

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER



Presents

Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021:
A Conversation With Statewide Leaders



Ask Questions
Plan for Summer
Support Youth
Help Illinois Recover

JOIN US

March 30, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

ACT Now: Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021 - A Conversation with Statewide Leaders

Join **ACT Now** on **March 30, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** for an engaging conversation with state leaders to discuss the role of summer programs in supporting youth and families this year as our communities continue to address academic loss, food insecurity, isolation, and more. Panelists will include:

Secretary Grace Hou - Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services

Tim Verry - Director of Division of Family & Community Services for the Illinois Department of Human Services

Krish Mohip - Deputy Operational Educational Officer at the Illinois State Board of Education

Cara Wiley - Director of Regulatory Support and Wellness and Acting 21st CCLC Supervisor at the Illinois State Board of Education

Representative Aaron Ortiz - Illinois General Assembly

Fanny Diego Alvarez - Program Officer for the Grand Victoria Foundation

Register [HERE](#)

Please note that when you register, you will be able to submit your questions for our panelists.

ACT Now: New Blog Post

Trust - Our Most Important Tool of All

In February, ACT Now's Spring 2021 Intern HannaMarie Hohener, interviewed Seth El-Jamal, the Director of Prevention and Intervention Services at Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY). To read HannaMarie's blog post, click [here](#).

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

President Joseph Biden: American Rescue Plan Signed into Law - Historic Funding for Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs

On **March 11, 2021**, President Joseph Biden signed the [American Rescue Plan](#) into law. This piece of legislation will send a historic-level of funding to afterschool and summer learning programs in order to help and support our young people and families as we begin to recover from the pandemic. Funding for afterschool and summer learning providers is as follows:

- **\$8.45 billion will be made available to State Education Agencies (SEAs), like the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).** In total, SEAs will allocate \$1.22 billion for summer enrichment, \$1.22 billion for afterschool programs, and approximately \$6 billion for learning recovery - with afterschool and summer learning programs as allowable uses.
- **\$22 billion will be made available to Local Education Agencies (LEAs), or school districts.** School districts must utilize this funding for learning recovery strategies, including afterschool and summer enrichment programs.

- **\$39 billion for child care providers, which also includes school-age child care providers.** These dollars will flow to states' child care agencies, such as the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS).
- **\$1 billion for Corporation for National and Community Service through AmeriCorps** for AmeriCorps positions to help address learning recovery and other purposes
- **\$350 billion for state and local governments that can be used in part for child care and other purposes**

Funding from the bill can be spent until September 2023. To read more about this historic bill, click [here](#).

U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Supreme Court: Public Charge Rule Permanently Blocked Nationwide

On **March 9, 2021**, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) stopped defending the Trump Administration's Public Charge regulations. **The Trump Administration's 2019 Public Charge rule is permanently blocked, nationwide.** Under this policy, it is safe for immigrants and their families to access health, nutrition, and housing programs for which they are eligible. To read more about this policy update, click [here](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture: Extension of COVID-19 Meal Waivers Announced

On **March 9, 2021**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the nationwide extension of several waivers that allow all children to continue to receive nutritious meals this summer when schools are not in session. **These flexibilities are now available through September 30, 2021.** In addition, these waivers:

- Allow meals served through the [Summer Food Service Program \(SFSP\)](#) and [Seamless Summer Option \(SSO\)](#), which are collectively known as "[summer meal programs](#)" – to be made available in all regions of the U.S. for free
- Allow meals to be served outside of the normally required group settings and meal times
- Allow parents and guardians to pick-up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding children

To learn more information about the waivers, click [here](#).

State Policy

Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Rural Vaccination Pilot Program Launched

Yesterday, March 15, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker announced that the State of Illinois will be launching a rural vaccination pilot program in order to further expand accessibility to COVID-19

vaccinations. Beginning this week, additional National Guard mobile operations will visit rural communities across the state with the capability to deliver upwards of 1,000 doses of the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine per day. To read the full press release and access the list of locations, click [here](#).

P-20 Council: March Board Meeting Recap

On **March 12, 2021**, the P-20 Council met. The Council heard a recap of the impact of the American Rescue Plan on Illinois. The P-20 Council held breakout discussions on State-Led Initiatives in support of learning renewal. These projects cover the following topics: interim assessment, social and emotional supports and community partnerships, cross-sector transition support, and high-impact tutoring. The support of community schools, community-based organizations, and 21st CCLC came up several times in these discussions. The Council also heard a proposal to amend our state's 60 by 25 goals to 65% of Illinoisans by 2035 as well as equity-focused targets to accelerate enrollment and completion for sub-groups.

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	Afterschool Town Hall - COVID, Summer Programming, and Planning for Vaccinations	March 2, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	To access the recording, click here
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Downstate Providers: Family Engagement	March 25, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	Forefront	Webinar: Ask a Consultant - COVID Relief and Tax Benefits	March 17, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Click here
	National Summer Learning Association	Webinar: \$122 Billion for Education in American Rescue Plan: What it means for OST programs	March 18, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Click here
Youth Development	ACT Now	FY21 SEL Webinar #3: Self-Management	March 4, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	To access the recording, click here

	ACT Now	FY21 STEM Webinar #4: Connecting STEM to Everyday Life & Career Exploration	March 24, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
	National Council on Behavioral Health	Webinar: Adolescent Social Isolation and Loneliness	March 19, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Click here
	Project Exploration	STEM in the CHI Summit for K-12 Youth	March 29, 2021 through April 2, 2021.	Click here
	Science Olympiad	Webinar: Spring into Summer with Science Olympiad	April 14, 2021, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Click here
Family and Community Partnerships	ACT Now	FY21 Family Engagement Webinar Series Each webinar is \$10. Please note that these trainings are not recorded. <i>For group pricing for more than 5 participants within the same organization, please contact Emma Vibber at VibberE@actnowillinois.org</i>	Part III: March 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Attorney General Kwame Raoul	Training: Preventing Targeted Violence in Our Communities: A Behavior-Based Approach	April 19, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Email specialevents@atg.state.il.us with your full name, title, organization, and email address

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

After School Matters and American Institutes for Research Brief: Summer Learning from Screen to Screen

Our friends at [After School Matters](#) and the [American Institutes for Research \(AIR\)](#) have published a brief that highlights data the two organizations compiled over Summer 2020 on afterschool and summer programming. This report helps to better contextualize and understand the lived-experiences of Chicago teens and instructors during the COVID-19 pandemic, and gain actionable learnings on the impact of remote out-of-school-time programs. To review the complete brief, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Education Week Article: Top U.S. Companies: These Are the Skills Students Need in a Post-Pandemic World

[Education Week](#) has published an article on the skills that large companies in the United States believe are important to foster in young people. These skillsets are tied to the social-emotional well-being of youth and the article provides insight into why providers should continue to build up them up. To read the article, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: Emotional Intelligence and Social Emotional Learning Task Force Report

[The Illinois State Board of Education's](#) Emotional Intelligence and Social Emotional Learning (EISEL) Task Force has developed a final report for school and program administrators that hosts age-appropriate emotional intelligence and social and emotional learning curriculum, assessment guidelines, and best practices for elementary schools and high schools. To read the report and its recommendations, click [here](#).

Children's Discovery Museum: Low-Cost STEM Kits Available for Purchase

[The Children's Discovery Museum](#) has created a set of kits for educators and afterschool providers to utilize in programming. This initiative was in response to the inability to host field trips to the Museum's Motion exhibit. There are a variety of low-cost kits for youth in grades K-5. To learn more about these kits, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Learning Policy Institute Resources: Reopening Schools

[The Learning Policy Institute \(LPI\)](#) has created a website that hosts a collection of curated health and safety resources relating to reopening schools and programs. Resources include public health research, guidance documents, news articles, and profiles of counties and districts that have opened for in-person learning. To access these materials, click [here](#).

ZocDoc: COVID-19 Vaccination Screener

[ZocDoc](#) has released a COVID-19 vaccination screener to help you, your colleagues, and your community know if you are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination in Illinois. No personal information is necessary in order to utilize the survey. In order to access this screening mechanism, click [here](#).

Family and Community Partnerships

Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Resource Center: Resources for Bilingual Parents and Families

[The Illinois State Board of Education](#) and the [Illinois Resource Center](#) have compiled [videos](#) for bilingual parents and family members that showcases subjects and information relevant to parents, caretakers and community members, such as the role of Bilingual Parent Advisory Committees, Financial Aid for College, Tenant Rights, Multilingual Student Rights and much more! To access more information on the supports, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

ACT Now: Program Coordinator Position

ACT Now is seeking applicants for its newest full-time position of Program Coordinator. The candidate who fills this position will have the opportunity to work on the development of ACT Now trainings and webinars for afterschool providers and community schools. The Program Coordinator will also help to foster ACT Now member relations. Applicants should have excellent communications skills, a strong work ethic, an ability to take direction and work independently, enthusiasm, and a background in youth development. To review the responsibilities of the position as well as the application eligibility, click [here](#). Please send a cover letter, resume (including GPA), and 2 writing samples to Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, at stantons@actnowillinois.org. **This position is open and ready to be filled**

immediately. Please submit applications by April 23, 2021. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

National AfterSchool Association: Be Counted Campaign Survey

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) is launching its Be Counted Campaign, which is a brief survey for professionals and leaders who work with or on behalf of young people in out-of-school time. Participants gain a chance to win \$25 Visa gift cards and registration coupons for NAA's 2022 Convention in Las Vegas! To complete the survey, click [here](#).

Youth Development

My CHI. My Future: Spring Forward Program Interest Form

[My CHI. My Future](#) is hosting a spring break initiative aimed to engage youth in fun and service-oriented opportunities between **March 27, 2021, and April 3, 2021** (Chicago Public Schools' spring break). In addition to My CHI. My Future's planned programs, the organization wants to highlight all its partners' in-person and virtual programming. To review and complete the form, click [here](#).

Chicago Student Invention Convention: Judges for Virtual Event

[The Chicago Student Invention Convention](#) is hosting a virtual event on **May 1, 2021**, to showcase the participants' inventions. The organization will be using the platform Hop In. Currently the Chicago Student Invention Convention is looking for judges to review the pitch videos of students' projects. Scoring will occur during the month of April before the virtual event in May. Judges may be former educators, STEM professionals, or individuals with past-experience in judging or a background in Youth Development work. To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

ACT Now: Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2021

ACT Now is seeking applicants for our paid Policy and Communications Internship for Summer 2021. **Applications are due to Emma Spencer at SpencerE@actnowillinois.org on April 2, 2021, by 5:00 p.m.** To review the full posting, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Illinois Global Scholar Event: Virtual Youth Summit

[The Illinois Global Scholar](#) is hosting a virtual youth summit featuring students from Illinois, Jordan, and the European Union on **March 20, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The virtual summit will include a short keynote speech from Chicago trauma nurse Wali Kahn, two flash talks from Illinois Global Scholars, and an extended dialogue experience with participants around the world! For youth 14 years old and older and their teachers or administrators, this event is free. To register, click [here](#).

National Girls Collaborative Project and The Hello Studios: Brite 2021

[The National Girls Collaborative Project](#) and [the Hello Studios](#) are hosting Brite 2021. Brite 2021 is a two-week, online, interdisciplinary STEM program for girls ages 13 to 16 years old. Brite will be held from **July 12, 2021, to July 22, 2021**, and will provide an online suite of activities centered on collaborative learning with female role models. **Applications for this opportunity are due March 22, 2021.** To learn more about this STEM program and to apply, click [here](#).

America's Promise and Allstate Foundation: The Power of Youth Challenge - Youth Leading Racial Healing

[America's Promise](#) and the [Allstate Foundation](#) have partnered in order to provide young people the opportunity to become leaders and design projects that promote racial equity and address systemic racism. Youth, ages 13 to 19, will engage with like-minded peers from across the U.S. and become eligible to apply for a \$250 grant to support a (COVID-safe) service project. **Applications are due April 30, 2021.** To learn more about this challenge, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Administration

Chicago Racial Justice Pooled Fund: Request for Proposals Open

[The Chicago Racial Justice Pooled Fund \(the Fund\)](#) is soliciting Request for Proposals (RFPs) from Chicago-based organizations that work to support and empower the social, economic and political goals of Black, Indigenous, and Brown communities. The Fund is comprised of thirteen foundations that aim to raise and move \$3 million to organizations building and sustaining movements for justice that center Black lives and address anti-Blackness. To submit an RFP and to learn more, 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.

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