

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Expanded COVID-19 Testing Opportunities for K-12 Institutions in Illinois](#)

On **October 8, 2021**, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) announced that the agency had partnered with the [U.S. Health and Human Services' Midwest COVID-19 Testing Coordination Center \(MCC\)](#) to help increase capacity and facilitate faster access to COVID-19 testing in schools across the state. This partnership will help to support both public and private K-12 institutions with testing students and personnel.

[Chicago Public Schools Decreases Quarantine Time for Students](#)

On **October 5, 2021**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) leadership announced that the school district will be shortening the quarantine time for unvaccinated students from 14 days to 10 days.

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Administration	<u>ACT Now</u>	Creating Space for Staff: Strengthening Social and Emotional Supports for Staff	October 12, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<u>REGISTER</u>
	<u>ACT Now</u>	Afterschool Advocates Meeting #1	October 14, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Become An Advocate! <u>REGISTER</u>

	Illinois State Board of Education	FY23 Budget Hearing (Virtual)	October 14, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Learn More
	ACT Now	Community Partners Grant Prep: Resources for Starting Community Schools and Tips on Grant Writing!	October 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois State Board of Education	FY23 Budget Hearing (Virtual)	October 21, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Learn More
	National Summer Learning Association	Summer Changes Everything NSLA Conference	November 8, 2021, to November 10, 2021	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Tips on Grant Writing	November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	Illinois State Board of Education	NEW Community Schools Grant - Technical Assistance Webinar	October 13, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	All Stars Project, Inc.	The Power of Ensemble Building - An Interactive Workshop	November 5, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.	Limited to 3 people per organization REGISTER
	National Informal STEM Education Network	Evaluating Educational Experiences During Times of Limited Social Interactions	November 16, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool: River City Drumbeat	October 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now and Learn Fresh	NBA Math Hoops!	October 27, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Afterschool Alliance Funding Database](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has recently updated and released its new Funding Database for providers to utilize and look for sustainable opportunities. There is also information including recovery and COVID-relief funding for afterschool and summer learning providers.

Youth Development

[Celebrate Earth Science Week 2021!](#)

This year, Earth Science Week takes place **between October 10, 2021, and October 16, 2021**. To aid programs in celebrating, the [American Geosciences Institute](#) has developed teaching resources on our planet and its systems. Some resources are specific to exploring this year's theme, "Water Today and for the Future", while others include information about online resources and geoscience careers. A printed toolkit is available to order.

[NISE Network Halloween-themed STEM Resources](#)

[The National Informal STEM Education Network](#) has compiled a variety of Halloween-themed STEM activities for providers to utilize in programming and build up young people's STEM skills.

[Free STEM Teaching Tools](#)

The STEM Teaching Tools site, funded by the [National Science Foundation](#), offers open education resource tools to help teach STEM concepts, including equity-focused practice briefs with recommended actions for attending to equity in STEM teaching.

[STEMIE Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education](#)

[The STEM Innovation for Inclusion in Early Education Center](#) provides evidence-based resources and strategies for program providers and families to engage children with disabilities in STEM learning.

[Girls and Women Talking Tech](#)

This digital intergenerational interview project provides an opportunity for youth and young women who are interested in pursuing a career in technology to have a conversation with female role models and leaders.

[500 Free Activities for Youth](#)

[eSchool News](#) has released an article highlighting [Discovery Education's](#) 500 free activities for youth that help supplement learning in a variety of subjects. The resources are available in the K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 grade levels. All activities will be released on a monthly basis, are organized to support weekly

instructional goals, and were created based on the most searched terms during each month of the previous school year.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[COVID-19 Vaccination At-Home Program for Chicago Residents](#)

[The Chicago Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) recently announced that all Chicago residents are eligible to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in their homes. Up to 10 people can be vaccinated at a time, so Chicagoans can invite family, friends or neighbors to their home to be vaccinated together. **Every individual receiving their vaccination through the City's At Home program is eligible to receive a \$100 visa gift card.** To schedule an appointment you can also call [312-746-4835](tel:312-746-4835).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[Halloweek Youth Program and Event Submissions are OPEN!](#)

[The City of Chicago](#) has announced the return of Halloweek, a week of fun and spooky Halloween events from **October 23, 2021, to October 31, 2021!** There is a downloadable Halloweek Toolkit for safety guidelines and signage to help providers, families, and youth host an event and participate.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Young Arts Virtual Competition for Youth](#)

[Young Arts](#) is hosting a virtual arts competition for youth ages 15 to 18 across the state. The organization is soliciting submissions for visual, literary or performing arts. Winners will receive a cash prize, opportunity for a mentorship, and national recognition. **The deadline to apply is this Friday, October 15, 2021.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Opportunity](#)

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) has released a Request For Proposals (RFP) for its new Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention (CBVIP) grant line. A total of \$3.8 million in funding is available for a comprehensive array of community-based services for youth, families, and the community at large. There is also funding for larger organizations and agencies with expertise in providing training and technical assistance on trauma informed and restorative justice practices and implementation. **The deadline to submit an application is November 1, 2021, at 4:59 p.m.**

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

Were you forwarded this email?

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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 (Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org

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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