

ACTNOW!

NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Grant Writing Workshop!

Are you interested in learning more about [ISBE's After School Program grant](#)?

Have you heard about the [Restore. Reinvest. Renew. \(R3\) opportunity](#) and need tips for applying?

Excited about the chance to support youth and families by leveraging funding from the [Reimagine Public Safety Act](#)?

Join ACT Now on [November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.](#), for a webinar on how to write a successful grant proposal and hear from your expert colleagues in the afterschool field as they share keys strategies!

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Chicago Public Schools Close Schools on November 12th to Encourage Youth and Families to Get Vaccinated](#)

On **November 5, 2021**, Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local pediatricians announced a call-to-action for children and adults to get their COVID-19 vaccine or booster dose. To ensure all eligible students have the opportunity to receive the vaccine as quickly as possible, CPS schools will be closed on **Friday, November 12, 2021** for Vaccination Awareness Day. To review the locations where youth and families may get vaccinated, including CPS school-sites and community-based clinics, [check out the map](#). The Mayor's office is also encouraging program providers to share more about their offerings and whether programs in City of Chicago have the ability to extend programming hours on November 12, 2021. Please [complete the survey](#) if your organization may be able to support this initiative.

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	November 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	ACT Now	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Family Engagement		Recording Password: 7R^+Rxf#
	National Informal STEM Network	Evaluating educational experiences during times of limited social interactions - Adventures in Team-Based Inquiry	November 16, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Forefront	Introduction to Project Budgets	November 30, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training:	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	Illinois Science & Technology Coalition	Mentor Summit 2021	November 18, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Families and Businesses Support Afterschool Programs](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) released a blog post on increased public support for quality programs for children and youth. The blog post highlights data collected by [Small Businesses for America's Future](#) and makes the case for why high-quality out-of-school time programming is a priority for employers and families across the United States.

[Strategies for Integrating Youth Choice into Programming](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) has developed a list of 10 strategies for afterschool program providers to implement in order to elevate youth choice in programming.

Youth Development

[November is Native American Heritage Month](#)

During the month of November, we elevate the importance and diversity of Native American heritage. Native American traditions are steeped in science and engineering. Native American engineers and scientists have built on that legacy to benefit society. Learn more about notable STEM trailblazers and their contributions and access teacher resources by visiting the Native American Heritage Month website.

[Sisterhood of Native American Coders \(SONAC\)](#)

[Sisterhood of Native American Coders \(SONAC\)](#) is a nonprofit that creates access and exposure to the field of computer science to address the disparities in opportunities to learn for underrepresented Native American girls. SONAC's aims to inspire the next generation of young female innovators to pursue careers in STEM by engaging them at an early age (9 to 12 years old), when interest levels can falter, and to foster a lifelong passion for STEM.

[New Guide! Working with STEM Experts](#)

[The National Informal STEM Education Network \(NISE\)](#) has published a new guide for educators on how to find, prepare, and work with STEM experts. It includes suggestions for ways to involve experts in STEM programming, strategies for finding different types of expertise, including those with Indigenous knowledge, and more!

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Child COVID-19 Vaccination Resources](#)

[Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago](#) has developed a variety of resources for families, educators, and program providers to utilize in encouraging caregivers to vaccinate children ages 5 through 11. These resources include a [blog post](#), [a digital toolkit](#), and a [Facebook Webinar recording](#) with Dr. Larry Kociolek, Infectious Diseases physician and Medical Director of Infection, Prevention and Control and Dr. Jennifer Kusma, Advanced General Pediatrics and Primary Care physician. Lurie Children's Hospital is [offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals ages 5 years and older via appointment](#).

[Chicago Public Schools Child COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics](#)

Starting tomorrow, November 10, 2021, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) will be hosting four regional school-based vaccination hubs for child COVID-19 vaccinations and using its mobile van to provide greater access for students on alternating days. The district says families can receive a \$100 gift card if a student receives an initial vaccination at a Chicago Public Schools event. Regional hubs include:

- Michele Clark Magnet High School
- Richards High School
- Chicago Vocational
- Roosevelt High School

The clinics will offer vaccinations for 5- to 11-year-old students, vaccinations for older students and adults, and booster shots. The mobile vaccination van will offer shots for students ages 5 to 11 at four sites: Simeon, Portage Park, Mozart, and Bradwell. Parents must be present or consent for children to be vaccinated.

[Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership Month of Action Resources](#)

The Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership is calling community-based organizations to action to help educate families and youth about the opportunities to get vaccinated in the Chicagoland area. The initiative has provided a variety of resources to help with this November campaign!

[Afterschool Meal Report](#)

[The Food Research & Action Center \(FRAC\)](#) recently released its 2021 report on the state of afterschool meal participation. Data from this resource indicates an increase of almost 3% between October 2019 and October 2020, which is approximately 1.5 million meals served to youth in programs per day.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[DEADLINE EXTENDED - ACT Now Constituent Equity Survey](#)

ACT Now continues to be 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 now due by November 22, 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.**

[Afterschool Alliance Wave 6 COVID-19 Survey](#)

Your voice matters: Help continue to showcase why afterschool programs are critical during the pandemic. This fall, the leaves have already started to change color, but what remains the same is the pandemic's presence, remaining top of mind for the afterschool field and the children and families they serve. By [taking Afterschool Alliance's short survey](#), you are helping document the ways in which the pandemic continues to impact your program, the supports your program is providing to the children and families in your community, and lift up the short- and long-term effects of COVID-19 on the afterschool field as a whole. All those who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win one of 50 gift cards in the amount of \$50! The survey should take approximately 10 minutes of your time and your responses will be anonymous. **The survey will close 11:59 p.m. PT, Sunday, November 21, 2021.**

[Illinois AfterSchool Network Annual Training Needs Survey](#)

[The Illinois AfterSchool Network \(IAN\)](#) is surveying the afterschool field to learn more about training and professional development needs of program providers across the state. **The survey deadline is November 18, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.** Once completed, you will be entered into a drawing names for admission to a FREE paid distance learning session!

Professional Development

[Afterschool Educators in Illinois to Receive Free Professional Development for Next Four Years](#)

[The Illinois Afterschool Network \(IAN\)](#) has been chosen to participate in the National Science Foundation Scale-up Grant. IAN was one of 3 states (New York and Missouri), chosen by the ACRES (After School Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM) Project to serve as a Hub of professional learning. Through this opportunity, IAN will offer free coaching to afterschool educators located in central and downstate Illinois who wish to hone their STEM facilitation skills, and will have extensive support to train afterschool leaders as coaches.

[National Girls Collaborative Project Anniversary Fellows Program](#)

[The National Girls Collaborative Projects \(NGCP\)](#) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2022. As part of our anniversary celebrations, it is offering a remote-based, nine-month professional development program open to early career professionals, and graduate students, interested in gender equity and informal STEM education. Fellows will contribute to NGCP's ongoing STEM and equity projects and will have diverse opportunities to learn and collaborate with the NGCP national network. Fellows will also participate in advanced training on gender

equity and cultural responsiveness and receive ongoing mentorship and support. **The application deadline is November 23, 2021.**

[Chicago Student Invention Convention Mentor Opportunity](#)

[The Chicago Student Invention Convention \(CSIC\)](#) prepares K-8th graders today with the innovative skills they will need tomorrow to succeed in life and work in the 21st century. CSIC is a free program that trains educators in its experiential, applied STEM invention learning and encourages students to develop critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills to positively impact their own lives and communities. CSIC is soliciting mentors for its annual competition. Interested educators and afterschool program providers should register for the program [here](#).

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

[Connectory Event for Girls Interested in STEM](#)

[The Connectory](#) is hosting the She Has the Floor event for girls age 11 and older, to encourage female students to hear first-hand from women who are crushing science and leading lives as scientists and leaders. There are three opportunities scheduled during the month of November. **Please Note:** *There is a suggested donation for this webinar.*

[Conservation Achievement Scholarship](#)

[The Illinois Conservation Foundation \(ICF\)](#) is soliciting applications from high school seniors for its 2022 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program. This award is for students who demonstrate effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection or enhancement of the state's natural resources. Four

scholarships of \$2,000 each are available for the current school year. One of the scholarships is earmarked for a qualified applicant who is a dependent of a current employee of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. **Applications are due March 1, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Administration

[Chicago Housing Consulting Services Grant Opportunity](#)

Chicago Housing Consulting Services (CHCS) is soliciting applications for its grant opportunity to expand youth programming. The agency is looking to support to offer up to \$10,000 grants for youth programming programs that build capacity for staff and students. **Applications are due by December 6, 2021.**

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Hillshire Farm SNACKED Allowance Grants](#)

[Youth Service America](#) and [Hillshire Farm SNACKED](#) have partnered to offer youth small "allowance" grants to help fuel great ideas. This opportunity is for youth in grades 4 through 6 and **applications will be accepted until January 2, 2022.** In addition, families and caregivers of the selected grant recipients will receive Hillshire Farm SNACKED! products for a year to share with their family and friends to help fuel their journeys.

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

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 (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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