

ACTNOW!

NEWSLETTER



November

- 11/5** STEM Webinar #2: How to Make STEM At-Home Kits
- 11/10** Million Girls Moonshot STEM Webinar: Engineering Practice Support Equity Part III
- 11/11** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part I
- 11/12** Downstate Community Schools Convening
- 11/18** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part II
- 11/25** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part III

Call for Phenomenal Staff and OST Programming!

To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, promote Lights On Afterschool, and to shine light on the integral role that program staff play in restoring Illinois, ACT Now is looking to showcase staff members and programs on our social media platforms and in our weekly newsletter. We also share your stories and experiences with legislators and state agencies to advocate on your behalf!

If you are interested in participating, have photos to share out, or would like to nominate someone you know, please email Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org. Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member or name of the afterschool program, and caption for how this individual or program is working to support young people in the community.

Phenomenal Afterschool Program Highlight!

Free Snacks

School: North Grand High School
Teachers: Beth Barrow + Getsemani Nava
CAPE Teaching Artist: Betsy Zacsek
ACRE Guest Artist: Sarita Hernandez

Over the summer, CAPE initiated the Free Snacks Program, which integrates cooking with the arts, provides a sense of community, engages youth and their families, and meets the needs of ELL students and youth with IEP's.



This fabulous program is continuing in the Fall!



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Policy Updates

State Policy

Chicago Public Schools: Students Will Continue with Remote Learning for the Start of the Second Quarter

On **Friday, October 16, 2020**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) announced that all students in the district will begin the second quarter learning at home. However, CPS maintains that the school district will reopen in phases, prioritizing Pre-K students and special education youth enrolled in moderate and intensive cluster programs later on in the second quarter. This plan entails five days a week of in-person learning for Pre-K and special education students. CPS noted that specific specialty schools may utilize a hybrid model in order to allow for social distancing and has limited class size to 15 students.

Beginning this week, CPS is connecting with families in order to share an intent form with the goal of understanding their desire to return to in-person learning. **The intent form is due on October 28, 2020**. Those that choose to continue with remote learning are not eligible to enroll in in-person learning until the third quarter and their child(ren) would receive a combination of synchronous and asynchronous remote facilitation. To read more about this plan, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: 21st Century Waiver Public Comment Period Open Until October 29, 2020

On **September 18, 2020**, State Education Agencies (SEAs), including the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), received the template to apply for the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century waiver. **This waiver provides 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grantees with the ability to facilitate programming and provide support services during the school day**. The U.S. Department of Education has mandated a public comment period for the waiver. **ISBE released its call for Public Comment on the waiver and comments must be submitted via the [21st CCLC Waiver Form](#) no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 29, 2020**. For more information on the waiver, click [here](#). To urge ISBE to apply for the waiver, ACT Now has written a letter. To access the document with our public comment, click [here](#). *Please note: You may submit your own comments in regard to the 21st Century waiver or use ACT Now's comments in your submission to ISBE.*

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now: Community Schools Convenings

ACT Now will continue to host training events for Community Schools (CS) providers throughout the state during FY21. The next community schools training will take place on **November 12, 2020**, for Downstate providers. More information regarding the regional convenings, and the corresponding registration links, is located on our Community Schools Corner page [here](#).

ACT Now STEM Webinar: How to Make STEM At-Home Kits

On **November 5, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, **ACT Now** will be hosting its second STEM webinar on the importance of engaging youth in STEM programming while at-home or in a virtual environment via STEM at-home kits. Participants will learn how to develop their own STEM kits with low-cost and household items for young people in your program to utilize. Featured trailblazing STEM organizations include Project Exploration, Homewood Science Center, and the Museum of Science and Industry (MSI). Hear from these diverse entities as they describe the various stages of the STEM kit process and give tips on distributing them too! To register, click [here](#).

ACT Now Webinar Series: Acceptance in Afterschool: When Cultural Understanding Informs Quality Programming

Based on data collected from our online strengths-based quality self-assessment tool, the IL-QPSA, **ACT Now** developed a virtual three-hour series on Cultural Competency. **Last spring, we launched this training and it was so successful that we are bringing it back this November!**

- On **November 11, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, participate in Part 1: What is Cultural Competency and Why Does it Matter in Afterschool?
- On **November 18, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, join us for Part 2: Practice and Analyze the Understanding of Self-identities and How they Translate into Afterschool Programming

- On **November 25, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, attend in Part 3: Programmatic Ways and Tangible Resources to Implement and Sustain Cultural Competency.

Each webinar is \$10. To register for individual webinars or for the entire series, click [here](#).

Please Note: Each webinar will be limited to 30 individuals to encourage a robust and in-depth conversation on Cultural Competency between attendees over Zoom. Please contact Emma Vibber at VibberE@actnowillinois.org to inquire about group pricing.



Afterschool Alliance: Lights On Afterschool 2020 Week of Events

In celebration of Lights on Afterschool and the wonderful afterschool providers around the nation, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) will be hosting six virtual events **throughout the week**. The events are free and focus on themes such as STEM, mindfulness, art, entrepreneurship, and more. Encourage your young people to celebrate Lights On Afterschool by participating in the youth Town Hall! To review the events and register, click [here](#).

ICivics and ShareMyLesson Webinar: Tips for Teaching Controversial Topics in Your Classroom

On **October 22, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, ICivics and ShareMyLesson are hosting a webinar for educators and afterschool providers looking for tips and best practices for hosting tough conversations with youth and teaching controversial topics in a virtual environment. Attendees will earn one-hour of professional development credit and a certificate of completion. For more information on the event and to register, click [here](#).

Million Girls Moonshot Webinar: Engineering Practice Support Equity Part III

On **November 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** Million Girls Moonshot is hosting part three of its webinar series on engineering practices to support equity. Participants will dive deep into the importance of fostering an engineering mindset in youth and highlight how to evaluate and iterate, navigate failure, and promote teamwork and STEM identity. Attendees will also learn how to create inclusive learning experiences for young people. To register, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

ACT Now Report: Community Schools in Illinois - An Effective Strategy to Address Equity, Health, and Academics in Our Schools

Over the past several months, **ACT Now** collaborated with community schools to develop a report on their impact in Illinois. On **October 6, 2020**, in celebration of the report release, **ACT Now** shared our findings on these effective partners and holistic support systems through a virtual event. We heard from community schools providers as they described the diverse actions they took to respond to their youths' and communities' needs relating to COVID-19 and racial injustice. State Representative Theresa Mah [D-2nd] also made remarks in support of community schools. To read the report, review the event broadcast, and access the supporting materials, click [here](#).

ACT Now Toolkit: Lights On Afterschool 2020

Lights On Afterschool is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. We know that Out-Of-School Time (OST) providers have been integral in responding to the diverse needs of young people and their communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to offer holistic supports as we approach the fall. **Join us by celebrating afterschool on October 22nd!** Use our toolkit in order to advocate for the field, host an event (virtual or in-person), and share what afterschool means to you! To access the toolkit, click [here](#).

National League of Cities: Recommendations for Building Community Learning Hubs

The National League of Cities has released a brief highlighting the importance of developing community learning hubs to support youth and their families as we continue to respond to COVID-19 and issues of inequity. Rather than working in silos, the document calls on school districts, mayors, and local elected officials to leverage the resources that afterschool providers, community-based organizations, and other entities have in order to ensure that youth have what they need to participate in virtual learning. To read the entire report, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ShareMyLesson: Civic Engagement and Election Lesson Plans

ShareMyLesson has compiled a list of free lesson plans, activities, blogs and webinars for afterschool providers to utilize in their programming in regard to civic engagement and elections. The materials are categorized by grade level and there are resources for K-12 students. To access this resource, click [here](#).

eSchool News: Six Digital Learning Tools for Engaging Students

eSchool News has published an article with six tools for educators and afterschool providers to use in order to more effectively engage students in the virtual environment. These tools can help to boost student participation and work with remote learning platforms such as Google Classroom and CANVAS. To read the article, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

The Afterschool Alliance: COVID-19 and Its Effect on Programming During the Fall Survey

The Afterschool Alliance is asking for providers help once again in order to continue to tell the story of how COVID-19 is impacting afterschool and summer learning programs, and the young people and families who rely on them. To read the results from the previous survey, click [here](#). **This third survey is focused specifically on the ways in which the pandemic has or has not affected your fall programming.** The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and your responses will be anonymous. To complete the survey, click [here](#). **The survey closes October 26, 2020.**

Youth Development

Chicago Student Invention Convention: Free STEM Curricula and Mentoring Program

The [Chicago Student Invention Convention](#) is offering Kindergarten-8th grade educators and afterschool providers free training in its virtual invention curriculum that enables students to identify a problem in their own lives and engage in the iterative process of creating an invention to solve that problem. The program culminates in a final statewide showcase featuring student-built prototypes. Register for the 2020-2021 program and receive free curriculum, ongoing professional development, free access to resources like Britannica School and to our partner workshops like TechGirlz, Lemelson Foundation, and more! To register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2021

ACT Now is seeking applicants for its Policy and Communications Internship for the Spring 2021 semester. As our intern, you will have the opportunity to assist in ACT Now's federal and state policy initiatives and communications work. Applicants should have excellent communications skills, a strong work ethic, and a background in government relations, public policy, or social work. Applicants must have also completed at least their sophomore year in their undergraduate institution and be able to dedicate at minimum 12 hours a week to working at ACT Now. To review the full posting, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Office of the City Clerk and Chicago Foundation For Women: 2020 Virtual Girls' Summit

On **October 31, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**, City Clerk Anna Valencia and Chicago Foundation For Women's CEO, Felicia Davis, are hosting a Virtual Girls' Summit. This free event will bring together young women, girls, trans, and gender non-binary individuals, ages 13 to 24, from across the City of Chicago in order to discuss the issues most important to them. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Prudential Financial: 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Prudential Financial is soliciting applications from young people, in grades 5 through 12, for its 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. This award honors youth who have given back to their communities through volunteer service. Selected honorees will receive scholarships and all-expenses paid trips to Washington, D.C. to be recognized. **Applications are due November 10, 2020.** For more information on the award, click [here](#).

Safety, Health & Nutrition

Chicago Department of Public Health: COVID-19 Young Adult Survey

The Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) epidemiology team developed an anonymous survey for individuals ages 18 to 29 in order to better understand young people's attitudes toward COVID-19. The survey takes 15 minutes to complete and does not require personal information. To complete the survey, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation: Youth Program Grant Opportunity

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation has opened its newest cycle of grants to non-profits, community-based organizations (CBOs), museums, cultural and arts programs, skills-training programs, and schools for youth programming. Grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. Applications for the grant are due **November 10, 2020**. For more information, click [here](#).

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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