

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Note to ACT Now Members

The **ACT Now Coalition** is deeply saddened at recent violent acts of racism, based in a history of inequity and injustice, and resulting in the tragic losses of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor and so many others. These events have caused immense sorrow and frustration across communities in Illinois and the nation. Unfortunately, for communities of color, and the youth that out-of-school time providers serve, these acts are not standalone. Many of those we love, provide services to, interact with at work, and connect with online must confront the fear of violence on a daily basis. Our thoughts are with those programs feeling loss and those that may have sustained property damage. To our colleagues of color, we see the extra burden you carry of living in a country that may feel unsafe and unjust. We are here to support you and actively work to change those systems that support these inequities. To our white colleagues, we encourage you to continue your work in becoming actively antiracist and to always work towards being a better ally.

At ACT Now, our vision has always been for ALL Illinois youth and teens to be prepared for success in school, career, and life, fostered through access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs. We have also always been grateful for our diverse membership, and the way programs we serve around the state care for their youth and communities. We know that many of you are attempting to have very difficult conversations with the youth you serve. We encourage all ACT Now members to have these conversations and wanted to share a few resources to assist in this work.

- [Teaching Tolerance: How to Talk to Youth About Race, Racism and Police Violence](#)
- [EmbraceRace: Supporting Kids of Color in the Wake of Radicalized Violence](#)
- [Center for Racial Justice in Education Resources](#)

We also want to hear from you. If you would like to discuss what these events have meant for your program or community, if you want to share how you are responding, if you want to encourage ACT Now to do more, ***please reach out to Susan Stanton at stantons@actnowillinois.org***. I would love to hear your thoughts. The last few months have made me incredibly proud to be a member of the afterschool community. I am constantly amazed by your strength, innovation, and heart.

Thank you for all you do, and ACT Now will continue to stand with you and support you however we can.

Policy Updates

Federal Policy Updates

U.S. House of Representatives: Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Legislation Passed in House

On **May 26, 2020**, the U.S. House of Representatives proposed the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act, which would potentially loosen some of the restrictions stipulated for the conversion of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans to grants that many nonprofits, community-based organizations, and charities applied for at the end of March 2020. The bill is expected to pass in the U.S. Senate with bipartisan support. To read the legislation, click [here](#).

State Policy Updates

Illinois Department of Human Services: Pandemic Emergency Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has received federal approval to administer Pandemic Emergency Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program that provides aid to help families in Illinois buy food for school-aged children and youth that would traditionally receive the National School Lunch Program's free or reduced-priced meals during the school year. **To spread awareness of this program with your communities, access the P-EBT Digital Toolkit [here](#).**

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now: Digging Into The Design of Virtual Engagement

ACT Now and Northwestern University's Office of Community Education Partnerships are hosting a webinar on best practices in virtual engagement. This work is part of MyChiMyFuture's Professional Development initiative to help out-of-school time and community-based organizations effectively engage and serve youth during the summer. Join us on **Friday, June 5, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.** for an in-depth walkthrough of topics including:

- Intentionally choosing platforms based on purpose and key features,
- Engaging audiences with graphics
- Gathering analytics and engagement information from your virtual events

We will also share resources and experiences, and answer questions from providers. To register for the event, click [here](#).

To watch the first part of the virtual series, an interview with our Network Lead Susan Stanton, to learn about our mission and the various free materials we offer afterschool providers, click [here](#).

ACT Now: 21st CCLC Virtual Town Halls

Join ACT Now on **June 9, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** for an engaging conversation with 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs in regard to responding to the COVID-19 health crisis. We will cover the latest policy updates, grant updates, resources, and highlight programs' diverse responses to the pandemic. Please **fill out our survey** beforehand and **register** for the Town Hall!

Click **here** to access ACT Now's 21ST Century Town Hall page and find our archived Town Halls and resources relating to the virtual series.

Youth Development

Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network Webinar: Keeping Youth Engaged this Summer

Today at 12:00 p.m. the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network is hosting a webinar to help afterschool providers use the **Summer Activity Guide** and to ensure that programming is engaging and fun. Participants will also discuss how to transition to in-person programming. Click **here** to register for the webinar.

Illinois Afterschool Network Webinar: Supporting Families To Help Them Understand Trauma and the Impact on Youth Behavior and Mental Health

The Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) has created a new series on Distance Learning to help OST providers pivot towards online learning and enrichment opportunities for youth in the state. On **Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** participants will learn what trauma is, how it manifests itself in many forms, and the impact of trauma on adolescents' behavior and mental health. Attendees will also hear about best practices when engaging with youth during COVID-19 and ways to mitigate re-traumatizing them. To register, click **here**

*For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click **here**.*

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide: 150 Activities and Challenges To Do With Youth During the Summer NOW LIVE

The Summer Activity Guide has been developed for the [50 State Afterschool Network](#), with leadership from the [Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network](#), to engage and support children and youth nationwide.

This resource will be released gradually over the course of 10 weeks and **running through the week of August 14, 2020**. Activity batches will be provided every two weeks with supplemental materials throughout to support both providers and families in preparation and implementation. Spanish versions of the guides will be released as well. Click [here](#) to access the first batch of activities!

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

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 (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](#).

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