

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Guidance for PreK-12 School-Associated COVID-19 Outbreaks](#)

On **October 15, 2021**, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) announced that the agency will be following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and adopting the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE) guidance for PreK-12 school-associated outbreaks. Previously, CDC defined two cases associated with a school as an outbreak. **This new guidance defines a school outbreak as either (1) multiple cases comprising at least 10% of students, teachers, or staff within a core group or (2) at least three cases within a specified core group. A core group means only those individuals who were together during an exposure period. For example, this could be limited to a classroom, a sports team, before/after school care, performing arts, or other groups and likely does not apply to the entire school population.**

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		<u>Recording</u>

	ACT Now	Community Partners Grant Prep: Resources for Starting Community Schools and Tips on Grant Writing!		Recording
	Illinois State Board of Education	FY23 Budget Hearing (Virtual)	October 21, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Learn More
	ACT Now	Tips on Grant Writing	November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	American Youth Policy Forum and Teaching for Change	Teaching for Change: Honoring History, Identity, and Diversity	November 17, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool: River City Drumbeat	October 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	ACT Now and Learn Fresh	NBA Math Hoops!	October 27, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	National Urban League	Emerging Voices from the Pandemic: Students Speak Out	October 28, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[FY21 Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment \(IL-QPSA\) Tool Final Report](#)

As the world grappled with the effects and uncertainties of the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, the afterschool field leaped into action and quickly met the needs of youth, families, and communities across the state of Illinois. Programs pivoted from in-person academic, social, and recreational enrichment to remote and hybrid programming that ensured all youth and their families had access to food, the internet, and other essential supports. Organizations from a variety of community and school-based organizations with variability in funding, collectively serving thousands of youth, participated in the strengths-based self-assessment tool, the IL-

QPSA, throughout 2020-2021. This is a report that captures the process, data collection, and lessons learned during that time.

Resources on Ensuring Equity is Centered in Programming

[The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment \(NCASE\)](#) has compiled and developed a variety of resources for program providers to utilize to ensure equity in program practices and facilitation of services.

- [Tips for School-Age Child Care Providers](#): Strategies for creating safe and welcoming spaces for school-age youth.
- [Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#): Suggested activities to encourage families and caregivers to reflect on the things they already do with their children to help them learn and practice equity.

America After 3PM Brief on Children with Special Needs or Disabilities

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has recently released a new America After 3PM brief on the experiences of youth with special needs and disabilities in afterschool programs. The short report also highlights the opportunities available to children in programs, qualities their parents care most about in afterschool programs, and areas of improvement for the afterschool field to reach all youth with special needs or disabilities.

COVID-19 Learning Gap and Identified Youth Needs

[The American Youth Policy Forum \(AYPF\)](#) has published a blog post highlighting the impact on student learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. It specifically calls out the mental health crisis in young people and provides an explanation for why it's critical that program providers, school districts, and families implement social-emotional learning strategies in programming and everyday life.

Youth Development

Lights On Afterschool Light Bulb Challenge!

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) is encouraging program providers and youth across the United States to participate in the Light Bulb challenge this year! **On October 28, 2021, join in on the fun and share photos of your celebration on social media utilizing three different photo templates.** Don't forget to tag your elected officials, partners, and community members in your content!

MY SO - High-Quality STEM Program for Youth

[Science Olympiad \(SO\)](#) is launching its MY SO program for the second year! This FREE STEM program is available to all students and educators - at home, in the classroom, after school, or on a Science Olympiad team. Each month, youth will dive into a different STEM topic - like Epidemiology - with a lesson plan that's aligned to the [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#), a career connection [video](#) featuring a STEM professional, and an optional national online test. Science Olympiad has also created the [MY SO 101 Guide](#) to support teachers, afterschool providers, principals, and families in providing high-quality STEM opportunities.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Resources for Celebrating LGBTQ History Month](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a variety of resources for providers and educators to use in celebrating LGBTQ History Month and elevating the contributions of this diverse community throughout the year as well.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Community Flu and COVID-19 Clinics in Chicago](#)

[The Chicago Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) is hosting over 50 free recurring flu clinics at large locations across the City, such as Chicago's City Colleges, one-time clinics in high-risk communities, and various smaller clinics. Check out the Flu and COVID-19 vaccine schedule below to locate a clinic near you. *Pfizer booster shots will ONLY be available at Family Flu/COVID clinics. These locations may vary. Please [click here](#) to see booster shot eligibility.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[ACT Now Constituent Equity Survey](#)

ACT Now is now in the process of developing a comprehensive organizational equity strategy. Your participation in this initiative is deeply appreciated and important to our evolution as a coalition. You're invited to take part in a [survey](#) that is designed to help **ACT Now** understand our organizational capacity and opportunities for growth through the lens of program providers, funders, and diverse coalition members. **The [survey](#) will take approximately 15 minutes to complete and is due by Thursday, November 4, 2021.** The [survey](#) is administered

by Thrive Paradigm and they will uphold the confidentiality of participants. Identifying information will not be shared with **ACT Now** staff nor coalition members. Our goal is to have every member participate as **survey** findings will inform the baseline equity report for the Coalition.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Design Input for Mental Health Support Program](#)

[The City of Chicago](#) is seeking youth input and submissions for the design of the Crisis, Assistance, Respond, and Engagement (C.A.R.E) program logo by **November 5, 2021**. The C.A.R.E program will allow 911 dispatchers to send mental health professionals to respond to mental health crises either in support of or instead of the Chicago Police Department (CPD). **There is also a youth focus group that will meet on [October 20, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.](#)**

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[Grant Opportunity for Equity Initiatives](#)

[The Draper Richards Kaplan \(DRK\) Foundation](#) accepts grant applications year round from community-based organizations dedicated to finding solutions to the injustices, inequities, and lack of resources and opportunity for historically underserved and underrepresented populations.

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 (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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