

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Continuing Resolution Passed in House](#)

On **February 8, 2022**, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a three-week extension of government funding at fiscal year (FY) 2021 levels. This is in an effort to give Congress until **March 11, 2022**, to finalize a package of FY 2022 funding bills. The U.S. Senate has until **February 18, 2022**, to pass this continuing resolution (CR) before current funding expires.

[Awaiting Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 2023](#)

As Congress enacts another continuing resolution to push through FY 2022 funding legislation, the budgeting process for FY2023 will begin soon. The first step in this process is awaiting President Biden's budget proposal hopefully in March.

State Updates

[New SNAP Retailers Approved for Illinois Families](#)

On **February 10, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker and the [Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Sam's Club and Meijer Grocery for SNAP online purchasing. With these additions, Illinois LINK card users can now purchase groceries online through these chains across the state.

[Illinois Plans to Lift the Indoor Mask Mandate](#)

On **February 9, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that the State of Illinois plans to lift the indoor mask mandate on **February 28, 2022**. However, the announcement clarified that mask requirements will remain in locations where it is federally mandated, such as on public transit and in high-risk settings including healthcare facilities and congregate care. **Masking requirements will also continue to apply in all daycare settings. The state intends to continue masking requirements in P-12 schools subject to pending litigation which impacts a number of schools.** To learn more about this decision, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Youth Development	ACT Now	SEL Webinar #2: Creating an Intentional SEL Framework in Afterschool Environments		Recording Passcode: M!#e5SyZ
	Illinois Department of Human Services - Office of Firearm Violence Prevention	Technical Assistance Session: RPSA-Violence Prevention Services Notice of Funding Opportunity	February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Harold Washington College	Youth Education Summit	February 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Professional Development	Forefront	What Nonprofits Need to Know About Lobbying in Illinois: Changes in 2022	February 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Advisory Boards	February 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training 101 - VIRTUAL	February 17, 2022, from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now and the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)	Capacity-Building Kick-Off Event for Youth Development Programs in Illinois	February 22, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	February Membership Exchange: Funding Afterschool Programs: Updates on Current Opportunities	February 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois Resource Center	2022 ESSA/Multilingual Illinois Conference *ACT Now will be presenting on Family Engagement	February 22, 2022, to February 25, 2022	REGISTER

	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	February 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Creating a Culture of Support and Supporting Staff	March 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum	2022 Partner Teacher Conference	March 5, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	National Summer Learning Association (NSLA)	Summer Bootcamp	March 30, 2022, and March 31, 2022	REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Chicago	Black History Month Blessing and Affirmation Virtual Gathering	February 20, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	WTTW	FIRSTHAND: SEGREGATION – An intimate look at segregation in Chicago	February 22, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP)	CAAIP Social Circle Series: Creating and Preserving Black Spaces	February 23, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Chicago Children's Choir	Preserving and Persevering	February 26, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	IL Muslim Civic Coalition	Fireside Chat with Attorney General Keith Ellison as he shares insights on Civic Justice, and coalition building in challenging times	February 27, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Strengthening Chicago's Youth	UJIMA: How Young Men of Color Are Informing Our Mental Health System	February 21, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[2022 Joint Readiness Summit Recording and Resources](#)

On **February 4, 2022**, the City of Chicago hosted a 2022 Joint Readiness Summit to share information about all [active city American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Request for Proposals \(RFPs\) and grant opportunities](#). The recording and complimentary resources are archived for providers to access!

[Black History Month Resources](#)

- [List of BIPOC Consultants](#) from the Chicago African Americans in Philanthropy (CAAIP)
- [28 Days of Black Excellence events](#) hosted by the University of Illinois Chicago

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Mindfulness and Stress Reduction Webinar Series Recordings](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has released the recordings of its Wellness Series for educators and afterschool professionals. The series focuses on mental health and providing strategies for stress reduction. The videos are approximately 1-hour each and are free!

Family and Community Partnerships

[Illinois State Board of Education Translation Tool for Agency's Content](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) recently released its translation tool so individuals can read content on its website in one of 10 languages, including, Arabic, Chinese, English, Gujarati, Korean, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. **To use this feature, click Translate in the top right corner and select one of the available languages. Please note:** Images and PDF files cannot be translated. For more information or for additional help with language access, please call (312) 814-5818 or email aarredon@isbe.net.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Employment Opportunities from Our Partner Organizations!](#)

- [Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago](#), is accepting applications for the institution's full-time [Senior Manager of Out-of-School Programs Educator Development](#). The individual selected

will help to lead all the programming to support afterschool professionals and build up their capacity.

- **Project Exploration** is hiring for its [FY22 Program Director position](#). This person will oversee the STEM out-of-school time programming that this organization offers young people in City of Chicago.
- **Code Your Dreams** is soliciting applications for its [Spring 2022 Financial Technology program](#) for youth in the City of Chicago. This facilitator position is part-time, focuses on delivering programming to youth and Code Your Dreams will accept applications until it is filled.
- **The Children's Discovery Museum** in Normal, Illinois, is looking to hire for two, part-time, summer positions, with start dates quickly approaching. The first position at this institution is for an [Outreach Educator](#) and the second for an [Innovation Station Supervisor](#)! Join this engaging organization!
- **The Chicago Park District** is seeking applications for individuals interested in [summer employment](#). **Applications for these seasonal positions are open until February 28, 2022.**

Professional Development

[Join Our Capacity-Building Kick-Off Event!](#)

ACT Now and the [Illinois Collaboration on Youth \(ICOY\)](#) are collaborating to build community-based organizations' capacity to access funding for violence prevention and youth development programming with support from DHS. ACT Now and ICOY will provide information on a variety of historic funding opportunities, including the [Reimagine Public Safety Act \(RPSA\)](#) grant, which leverages trauma-informed community-based interventions to decrease gun violence in the state. ACT Now and ICOY also seek to share strategies with eligible organizations to help them successfully apply for grants and provide technical assistance. Please join ACT Now and ICOY on [February 22, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.](#), for our virtual kick-off event on funding opportunities, a walkthrough of our capacity-building resources and technical assistance opportunities, and a grant writing workshop. Featured panelists include: Representative Justin Slaughter, Senator Robert Peters, and Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Please reach out to Emma Spencer (Youth Development Associate) with questions or concerns at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org.

[Funding Afterschool Programs: Updates on Current Opportunities](#)

ACT Now invites you to join us for the February Membership Exchange, a monthly virtual forum that facilitates networking, resource sharing, and topical discussions for those in the field of afterschool, out-of-school time, and community schools. This month, on [February 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.](#), **Susan Stanton** (ACT Now Network Lead) will provide insider updates on currently available state funding streams specifically for afterschool programs. She will also share some tips and tricks to grant writing and obtaining funding. Specifically, we will discuss:

- The Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA)
- Restore, Reinvest, Renew (R3) funding
- Updates for 21st CCLC cohorts
- ISBE's After School Programs funding

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

For questions and concerns, please contact **Lesley Fisher Chapman** (Program Coordinator) at ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org.

Family and Community Partnership

[Birth to Five Illinois Action Councils](#)

Birth to Five Illinois is a new initiative from the state of Illinois. It launched in February 2022. There are several important goals for the work:

- To support local residents in coming together to address early childhood needs within their own communities
- To make sure the State's policies and funding priorities match the needs of each region, prioritizing voices of families, providers, and communities
- To provide equitable access to high-quality early childhood services for all children

The initiative is in the process of hiring a [Regional Action Council Manager](#) in each of the 39 regions, currently excluding Chicago. These managers will oversee the formation and ongoing operations of the regional Councils, including hiring the additional staff.

The initiative is also working to stand up one Birth to Five [Action Council](#) and one [Family Council](#) in each of the State's 39 regions, currently excluding Chicago. Each region's Action Council will have around fifteen members with a wide variety of experience. Each region's Family Council will have around 15 family members with young children and/or experience with Illinois' early childhood education and care services. To learn more and fill out an interest form, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[The Teen Opportunity Fairs for City of Chicago Youth](#)

The City of Chicago are hosting a variety of Teen Opportunity fairs that will focus on recreation, education and job readiness. The dates of these events are the following: **Saturday, March 5, 2022, Saturday, March 12, 2022,** and **Saturday, March 19, 2022.**

[Future Founders: Startup Spring Break](#)

[Future Founders](#) is facilitating a free week-long entrepreneurship bootcamp – run in partnership with Google – to empower middle school girls to build the skills and confidence they need to create their own opportunity. **Applications for Startup Spring Break 2022 are due March 7, 2022.**

[Chicago Public Schools Black History Month Scholarship Essay Contest](#)

Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin has announced the 2022 Black History Month Essay Contest. This scholarship recognizes two seniors in Chicago Public Schools' high schools who have

displayed outstanding academic achievement or community involvement and writes a thoughtful and impactful essay (600 – 1,200 words) on a topic related to Black History Month. Participating students must also provide a description of their college plans. The first place winner will receive a \$1,500 award, and the second place winner will receive a \$1,000 award, respectively. **The deadline for submissions is February 28, 2022.**

[Discovery Partners Institute Event for Youth](#)

[The Discovery Partners Institute](#) is planning on hosting its Discover Computing 2: Creative Coding in March and April for interested youth. This free program is open to high school freshman and sophomores who have taken a coding class or were present in the first session. **Apply by February 18, 2022, for priority.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[CLARIFICATION: Reimagine Public Safety Act Grant for Eligible Chicago Neighborhoods](#)

On **February 2, 2022**, the [Illinois Department of Human Service's \(IDHS\) Office of Firearm Violence Prevention \(OFVP\)](#) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for **violence prevention work** within the 22 eligible communities in Chicago. [A technical assistance session will be offered on February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. for potential grantees.](#) While this session is not mandatory, it is highly encouraged. **Proposals are due March 9, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. CST. The NOFOs for youth development programming for communities in Chicago and municipal governments across the State of Illinois have not been released.**

ACT Now has [updated our one-pager to reflect this clarification](#) and continues to partner with the Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) to provide capacity building technical assistance.

Family and Community Partnerships

[The Charitable Trust Grant for Small Nonprofits](#)

The Charitable Trust grant program is accepting applications from Illinois nonprofits with an annual budget of up to \$1 million. Organizations that provide services in three categories (Food Programs, Housing Programs, and Workforce and Economic Development) are eligible to apply. 10 nonprofits will receive up to \$20,000 each. **The deadline to apply is March 31, 2022.**

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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