

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[U.S. Congress Passes Bill to Fund Government Until February 2022](#)

On **December 2, 2021**, the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate approved a bill to fund the federal government until **February 18, 2022**. This action helped to avert a government shutdown after dispute over President Biden's COVID-19 vaccine policies. By this new deadline, policymakers must adopt another short-term funding bill or "complete work on a dozen long-stalled appropriations bills that fund the government for the remainder of fiscal year 2022, which ends in September." **The Afterschool Alliance has created an [action alert](#) that urges legislators to pass these funding bills and support a significant increase for local afterschool and summer learning programs through 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) funding for next year.**

[TELL YOUR POLICYMAKERS THAT AFTERSCHOOL MATTERS!](#)

State Updates

[Historic Investment in Broadband for Illinois Communities - Opportunity!](#)

On **December 1, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Office of Broadband announced a new planning and capacity building program to help Illinois communities leverage historic broadband infrastructure funding for community-driven broadband expansion. The Accelerate Illinois "Notice of Collaboration Opportunity" is open now and accepting applications through December 30, 2021. The State expects to serve up to 12 communities as part of this initial pilot initiative.

[New Congressional Maps Signed Into Law](#)

On **November 23, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation redrawing the state's new Congressional district maps. These maps reflect Illinois' diversity and preserve minority representation as well as use

Census 2020 data. Some districts in Southern Illinois have been combined due to the state’s population loss, while new districts have been created in Central and Northern Illinois. Redistricting map links:

- [House](#)
- [Senate](#)

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	Illinois Partners for Human Services	State of Illinois Mid-year Update	December 15, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	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 Practices		Recording Password: 9\$r5v4Bj
	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Advisory Boards	December 8, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Social Current	Psychological Safety and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion - How Embracing Discomfort Leads to Growth	December 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Afterschool Alliance	Applying for the New York Life Foundation's 2022 Aim High Grants for Middle School OST Programs	December 16, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Emergent Leaders in Supervision: Part I	January 19, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	\$25 per provider REGISTER

	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Emergent Leaders in Supervision: Part II	January 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Registration Link Forthcoming
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Bright Promises Foundation	Confronting Racism: Helping Youth Heal from Racism-Based Trauma through Empowerment and Activism	TODAY at 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	U.S. Department of Education	Lessons from the Field - Addressing Student Behavioral Needs & Supporting Their Mental Health	December 8, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	The Joyce Foundation	New Research Examining the Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities in Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic	December 10, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Credit for Learning: Making Learning Outside of School Count](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) wrote a short brief on ways in which afterschool programs can provide older youth with opportunities to explore their interests and participate in programming that simultaneously earn credits toward their graduation requirements.

Youth Development

[Accessible Hour of Code](#)

[Quorum](#) has developed a resource for engaging youth in coding. Youth who use a screen reader can participate in the Hour of Code through two activities that utilize the Quorum programming language and are accessible. [Code with Mary and Astronomy](#) are fully accessible to youth with visual impairments and can also be used with sighted youth. Both activities are geared towards beginners!

[CodeBytes Special Episode: Poem Art](#)

CodeBytes are 20-minute interactive lessons aimed at encouraging youth of all ages to learn how to code

while at home during the Hour of Code. This year, CodeBytes is launching a special episode on **December 7, 2021**, in which youth will use code to learn about the power of language as an art form.

[How to Make Science More Relevant for Students of Color](#)

[EducationWeek](#) has written a quick article highlighting how educators and afterschool providers can engage students of color in science curriculum in a more intentional manner.

Family and Community Partnerships

Family Needs Study for Participants in the Early Childhood Education and Care System

[The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development \(GOECD\)](#) is partnering with the [American Institutes for Research® \(AIR\)](#) to update the Statewide Birth through Five Needs Assessment that was completed in January 2020. One part of this work is a Family Needs Study that aims to learn more about how children, parents, and families are engaged with Illinois' Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system, what their needs are, and how the ECEC system might better address those needs. **GOECD surveys in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#), and [Polish](#), will close on Friday, December 10, 2021.** If you are a parent, caregiver, or guardian of a child between birth to age five (less than six years old), please complete the survey.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Supporting COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children 5 and Older

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) has developed a series of resources to encourage families to vaccinate children ages five and older.

- [Parent Letter \(Spanish\) - Carta a las familias](#)
- [Vaccination Information for Children and Teenagers](#)
- [Vacunas Contra el COVID-19 para Niños y Adolescentes](#)

U.S. Department of Education Resources on Students' Well-Being

The U.S. Department of Education has compiled a variety of resources for educators and afterschool providers. **(Trigger Warning associated with some of these topics and resources)**

- [Supporting Child and Student Social, Emotional, Behavioral and Mental Health during COVID-19 Era](#)
- [ED COVID-19 Handbook Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs \(PDF\)](#)
- [Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [CDC Mental Health webpage](#)
- [Mental and Emotional Health Curriculum \(HECAT\)](#)
- [YRBSS | Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System | Data | Adolescent and School Health | CDC](#)

- [Classroom Management | Adolescent and School Health | CDC](#)
- [Mental Health Among Adolescents Fact Sheet](#)
- [The National Academies of Sciences' Tools for Supporting Emotional Wellbeing in Children and Youth](#)
- [Schools | The National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(nctsn.org\)](#)

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Chicago Public Schools FY23 Budget Forums](#)

[Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) announced a public engagement plan as it develops the FY2023 budget. The District will host two virtual School Funding Public Forums to engage the community around the District's school budgeting process. The sessions will provide an overview of CPS' current funding methodologies and other aspects of the current FY2022 budget, and an opportunity to participate in facilitated small group discussions. The discussions will focus on hearing the needs of school communities and suggestions on how to make the District's school funding process more equitable, transparent, and sustainable. The virtual forums will be held on the following dates:

- **TODAY, December 7, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, December 9, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To log onto the forums, participants must [complete the registration form](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Grant Opportunity for Arts and Cultural Organizations!](#)

[The MacArthur Funds for Culture, Equity, and the Arts at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation](#) is soliciting applications from eligible small- to mid-sized arts and cultural organizations primarily serving communities in the City of Chicago. The MacArthur-Driehaus Cycle One grant is for organizations whose actual expenses in the most recently completed fiscal year were below \$150,000. **The deadline for Cycle One applications is January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. CDT.**

[Grants for Afterschool, Summer Learning, and OST Programming](#)

[The New York Life Foundation](#) is seeking applications from afterschool, summer, or expanded learning programs serving middle-school youth. In total, \$1.8 million in grants will be awarded to programs all across the country. Grants range from \$15,000 to \$100,000 over two years, and focus on the following efforts:

- Advancing racial equity and social justice
- Providing technical assistance, enhancing direct service activities, and/or program expansion
- Programs that support youth in the transition to the ninth grade and how they are continuing to serve youth in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic

The Afterschool Alliance is hosting a **webinar on [December 16, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.](#), to provide more information about this opportunity. Applications are due [February 1, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. EST.](#)**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Woods Fund Chicago Power of Community Award](#)

[The Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards](#) are soliciting applications for its Power of Community Award. This award goes to an organizing campaign that has measurably improved the vitality of a community and/or positively affected the quality of life of a group of people. **Applications are due December 13, 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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