

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Congress Passes FY23 Omnibus Spending Bill](#)

On **December 23, 2022**, the House passed an omnibus appropriations bill, following Senate passage on **December 22, 2023**. The bill contains increased afterschool and summer learning funding. The omnibus spending bill appropriates a \$40 million increase for [21st Century Community Learning Centers \(21st CCLC\)](#) initiative. It also includes \$18.387 billion for Title I formula funding to schools, which can also be used to support afterschool and summer learning programs.

[Ending of Emergency SNAP Benefits in February](#)

The temporary boost to SNAP benefits put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic will end nationwide after the benefits are issued in February 2023.

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: TODAY](#) 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.
- [ACT Now STEM Club Training #2](#): January 25, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- [STEM Webinar: Creating Collaboration](#): January 30, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

External Events:

- [National Information STEM Education Network: STEM Identity, STEM Career Interest, and Participation in Out-of-School Time Activities](#): January 17, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- [EducationWeek: Education Equity: Where We Go From Here](#): January 19, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.
- [Illinois Collaboration on Youth: Disability and School Discipline](#): January 24, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- [National Girls Collaborative Project: The Impact of STEM Role Models and Mentors](#): January 26, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- [National Girls Collaborative Project: Girls in STEM: A \(Data-based\) Tale of Confidence & Satisfaction](#): February 21, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Resources for Providers

Administration

ACT Now and ICOY Capacity Building Resource

Afterschool for Children and Teens (**ACT Now**) and the [Illinois Collaboration on Youth \(ICOY\)](#) are contracted by the [Illinois Department of Human Services](#), Division of Family and Community Services, Bureau of Positive Youth Development to work collaboratively to provide technical assistance to youth-serving organizations throughout the state.

Organizations that are interested in expanding their capacity by applying for funding from a variety of stakeholders (such as state agencies, federal, local, foundation, or corporate sources) should contact us through our [Youth Development Programming Capacity Building](#)

[Questionnaire](#) to receive a one-on-one consultation. For additional resources check out our online capacity building [tool](#).

[FabFems!](#)

[FabFems](#) is a collection of resources for role models, educators, and parents to help foster young girls' interest in STEM careers.

Safety, Health, Nutrition

[National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth](#)

A report created by the [Trevor Project](#) offers critical insights into the top barriers to mental health care for LGBTQ+ youth, the prevalence of anti-LGBTQ+ victimization, and the negative impacts of recent politics. This research also points to ways to support the LGBTQ+ youth.

Youth Development

[Career Explorations for Girls](#)

[Career Girls](#) is a career exploration tool for girls featuring women STEM role models. It allows youth to explore hundreds of careers to find out what different jobs are like and how you can prepare for them. Girls can explore careers that match their personality or interests. It's free to use and contains videos, career quizzes, and resources.

[Mentoring Resources](#)

[National Mentoring Resource Center](#) is a compilation of mentoring resources including handbooks, curriculum, and manuals that program administrators can use to implement and further develop program practices.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Chicago Learning Exchange is Hiring!](#)

[Chicago Learning Exchange \(CLX\)](#) is hiring a program manager to organize and lead CLX's collective learning initiatives. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[NPR Podcast Challenge!](#)

[National Public Radio \(NPR\)](#) is inviting students to create a podcast and compete for a chance to have their work featured on NPR! Students from 5th grade through 12th grade are eligible to participate. Teacher involvement is required. **The deadline for submissions is April 28, 2023.**

[Young Invincibles Opportunity](#)

The application for the 2023 [Young Advocates Program \(YAP\)](#) is now open. It is a paid and virtual fellowship program which trains young adults ages 18 to 34 on ways to address inequities in higher education, healthcare, and access to quality jobs through advocacy and the legislative process.

[Engineer Girl Writing Competition!](#)

The 2023 Engineer Girl contest encourages youth to write an essay demonstrating how female and/or non-white engineers have contributed to achievements in engineering.

Guidelines are given for elementary, middle school, and high school grade levels. **The submission deadline is February 1, 2023.**

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

Funding Opportunities

[DFSS My CHI. My Future. Community Anchor Organizations RFP!](#)

The City of Chicago [Department of Family and Support Services \(DFSS\)](#) Youth Services Division has released the DFSS [My CHI. My Future.](#) Community Anchor Organizations (RFQ # 9215). The Community Anchor Organization RFP seeks to fund community-based organizations to help achieve the mission of My CHI. My Future. in their community. **The deadline to submit the RFP is February 3, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.**

[Field Foundation Grants Open!](#)

The [Field Foundation's](#) Letter of Inquiry portal is open for Spring 2023 grant considerations. **Complete their form by January 16, 2023.**

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

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

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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