

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

Build Back Better Bill Passed by U.S. House of Representatives

On **November 19, 2021**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better (BBB) bill. This legislation totals \$1.7 trillion and hosts a variety of tax, healthcare, child care, and climate initiatives, and is considered to be the most significant restructuring of the safety net in decades. [Here is a summary of afterschool related funding in the BBB](#). The legislation now moves to the U.S. Senate, where it will likely be pared back in size and not considered until next month at the earliest. To learn more about the BBB, click [here](#).

State Updates

Illinois Department of Public Health Recommends Booster Doses for All Eligible Individuals

On **November 19, 2021**, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), announced that the state agency will be following the Food and Drug Administration's decision and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendation](#) to **open COVID-19 booster shots to all adults regardless of whether individuals have underlying medical conditions**. IDPH is recommending anyone 18 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose six months after receiving their second Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, or two months after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Illinois State Board of Education November Board Meeting Recap

On **November 18, 2021**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its monthly board meeting. To access the recording and meeting materials, click [here](#). ISBE heard public comments, many of which thanked State Superintendent Ayala and her colleagues for meeting with local school board representatives and superintendents on the topics of collaboration and local control. There was also public comment on the importance of funding the early childhood block grant and supporting the needs of out-of-school time

providers that leverage this funding. ISBE heard a presentation on teacher licensure programs and received recommendations on how to support educators of color throughout the state. **The Board voted to release the FY22 After School Programs funding for school districts, which totals \$17 million, as well as the \$3 million earmarked for community-based organizations (CBOs). The NOFO for CBOs has not been shared yet.** Finally, Board members heard a presentation on the FY23 Budget Hearings, which can be found [here](#). The Finance and Audit Committee will meet on **December 14, 2021**, to finalize the agency's recommendations for the FY23 budget. The next ISBE board meeting is scheduled for **December 15, 2021**.

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	ACT Now	Tips on Grant Writing		Recording
	ACT Now	December Membership Exchange: COVID-19 Vaccine Education Efforts	December 16, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Bullying and Resolving Student Conflicts through Restorative Justice	December 1, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Advisory Boards	December 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Afterschool Alliance and Kentucky Student Voice Team	From Youth Served to Youth Led: How to build an intergenerational team for impact	December 1, 2021, at 3:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	Illinois AfterSchool Network	December Parent Cafe: At-Home Holiday Activities	December 11, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	January Parent Cafe: Moving Our Way Into A Healthier Year!	January 15, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	January Parent Cafe: Supporting and Advocating for Diverse Learners	January 29, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

[Virtual Field Trip Curricula for Afterschool Providers](#)

ACT Now's Fall 2021 Intern **Rhianna Sherlock** recently developed a resource for afterschool providers highlighting high-quality virtual field trip ideas. All of the resources are free and they cover topics including social-emotional learning, STEM, and mental and physical health.

[Expressing Gratitude to Indigenous Peoples](#)

ShareMyLesson has compiled a variety of culturally-sensitive resources on paying respect to native and indigenous cultures as a part of deeper learning from indigenous practices.

[10 SEL Activities for High School Students](#)

eSchool News has compiled a variety of activities that focus on the social-emotional learning needs of high school students. The activities also incorporate STEM competencies, the arts, and more, and are easy to integrate into afterschool programming.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Federal Vaccination Resources for School-Located Vaccination Clinics](#)

Last week, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) elevated several resources the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created for school administrators to set up vaccination clinics in places that K-12 students and their families know and trust. The following links provide additional information about pediatric COVID-19 vaccination and school-located vaccination clinics.

- [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children 5-11 Years Old | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens | CDC](#)
- [Considerations for Planning School-Located Vaccination Clinics | CDC](#)
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)
- [Guide to On-Site Vaccination Clinics for School | WECANDOTHIS.HHS.GOV](#)
- [Communication Resources for COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)

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

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[My CHI. My Future Make '22 Yours](#)

[My CHI. My Future](#) is hosting Make '22 Yours for youth across the City of Chicago over Winter Break (**December 18, 2021, to January 2, 2022**). Similar to last year's initiative, the organization is looking to feature afterschool programs and community-based organization's youth events on their homepage! **Please kindly submit your plans for Winter Break by December 10, 2021.**

Professional Development

[2022 Cohort of Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Chicago](#)

[The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of Chicago \(YNPN Chicago\)](#) is soliciting applications for its Leadership Institute's 2022 cohort. This cohort is Chicago's premier and most accessible leadership training program for emerging nonprofit leaders. Selected participants will engage with colleagues in the nonprofit field, access guided sessions on being effective leaders, and more. **Applications are due November 28, 2021, at 11:59 p.m. CDT.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

[ACT Now Policy and Communications Internship for Spring 2022](#)

We are seeking applicants for our **in-person** Policy and Communications Internship for **Spring 2022**. 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 work part-time, and in-person, at ACT Now. We are providing a stipend reflective of the intern's experience.** Please review the entire application package thoroughly. **Applications are due to Emma Spencer at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org by Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. CDT.**

Youth Development

[First Amendment Freedoms Art & Essay Contest for Middle and High School Students](#)

[The Anti Defamation League \(ADL\) Midwest](#) is hosting its annual First Amendment Freedoms opportunity for students in grades 6 through 12. This contest aims to have young people think about how the First Amendment affects their daily lives and provides educators with the resources they need to facilitate that discussion. **Submissions are due December 31, 2021.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[A Better Chicago - One West Side Youth Development Grant Opportunity](#)

[A Better Chicago](#) now is now accepting applications for One West Side to provide grants to BIPOC youth leaders. Grant amounts range between \$50,000 and \$100,000 annually and will support youth programs. **Applications will be accepted until Friday, December 10, 2021.**

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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101 North Wacker, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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