ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ACT NOW!
Afterschool for Children and Teens

Upcoming events & trainings

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
12/17	Suburbs Community Schools Convening

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

Afterschool Alliance: Take Action to Support Youth and Contact Your Legislators

The U.S. Senate is considering a bill to expand access to afterschool through the rest of the public health crisis. *Now* is the time to tell your elected officials to support S. 4868, which was introduced by Senators Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Smith (D-Minn.) in late October. S. 4868 is the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Coronavirus Relief Act of 2020. **The legislation would provide $1.2 billion in additional funding and greater flexibility for the 21st CCLC program. The House version of the bill passed in September.**

As Congress debates an FY21 spending bill and another COVID-19 relief bill, consider reaching out to your members of Congress in support of afterschool programs and let them know how the pandemic is affecting young people, youth-serving programs and organizations, and your community at large. **To take action, click here!**

State Policy

Illinois State Board of Education: FY21 After School Programs Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity Released

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has released its grant Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for its FY21 After School Programs line. This NOFO is geared towards non-school district entities, such as non-profits and community-based organizations (CBOs). To read the full NOFO, click **here**. **Proposals are due to ISBE on January 4, 2021, no later than 4:30 p.m.** Please contact Connie Denney at cdenney@isbe.net with questions.

A technical assistance webinar will be held **today, December 1, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.,** for providers and applicants. To register for the webinar, click **here**. ***Please Note: attendance is not required.***

Illinois State Board of Education: Strategic Plan Released

Two weeks ago, during the November Board Meeting, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) unanimously approved its 2020-2023 Strategic Plan. This plan was developed before the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2019 but was carefully revised over the course of the last several months

to reflect current events and elevate three main goals, using an equity lens: student learning, learning conditions, and elevating educators. This document will ultimately serve as the agency's roadmap for Illinois public schools over the next three years. To review the Strategic Plan, click **here**.

Illinois State Board of Education: Periodic Reporting for All FY20 State Grants Extended

Illinois Compiled Statutes 708/50 (c)(2) requires that state grant-making agencies utilize grantee performance reporting to track a recipient's progress pertaining to grant deliverables during the life of a grant. As a result, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is required to solicit and review performance reports during the FY20 state grant period extension. ISBE will not have the ability to end reporting when grant funds are fully expended. **All FY20 state grant recipients will continue to receive requests for periodic performance reports on a quarterly basis through June 30, 2021, even if the program monies were previously expended and the grant is considered complete.** *Programs with a completed grant should type n/a in the blanks and submit the report. ISBE program staff will approve it upon receipt.*

Illinois State Board of Education: Public Comment on One Percent Cap State Waiver

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is seeking public comment on its state waiver to the U.S. Department of Education for exceeding the 1 percent cap for the alternate state accountability assessment. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), modifies the provision that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in alternate assessments. ESSA places a 1 percent cap on the number of students who may participate in alternate assessments. ISBE is applying for this waiver as the agency anticipates exceeding the cap due to COVID-19 and the state's decision to forego a remote testing option for this spring. To review the state waiver, click **here**. For additional information, click **here**. To provide public comment via email, click **here**. **Public comment closes on December 4, 2020.**

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click here.

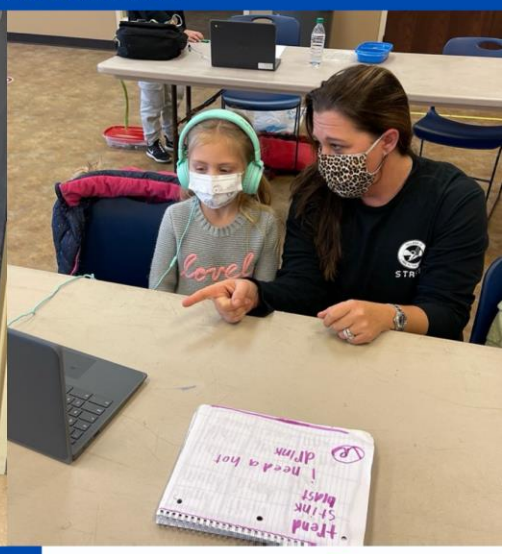
Phenomenal Program Highlight

Despite the uncertainty and challenges of this year, the Village of Lake in the Hills rose to the moment - supporting students and families by providing remote learning supervision, child care for essential workers, high-quality in-person, and virtual experiences over the summer!

Back-2-School FuntastiCAMP

Camp Supervisor: Joelle Garcia
Location: Lake in the Hills, IL
Organization: Village of Lake in the Hills Recreation Division

First year Camp Supervisor, Joelle Garcia, exceeded expectations by converting the Village of Lake in the Hill's summer camp programming to remote learning supervision opportunities while maintaining the fun and excitement of recreational games, activities, and the SEL benefits of camp! The Camp supported 3 school districts, children, and numerous families over the summer!



VILLAGE OF LAKE IN THE HILLS

ACTNOW! Afterschool for Children and Teens

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 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.** Trauma is based on context, and that context oftentimes has cultural and historical roots. This training will explore the relationship between trauma and culture by looking specifically at populations who are at high risk of experiencing trauma. Participants will also learn about the ways power and oppression impact trauma and access to resources. Attendees will learn about the resilience and protective factors these communities have built to combat trauma. To register for either event, click **here**. ***Please Note: Only registered providers will gain access to the event recordings.*** 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**.

The Public Policy Exchange Webinar: Adapting Schools in a Pandemic: Supporting Teachers and Students

The Public Policy Exchange is hosting a webinar on Adapting Schools in a Pandemic: Supporting Teachers and Students on **December 3, 2020, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:10 p.m.** The webinar will give educators, school

administrators, and other key stakeholders, like afterschool providers, an opportunity to discuss how to adapt to the pandemic, identify strategies to strengthen the educational system, and overcome barriers students and families may be facing. To learn more and to register for the webinar, click **here**.

Afterschool Alliance Webinar: America After 3 PM Report Release

The Afterschool Alliance is hosting a webinar on **December 8, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.,** in celebration of its newest report on the demand for afterschool programs nationwide. Participants will learn about parent views on afterschool opportunities across the United States. The report "America After 3PM: Demand Grows, Opportunity Shrinks," includes responses from more than 30,000 U.S. families and builds on household surveys conducted in 2004, 2009, and 2014. It also offers a pre-pandemic snapshot of how young people spend their afternoons and includes a separate survey of parents conducted this fall. To register for the event, click **here**.

Foundations Inc.: Beyond School Hours Virtual Conference

Between **February 17, 2021, and February 19, 2020,** Foundations Inc. will be hosting the Beyond School Hours virtual conference for afterschool providers, school administrators, philanthropic organizations, and more. There will be representatives from local, state, and federal educational agencies and even the U.S. Department of Education. Reflecting this unique year, the conference theme is *resilience,* with a special focus on preparing children for success, program fundamentals, supporting the support system, and youth engagement. To learn more about the conference, review pricing, and to register, 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** - *Recording Coming Soon*
- **Session 3** - This will take place on **December 10, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**

For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click here.

Resources for Providers

Administration

Afterschool Alliance Brief: Back to School in the Time of COVID-19

The Afterschool Alliance released its third brief with survey data from afterschool providers, in order to emphasize the challenges brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic and highlight the field's innovations as programs continue to respond to it. The Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19 Wave 3 survey finds that afterschool programs have needed to adapt to the various school reopening scenarios that are being implemented across the country. To read how afterschool is rising to the moment and access the full brief, click **here**.

eSchool News Article: Student Safety Tools for Virtual Facilitation

eSchoolNews published an article highlighting the importance of utilizing safety tools and applications to help reach, engage with, and support students that may feel more isolated or uneasy due to virtual programming and the ongoing public health crisis. The article highlights Gaggle, which uses artificial intelligence and trained safety experts to prevent student self-harm, bullying, inappropriate behaviors,

school violence, and other situations. To read the full article, click **here**.

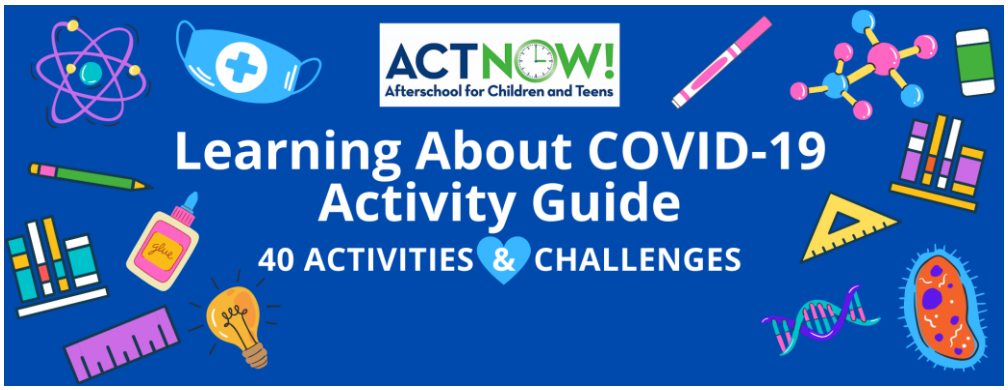
PBS Learning Media: Tools for Anti-Racist Teaching Series

PBS Learning Media has developed a virtual professional learning series on tools for anti-racist teaching. Themes focus on deepening one's understanding of race and racism, using media to know more and teach better, amplifying student and youth voice, and focusing on young learners. Each session is approximately 1 hour and can also be linked to Google Classroom. To access the series, click **here**.

Youth Development

ACT Now: The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide

The Learning About COVID-19 Activity Guide aims to 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. For more information and to access the activity guide, click **here**.



Family and Community Partnerships

My CHI. My Future: City-Wide COVID-19 Resources List

My CHI. My Future. has compiled a list of resources for residents in the City of Chicago to draw upon as we continue to navigate the ongoing pandemic. These resources cover a range of themes including meal pick-up sites, rental assistance, and mental health providers. To review the full document, click **here**.

For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click here.

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Council for a Strong America: Employment Opportunity

The Council for a Strong America is seeking applications for its Policy Associate position at the Illinois Children's Advocacy Organization, based in Chicago, IL. This position would have primary responsibility for recruiting, engaging and mobilizing the Council's retired senior military leader members of Mission: Readiness. The organization focuses on high-quality early care and education, prevention of child abuse and neglect, after-school programs for youth, juvenile justice issues, child nutrition improvements, obesity prevention, and more. Ideal candidates will have experience in advocacy, media relations, public policy, and/or political campaigns. **Applications are due December 7, 2020.** To learn more about this employment opportunity and to apply, click **here**.

Youth Development

My CHI. My Future: Make 2021 Yours Initiative

My CHI. My Future is soliciting content and activities from afterschool providers for its winter break initiative called Make 2021 Yours. This initiative aims to support young people over the winter break, between **December 19, 2020, and January 3, 2021,** and provide engaging virtual learning opportunities on a range of themes, including Sports & Wellness, College Readiness, STEM, and the Culinary Arts. To learn more about the campaign and to add your program's activities, click **here**. Submissions are due by **December 14, 2020.**

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**.

For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click here.

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

My Block My Hood My City and Block Club Chicago: Something Simple Grant Opportunity

My Block My Hood My City and Block Club Chicago are soliciting project ideas that would improve your neighborhood block and bring some positivity to 2021. Grants will be awarded to fund simple, but powerful ideas this winter to a variety of organizations. The total available funding is $25,000. Applications are due by **December 31, 2020.** To learn more about the opportunity, click **here**. To submit your idea, click **here**.

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