

ACTNOW!

NEWSLETTER



November

- 11/18** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part II
- 11/25** Cultural Competency Webinar Series Part III

December

- 12/3** ACT Now SEL Webinar #1: Relationship Skills
- 12/8** Chicago Community Schools Convening
- 12/9** Chicago Community Schools Convening
- 12/10** Virtual Quality Standards Training 101 #2

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

U.S. Senate: Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations Bills Released

On **November 10, 2020**, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee released twelve Fiscal Year 2021 (FY 2021) spending bills. The government is currently being funded under a [continuing resolution \(CR\)](#) that expires on **December 11, 2020**. A deal in Congress must be reached by this date in order to avoid a government shutdown. The spending bills include:

- **No increase for 21st Century.** *The House proposed an additional \$13 million which would support about 13,000 additional students under traditional 21st Century operations.*
- **\$50 million increase for the Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG).** *The House proposed \$100 million in additional funds.*
- **\$143 million increase for Title I funds**, which can be used for afterschool and summer supports for disadvantaged students and low-income schools.
- **\$125 million increase for IDEA** for special education students.
- **\$40 million increase for Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants for a total of \$1.2 billion.** These funds can be used for afterschool STEM programming as well as for other afterschool activities. *The House proposed \$10 million.*
- **No increase for Title II professional development grants.**
- **\$75 million increase for CTE grants.** *The House only proposed an additional \$18 million.*
- **Level funding for the TRIO and GEAR UP programs** that help prepare young people for college.
- **\$50 million increase for the Corporation for National and Community Service.**

To read the Afterschool Alliance's full brief on the Appropriations bills, click [here](#).

State Policy

Chicago Mayor's Office and Chicago Department of Public Health: New Stay-at-Home Advisory Issued

Yesterday, on November 16, 2020, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, in conjunction with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), issued

a new 30-day Stay-at-Home advisory for Cook County in order to respond to a spike in COVID-19 cases. The advisory implores Cook County residents to:

- **Only leave home to go to work or school, or for essential needs** such as seeking medical care, going to the grocery store or pharmacy, picking up take-out food, or receiving deliveries.
- **Avoid hosting gatherings in their home with anybody outside of their household** (except for essential staff such as home health care workers or educators), even with trusted family or friends.
- **Avoid all non-essential, out-of-state travel**; if travel is essential, quarantining, or testing negative prior to travel is required, depending on which state a traveler is originating from.
- **Comply with city and state orders, including wearing face coverings, practicing social distancing, limiting gatherings, and mandating early closure of non-essential businesses at 11:00 p.m.**

Governor Pritzker has endorsed this advisory. To learn more about it, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events, and Webinars

Administration

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 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 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.

ACTNOW!
Afterschool for Children and Teens

**Acceptance in Afterschool:
When Cultural Understanding Informs
Quality Programming**

Cultural Competency

Afterschool Programs

Identity

Resources

**Join
ACT Now
This
November**

The graphic features a central white signpost with four directional arrows pointing right. The top arrow is red and labeled 'Cultural Competency', accompanied by a graduation cap and a globe icon. The second arrow is yellow and labeled 'Afterschool Programs', with a pencil icon. The third arrow is red and labeled 'Identity', with three photo icons. The bottom arrow is yellow and labeled 'Resources', with a stack of papers icon. The background is blue with various educational icons.

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 two trainings will take place on **December 8, 2020, and December 9, 2020**, for Chicago providers. The convenings will surround the topic of Trauma and Culture. To register for either event, click [here](#). More information regarding the regional events is located on our Community Schools Corner page. To access it, click [here](#).

ACT Now Training: Illinois Quality Standards 101

ACT Now is providing free online training on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs. Join us on **December 10, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** to:

- Dive deep into the background in the Standards
- Discuss the benefits of the Standards and the research that link links quality programming to positive outcomes for youth
- Explore how to align the Standards with other quality tools
- Create a plan for implementing the Standards and developing strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives
- Discuss how to use the Standards in work

To register for the training, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ACT Now Webinar Series: FY21 Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

On **December 3, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, **ACT Now** will be hosting its first webinar in the FY21 SEL series on the topic of fostering positive Relationship Skills in youth. In this webinar series, we will review the [CASEL SEL competencies](#) and panelists will share concrete examples of how they are implementing SEL competencies into their virtual afterschool programming. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Million Girls Moonshot Webinar Series: Engineering Design Challenges

Over three hour-long sessions this fall with Technovation, you'll become an expert in leading engineering design challenges online that help students develop the following engineering mindsets: understanding the

engineering design process, working in teams, evaluating, and iterating, learning from failure, and self-identification. Participate in hands-on building activities during each session and become a part of a supportive learning community (*To register, click on the sessions below*).

- [Session 1](#) - *Recording Coming Soon*
- [Session 2](#) - will take place on **November 19, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**
- [Session 3](#) - will take place on **December 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**

National AfterSchool Association Webinar Series: Trauma-Informed Practices and Self-Care

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) is hosting a webinar series on Trauma-informed practices for afterschool providers looking to support youth in a virtual environment. Participants will also learn about the importance of integrating self-care strategies into programming for both young people and staff members. The first webinar on trauma-informed practices will take place on **November 19, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.** To learn more about individual sessions and to register for the series, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

ACT Now Blog: Elections

Afterschool programs are integral in supporting youth and families, especially during a stressful post-election season. Our Network Lead, Susan Stanton, wrote a blog post outlining some suggestions for afterschool providers to keep in mind with regard to election stress, in order to support the youth and communities they serve, as well as staff. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

Brookings Institute Article: Education inequity, community schools, and system transformation: Launching the Task Force on Next Generation Community Schools

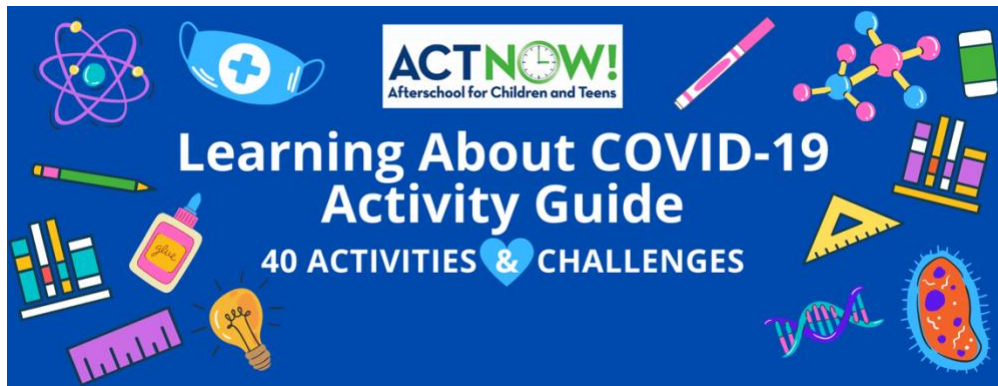
The Brookings Institute has published an article about Community Schools and how the holistic model is a strategy for recovery with regard to the ongoing pandemic. Community schools are also responding to inequities present in many of Illinois' communities. To review the evidence for

expanding the community schools model and to read the full article, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ACT Now: The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide

The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide has been developed for the [50 State Afterschool Network](#), with leadership from the [Alaska Afterschool Network](#), to help educate youth on the science behind COVID-19 and to help foster greater social awareness and empathy in communities. The guide hosts 40 activities and challenges and is organized by four different age groups (5-9), (10-12), (13-15), and (16-18). It is also adaptable for in-person and virtual instruction, or a hybrid, and providers are able to develop take-home packets using the sessions. For more information and to access the activity guide, click [here](#).



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

On **November 5, 2020**, **ACT Now** hosted 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. To access the recording, click [here](#).

Girls Who Code: Final Code at Home Unit Released

Girls Who Code recently released the last unit for its Code at Home program. The Code at Home series encourages young people to learn how to program their own computer games, while they simultaneously explore space, technology, and other scientific endeavors! Some of the Code at Home lessons are structured for online facilitation, some offline, and are of varying

levels of difficulty. Finally, each activity features a woman in STEM who pioneered innovative technology. To access the free resource, click [here](#).

The National AfterSchool Association: The Afterschool Guide to Trauma-Sensitive Practices

The National AfterSchool Association has published the Afterschool Guide to Trauma-Sensitive Practices for program providers looking to learn about responsive approaches to behaviors youth may exhibit as a result of trauma. The eBook also hosts resources for reducing secondary traumatic stress and for maintaining emotional wellbeing in young people and staff members. To access the guide, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Chicago Regional Census Center: New and Free Census 2020 Folders

The Chicago Regional Census Center has a surplus of unused and free Census 2020 folders and is looking to provide programs with these resources. The Center will ship packets of 20 folders, free-of-charge, to any provider interested in up-cycling the folders. For more information, please contact Partnership Specialist Theresa Le at Theresa.le@2020census.gov or at 773-999-2636.

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 our Policy and Communications Internship for spring 2021. 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 communication 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

Girls Who Code: Technical Interviews Discussion

On **November 19, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.**, Girls Who Code is hosting a virtual discussion for young people preparing for various types of technical interviews. This conversation is a part of the monthly Girls Who Code Talks virtual event series which aims to address uncertainties around college, internships, and careers in technology during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. To register for the event, click [here](#).

The American Youth Policy Forum: Virtual Youth Event

On **December 2, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**, The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF) is hosting an online event to showcase the talents and stories of systems-involved youth. Through a youth-centered lens, participants will enjoy performances from young artists and have meaningful conversations regarding the experiences of foster youth and justice-involved youth. For more information on the event and to register, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

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

Call for Phenomenal Staff and OST Programming!

To celebrate afterschool and extended learning providers, and to shine a light on the integral role that program staff plays in restoring Illinois, ACT Now will continue to showcase staff members and programs on our social media

platforms and in our weekly newsletter. We will also share your stories and experiences with legislators and state agencies to advocate on your behalf!

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 a caption for how this individual or program is working to support young people in the community.

Were you forwarded this email?

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

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](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)
