 will be awarded to over 800 students nationwide. **Applications are due December 7th.** To learn more, click [here](#).

YOUmedia Chicago

YOUmedia Chicago is an innovative, 21st century teen digital learning space at 12 Chicago Public Library locations. With an emphasis on digital media and the maker movement, teens engage in projects across a variety of core content areas including graphic design, photography, video, music, 2D/3D design, STEM and hands-on making. YOUmedia connects young adults, books, media, mentors and institutions throughout Chicago in dynamic spaces designed to inspire collaboration and creativity. To learn more, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Full Tuition Weekend MBA Program

Aspiring non-profit leaders – are you interested in pursuing an MBA to advance your skills and career, but can't afford the tuition? The Civic Scholars program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business is a full tuition scholarship program. To learn more, click [here](#).

Remake Learning Days

From **May 16th - 19th**, CLX will turn our global city into an open and dynamic learning laboratory with more than 100 hands-on, learning opportunities in schools, museums, libraries, parks, and community centers across Chicago and neighboring Evanston. To learn more, click [here](#). If your organization would like to host an event at your site or in a neighborhood learning hub, please complete the interest form [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

CME Computer Science Grants

November 20, 2018

CME Group Foundation is excited to share further details about the upcoming RFP for out-of-school computer science education at their **upcoming meeting on December 13th from 12 PM to 2 PM**. Attending organizations will receive information about expectations and next steps for the grant cycle. All members of the computer science educator and out-of-school time community are welcome! To register, click [here](#).

Chicago Learning Exchange 2019 RFP

Through grantmaking, the Chicago Learning Exchange (CLX) offers resources to partner organizations committed to exchanging ideas and advancing equity in remaking learning for Chicago's youth. CLX offers a semi-annual request for proposals (RFP) that is only open to CLX partner organizations. The **CLX 2019 RFP will be released on November 20th**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

The Role of SEL in Educational Equity

Social and Emotional Learning—or SEL—can help students develop key skills they'll need in and out of the classroom. But how can SEL support equity? AIR researcher Jameela Conway-Turner discusses how SEL can improve student outcomes and how districts and schools can use it in their equity initiatives to support all students. To read more, click [here](#).

Education Assessment Finder

The RAND Education Assessment Finder is a web-based tool that provides information about assessments of K-12 students' interpersonal, intrapersonal, and higher-order cognitive competencies. Practitioners, researchers, and policymakers can use it to explore what assessments are available, what they are designed to measure, how they are administered, what demands they place on students and teachers, and what kinds of uses their scores support. To learn more, click [here](#).

November 20, 2018

Finding the Right SEL Assessment

One of the biggest obstacles to using data to inspire practice is simply the task of selecting and using an appropriate assessment. The CASEL Assessment Guide was created to help practitioners, especially school and district leaders and SEL teams, to select and use student SEL competency assessments. To learn more, click [here](#).

Dialogo

Dialogo is a game to support youth leaders and peace builders learn skills in dialogue, teamwork, speaking, and social emotional learning. To learn more, click [here](#).

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 Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.org