

ACTNOW!

NEWSLETTER



February

2/5

ACT Now SEL Webinar #2: Responsible Decision Making

2/12

Downstate Community Schools Training

2/22

Suburbs Community Schools Training

2/23

Chicago Community Schools Training

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Out-of-School Time Providers Considered Essential Workers in Phase 1B of Vaccine Priority

On **January 27, 2021**, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **officials clarified that they consider Out-of-School Time (OST) program providers as essential workers along with teachers and child care workers with regard to vaccine priority. This means that OST providers would be considered to be in group 1B of states' vaccine rollout plans. However, each state must include OST workers in their COVID-19 vaccine plans in order for program providers to be eligible to receive the vaccine.** The CDC has designed a COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Toolkit for Essential Workers to help employers build confidence in this important new vaccine. The toolkit will help employers across various industries educate their workforce about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common questions and concerns. To access the toolkit, click [here](#). Partners are encouraged to adapt the key messages to the language, tone, and format that will resonate with the organizations and programs they serve. Programs may place their logo on materials that have a place for your logo, but please retain the CDC URL (www.cdc.gov).

State Policy



ACT Now: FY22 Budget Advocacy Alert to Legislators

Afterschool programs and community schools are an extremely effective resource in solving many of the problems exacerbated by the outbreak of COVID-19. As the nation continues to respond to the pandemic and the State of Illinois faces projected budget cuts to health and human services, it is imperative that we come together to support our youth and most marginalized communities by funding afterschool programs and community schools in Illinois.

ACT Now is asking that the Illinois General Assembly approve the following line items proposed in Governor Pritzker's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget:

- Restore the Teen REACH line item to the funding appropriated in FY18, at \$19.6 million
- Allocate a minimum of \$270 million from U.S. Congress' Child Care Stabilization Fund for CCAP via Child Care Restoration Grants. We ask that there be flexibility in the use of dollars and eligibility for license-exempt providers.
- Develop a new \$15 million line item to support Community Schools in the state
- Include \$3.44 million for After School Matters
- Include \$20 million in direct funding for ISBE's After School Programs line

- Allocate funding for afterschool and Community Schools from the federal COVID-19 relief package

ACT Now & ADVOCATE

Click [HERE](#) to send our advocacy alert

Tell your legislators to Fund Afterschool and Community Schools NOW

[Count Me In](#)

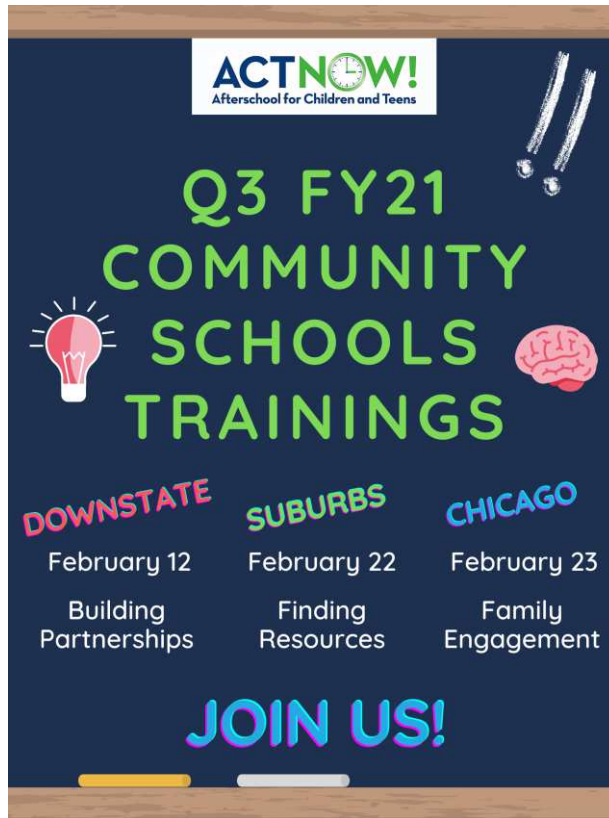
P-20 Council: January Council Meeting Recap

On **January 29, 2021**, the Illinois P-20 Council met. The first part of the meeting addressed how Illinois is addressing connectivity issues in Education, including in relation to access to internet and devices. The second portion the meeting focused on learning renewal in response to the disruption in Education from COVID-19. The plan includes increased opportunities for out-of-school time support, such as afterschool and summer learning programs, as well as increased mental health supports for students. Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala also echoed the need for afterschool and summer learning partnerships in recovery. Council members provided feedback on the lack of transparency in developing the plan, which the Council agreed to examine. ACT Now Network Lead, Susan Stanton, provided public comment about the need for school districts to collaborate with afterschool programs in order to achieve effective learning renewal. For more information about P-20 Council meetings, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration



ACT Now: Q3 FY21 Community Schools Trainings

Community schools are a robust framework of support for our young people and families in Illinois. We know that community schools providers are assessing the needs of their communities and providing integral services amidst the ongoing pandemic. To support the well-being and professional development needs of our community schools programs, **ACT Now** will continue to host training events during 2021. We will be facilitating these trainings virtually and encourage all community schools programs to join our engaging sessions on the following dates:

Downstate Providers

Theme: Building Partnerships

Date: February 12, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To register, click [here](#)

Suburbs Providers

Theme: Finding Resources

Date: February 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To register, click [here](#)

Chicago Providers

Theme: Family Engagement

Date: February 23, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

To register, click [here](#)

To access more information and resources relating to community schools, please check out our Community Schools Corner page, [here](#).

ACT Now: Statewide Quality Standards Trainings (QST) Update

Due to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, **ACT Now** has decided to cancel all in-person Quality Standards Trainings (QST) at the 101 and 102 levels. As a result, additional opportunities have been added for afterschool providers interested in participating in virtual webinars. To register for QST 101 events, click [here](#). Please check our QST page for more information and in order to register for the upcoming QST 102 training by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions and or concerns regarding these trainings, please contact Emma Vibber at VibberE@actnowillinois.org.

ACT Now and the Illinois Partners for Human Services: Advocacy Event

ACT Now and the [Illinois Partners for Human Services](#) invite you to join us for a joint Advocacy Event in collaboration with more than eighteen associations and coalitions. This event is focused on telling our legislators to prioritize investment in health and human services. We are collaborating across service area and sectors to demonstrate the essential work of health and human service providers in our communities, and remind our leaders that we deserve their support. The event will take place via Zoom Webinar on **February 5, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** To register for this event, click [here](#).

Forefront Webinar: Using Data for Storytelling

On **February 3, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, [Forefront](#) is hosting a webinar for afterschool providers and non-profit administrators interested in learning how to use data for storytelling and fundraising. This is the first webinar in a series and it will focus on the impact of data and how to collect in an ongoing manner. To learn about the webinar and to register, click [here](#).

Illinois AfterSchool Network: 35th Annual Spring Conference

[The Illinois AfterSchool Network](#) is hosting its annual spring conference **between April 7, 2021, and April 9, 2021**, online. This year marks 35 years of the event and will provide the afterschool field with the opportunity to participate in engaging professional development

trainings, hear from colleagues in the field speak to a variety of pertinent topics, and elevate youth voices via presentations. There is also time to network! As the event draws closer, keep an eye out for more information. To register for the conference, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ACT Now FY21 STEM Webinar Series: STEM Webinar #3 Recording Available and Upcoming Event

On **January 21, 2021**, **ACT Now** hosted a webinar on Fitting STEM Curricula into OST Programming. To access the webinar recording, click [here](#). **ACT Now** will be hosting its final STEM Webinar on **March 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** on the topic of Connecting STEM To Everyday Life and Career Exploration. To learn more and to register for this event, click [here](#).

ACT Now FY21 SEL Webinar Series: Responsible Decision Making

On **February 4, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, **ACT Now** is hosting our second Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) webinar on Responsible Decision Making. ACT Now will review [CASEL's SEL Competencies](#) and provide an opportunity for afterschool providers to share how they are facilitating SEL curricula, amidst the pandemic and in a variety of environments, to support young people. To register, click [here](#).

National Summer Learning Association Webinar: Entrepreneur Education - Harness Students' Talents and Passions

On **February 3, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, [The National Summer Learning Association](#) is hosting a webinar on the topic of engaging youth in entrepreneur education. In this session, participants will learn about entrepreneurial education as well as free k-12 resources and events that are flexible and can be facilitated in virtual or in-person environments, and also support other program goals such as social-emotional learning, career readiness, STEM, and service learning. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Afterschool Alliance: Youth Voice Week and We <3 Afterschool

Between February 4, 2021 and February 12, 2021, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) is hosting its first Youth Voice Week in celebration of its seven Youth Afterschool Ambassadors! Each day, a Youth Afterschool Ambassador will be sharing their story via the Afterschool Snack blog and be interacting with young people and programs via social media. On the final day, **February 12, 2021**, the Afterschool Alliance invites you to participate in [We <3 Afterschool Day](#) to honor and elevate the ways in which programs have risen to the moment to keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families during difficult times. To

access materials, including a printable activity sheet, graphic, and social media copy, click [here](#)! Don't forget to use the hashtag [#IHeartAfterschool](#) on Twitter and Instagram.

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

ShareMyLesson Curricula: Intentionally Celebrating Black History Month

[ShareMyLesson](#) has developed a list for educators and afterschool providers looking to host intentional conversations about the origins of Black History Month and events that have affected the black community. There are also lesson plans honoring influential poets, professors, politicians, musicians, and more. To access these materials, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education List: Resources for Teaching About Black History Month

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) curated a list of resources for educators and afterschool providers to utilize during Black History Month.

- [BlackPast.org](#) hosts a variety of materials, including transcripts of more than 300 speeches by African Americans, more than 140 full text primary documents, plus timelines and gateway pages to digital archives and African and African American museums. [Here's](#) how you can use Blackpast.org in your programming.
- The [Smithsonian's Learning Lab](#) has shared Black history lesson plans for each grade range [here](#).
- For high school students, [Teaching Tolerance](#) has posted an [online article](#) challenging teachers to expand their lesson plans to allow students to make meaningful connections to current events.
- [Facing History](#) has collected resources and lesson plans for high school students [here](#) to support educators preparing for Black history month.

ISBE is also highlighting a few resources for providers based upon the Inauguration Day [poem](#) by 22-year-old Amanda Gorman. Amanda Gorman is the first person to be named [National Youth Poet Laureate](#) and the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history.

- [Lesson Plan: Discuss 22-year-old Amanda Gorman's inaugural poem "The Hill We Climb" | Lesson Plan | PBS NewsHour Extra](#)
- [Teach This: "The Hill We Climb" and the 2021 Inauguration | Teaching Tolerance](#)
- [Reflecting on Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" | Facing History and Ourselves](#)

eSchool News Article: 8 Virtual Field Trips for STEM Engagement

[eSchool News](#) has highlighted eight opportunities for afterschool providers interested in taking their students on virtual field trips and engaging them in STEM. There are free field trips that showcase the trades, natural resources and conservation efforts, coding, and space. To learn more, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Chicago Learning Exchange: Remake Learning Days CHI Program Survey

The Chicago Learning Exchange (CLX) is looking for program providers in the City of Chicago that want to become partners for its Remake Learning Days CHI events **between May 13, 2021, and May 16, 2021**. CLX and its founding partners, [WTTW Chicago](#), [Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative](#), [Chicago City of Learning](#), [EvanSTEM](#), and [Chicago Public Schools' FACE](#) is converting the city into an open house learning lab to feature more than 100 free events in Chicago and Evanston. These activities are for youth of all ages and families and surround themes of technology and maker spaces, student films and the arts, outdoor learning and more. To learn more about the opportunity and to partner and host programming, click [here](#).

National Summer Learning Association: 2021 Summer Innovation Fellowship Application Open

[The National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#) is soliciting applications from emerging leaders of color in the afterschool and summer learning fields for its new Summer Innovation Fellowship. This Fellowship reflects the need for summer learning programs as communities of color and low-income students continue to address learning

losses. **Applications are due February 12, 2021.** To learn more about the application, click [here](#). To apply, click [here](#).

National Summer Learning Association: Professional Summer Learning Communities

[The National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#) is looking to leverage its expertise and expand its efforts to empower and equip more programs at all stages of development and create deeper partnerships through the formation of ten Professional Summer Learning Communities (PLSCs). To learn more and join one of the PLSCs, please contact Brodrick Clarke at bclarke@summerlearning.org.

Youth Development

Afterschool Alliance and Facebook: Engineer for the Week

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) is partnering with [Facebook's Engineer for the Week \(EFTW\) program](#). EFTW offers a high-quality, cost-free curriculum to help youth and students develop computer science skills and explore engineering. The next program begins **March 15, 2021, and runs until May 14, 2021. Stipends will be awarded to the first 18 programs that complete the project: the first 8 programs will receive \$500, and the next 10 programs will receive \$200.** Registration is due **March 14, 2021.** To learn more and register, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

National Geographic Online Events: STEM, Photography, and Women and Migration

[National Geographic](#) is hosting a variety of online events for youth and programs to participate in. Themes range from learning about dinosaurs and the oceans, to photography and the arts, and finally to women and migration. **Events begin February 8, 2021 and conclude April 12, 2021.** To review the upcoming events and register for the webinars, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: FY21 Multistate Mentoring Programs Initiative

[The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(OJJDP\)](#) is hosting a webinar **today, at 1:00 p.m.**, for organizations interested in applying for the FY21 Multistate Mentoring Programs grant. To learn more about the webinar and to register, click [here](#). This grant programs supports the implementation and delivery of mentoring services to youth that may become involved in the juvenile justice system. Mentoring services can be one-on-one, group, peer, or a combination of these types. Funding can be used to support new mentoring matches or continue existing mentoring matches at the time of application. To read more about this grant opportunity, click here. **Grant proposals are due February 23, 2021.** To learn more about the grant, 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](#).

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