

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## ACT Now Statement on Events of March 16, 2021

**ACT Now** stands with the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) community and condemns the rise in anti-AAPI violence that has surged since the beginning of the pandemic and the devastating events in Georgia last week. It is with a heavy heart that we write to you, our members, for a third time in less than a year condemning acts of violence in our county. However, we think it is important to continue to make our stance on issues of hate and violence very clear and also reach out to the afterschool community to offer support as you are an essential support network in protecting our youth from bullying, hate, and violence.

A few points we want to underscore:

1. We must stand with and support our AAPI colleagues, communities, and youth.
2. Anti-AAPI hate should be a part of our antiracism work.
3. Referring to the Coronavirus as the "Chinese virus" or "Kung flu" is hate speech. The prevalence of these phrases in mainstream media is harmful to our youth and their families and promotes bullying.
4. There is a long held American history of using Asian Americans as scapegoats for diseases. Further, this rise in hate is not new and isolated and to address this hate we must acknowledge that history.

We have included resources in regards to this work in the resources section of this newsletter. I encourage you all to take an active role in this work. One small step I am taking personally is participating in a training on bystander intervention for anti-Asian hate. **ACT Now** welcomes you to reach out to discuss these events and share resources with us as well.

In Solidarity,

Susan Stanton, Network Lead  
Illinois ACT Now Coalition

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**ACT Now: Celebrate Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week (April 19, 2021 - April 23, 2021)!**

To thank our afterschool professionals and elevate the amazing work you all have done over the past year, **ACT Now** is looking to spotlight staff members and programs that have engaged with the Coalition on our social media platforms and in our weekly newsletter throughout Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week. We will also share your stories and experiences with legislators and state agencies to advocate on your behalf!

**ACT Now** will be selecting five individuals to be recipients of a \$25 Amazon Gift Card! Please email Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at [Spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto:Spencere@actnowillinois.org). Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member and the name of the afterschool program.

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## Policy Updates

### Federal Policy

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Updated Guidance for K-12 Institutions on Social Distancing in Classrooms**

On **March 19, 2021**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it has updated its operational strategy guide for K-12 schools in order to reflect new evidence on physical distancing within classrooms. The CDC stated that:

- With universal masking, students should maintain a distance of at least 3 feet in classroom settings.
- In elementary schools, CDC recommends all students remain at least 3 feet apart in classrooms where mask use is universal — regardless of whether community transmission is low, moderate, substantial, or high.
- In middle and high schools, CDC also recommends students should be at least 3 feet apart in classrooms where mask use is universal and in communities where transmission is low, moderate, or substantial.
- Middle school students and high school students should be at least 6 feet apart in communities where transmission is high, if cohorting is not possible.

To read this updated guidance, click [here](#).

## State Policy

### **Chalkbeat Chicago: Chicago Public Schools Potentially Will Bring Back Students in August**

**Yesterday, March 22, 2021**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) stated that the school district is moving forward with its plans to start the school year 2021-2022 on **August 31, 2021**, rather than waiting for after the Labor Day holiday. This change in the school calendar reflects vast concerns from school administrators and families alike of learning loss and other school disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chicago Board of Education will vote tomorrow on this proposal. Under this new start date, educators would return to school on **August 18, 2021**. CPS has also extended the date for families to choose whether their child(ren) return(s) to in-person learning for the fourth quarter, which begins **April 19, 2021**, as part of its staggered reopening plan. For the first time in over a year, high school families also have that option. The district has set a target high school reopening date of **April 19, 2021**, pending the outcome of negotiations with Chicago Teachers Union (CTU). To read the full Chalkbeat article, click [here](#).

### **Chalkbeat Chicago: Chicago Public Schools to Allocate Funding for Trauma and Mental Health Services for Students**

**Yesterday, March 22, 2021**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) representatives shared that the school district plans to allocate \$24 million, of the \$1.8 billion in federal COVID-19 relief (The American Rescue Plan) directed to CPS, to provide students with trauma and mental health programming. The school district will expend this aid over the course of three years and aims to expand the number of behavioral support teams from 200 schools to approximately 500 across school sites. Overall, CPS is looking to reinforce its support service teams with onboarding social workers, school counselors, and

school nurses. Funding will also be utilized to partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) via grants in order to meet this goal. To read the full Chalkbeat article, click [here](#).

### **Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Governor Expands COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility to All Residents Age 16+ Starting in April**

On **March 18, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that starting on **April 12, 2021, all residents age 16 and older will be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccination regardless of location and medical background.** This is in direct response to an increase in the national COVID-19 vaccination supply and heightened capacity to administer the vaccination to Illinoisans across the state. All vaccinations are by appointment only. To access information on vaccination sites, click [here](#). The Governor's Office shared that there will also be announcements for populations that are to be prioritized before universal eligibility. Finally, IDPH shared that the agency has released a metrics-based, vaccination-informed framework for Illinois to advance to Phase 5 of the state's Restore Illinois Plan. To read this framework, click [here](#). To read the full press release, click [here](#).

### **Illinois State Board of Education: March Board Meeting Recap**

On **March 17, 2021**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met for its monthly meeting. The Board heard public comment about the Social Science Standards, assessments, and the CPS Monitor. The Board heard a presentation on ESSER II funds. **Dr. Ayala mentioned that the state would be using \$11.5 million of its state set aside from ESSER II for community schools.** The Board also heard presentations from superintendents about their plans for ESSER II funding, which included afterschool and summer programs and tutoring. To access the meeting materials for the March meeting and information about future Board meetings, click [here](#).

### **Illinois Department of Public Health: Mobile COVID-19 Test Sites to Focus on High-Risk Populations**

On **March 16, 2021**, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced that the agency will be focusing its mobile COVID-19 testing campaign on high-demand and high-risk populations across the state of Illinois. This is in direct response to a decline in the number of residents utilizing testing sites and in preparation for the next phases of the pandemic response. As a result, IDPH will be deploying its mobile testing teams to locations such as schools, processing plants, high risk workplaces, and other targeted locations. To review the locations of mobile testing sites and the full press release, click [here](#).

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

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# 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 <a href="#">here</a>
	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 <a href="#">here</a>
	ACT Now	Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021 - A Conversation with Statewide Leaders	March 31, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click <a href="#">here</a>
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Suburban Providers: Evaluation and Needs Assessment	April 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click <a href="#">here</a>
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Chicago Providers: Advisory Boards	April 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click <a href="#">here</a>
	<a href="#">America's Promise Alliance</a>	Webinar: Lessons from the Pandemic: Re-engaging Students Who Have Left School during COVID-19	March 25, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	Click <a href="#">here</a>
Youth Development	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 <a href="#">here</a>

**Safety, Health,  
and Nutrition**

<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Safe2Help Illinois: A School Safety Program	<b>April 14, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Requirements for the Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out and Physical Restraint	<b>April 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - From the Depths of Hate to Spreading Hope for Tolerance	<b>April 14, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Dietary Guidelines for Americans & the Connection to School Nutrition	<b>April 14, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Promoting Year-Round Meals	<b>April 14, 2021, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Self-Care During the Pandemic	<b>April 15, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Let's Not Forget About Ourselves: Self-Care Strategies for Adults Working with Trauma-Exposed Youth	<b>April 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Queering Advocacy for School Communities	<b>April 15, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Illinois State Board of Education</u></a>	ISBE Wellness Conference - Student Panel: 2020-2021 Student Advisory Council	<b>April 15, 2021, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.</b>	Click <a href="#"><u>here</u></a>

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

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## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### **ACT Now: Anti Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Hate Resources**

**ACT Now** has compiled a list of resources on Anti-AAPI hate and violence. We will continue to share resources with our membership.

- [Stop AAPI Hate](#): A resource to report hate incidents.
- [A Different Asian American Timeline](#): A resource that provides a multi-faceted explanation of Asian American history to help you better understand the broader context of racism.
- [Video Lesson on Anti-AAPI Hate](#): Video, lesson plan, and discussion questions for discussing anti-AAPI hate with young people.
- [Classroom Resources and Tips to Address Anti-Asian Discrimination](#)
- [Anti-Asian Violence Resources and Statistics](#)

### Youth Development

#### **eSchool News Article: Tips for Teaching SEL in a Hybrid Environment**

[eSchool News](#) has developed eight tips for providers and educators interested in facilitating SEL competencies in a hybrid environment. The article also highlights certain curriculum for doing so. To read the tips, click [here](#).

#### **NASA: Spring and Summer 2021 Opportunities for Youth and Afterschool Providers**

[NASA](#) has published its Spring and Summer 2021 opportunities for youth and afterschool providers. These events include virtual opportunities for youth to design their own projects and models and encourage more girls to enter into STEM professions. There are also professional development opportunities for educators and afterschool providers. There is even a section on funding opportunities! To review the full list of activities and trainings, click [here](#).

# Family and Community Partnerships

## Get My Payment Illinois Coalition: Training to Support Clients with Accessing Stimulus Checks

[The Get My Payment Illinois Coalition](#) is providing free training to nonprofit case managers to support clients still waiting for their stimulus checks. Participants will be trained to help people assess their eligibility for stimulus checks and tax credits, take the next steps, and file their own tax returns, even if they have never done it before. **Trainings will be hosted March 25, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., and March 31, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.** To register for the **March 25, 2021**, event, click [here](#). To register for the **March 31, 2021**, event, click [here](#).

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

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# 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](mailto: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.*

### Forefront and Education Equity Fund: 2021 Education Equity Cohort

[Forefront](#) and the [Education Equity Fund](#) soliciting applications for their fellowship. The organizations are looking to support 12 professionals serving nonprofit education organizations in Chicago. Selected individuals will participate in eight customized workshops and receive a \$5,000

honorarium paid to their organization. **Applications are due April 12, 2021 by 9:00 a.m.** To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, click [here](#).

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

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## 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](mailto:SpencerE@actnowillinois.org) on April 2, 2021, by 5:00 p.m.** To review the full posting, click [here](#).

### Youth Development

#### **Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago: Black Liberation Art Contest**

[The Potocsnak Family Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine](#) (Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago) is hosting the Black Liberation Art Contest which will support and install three pieces of artwork on the themes of racial justice and Black liberation at their 1440 N. Dayton Street location. Priority will be given to Black youth artists. The winners of the contest will receive \$600 and a \$100 Black gift certificate. To learn more about the contest, click [here](#). To register for the contest, click [here](#). Please contact Saleha Salaam (she/her) at [SSalam@lurichildrens.org](mailto:SSalam@lurichildrens.org) with any questions or concerns.

#### **Mayor of Chicago's Youth Commission: EDUCON**

[The Mayor of Chicago's Youth Commission](#) is hosting EDUCON on **April 3, 2021**, for middle and high school students interested in learning how to navigate moments of transition. For middle school youth, the Youth Commission will speak about making the transition to high school from **12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** For older youth, the Youth Commission will facilitate a discussion around college life, expectations, and concerns, from **1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** To register for these ZOOM events, click [here](#).

## **The Shift: Mental Health Rally**

[My CHI. My Future.](#) has partnered with [The Shift](#) in order to bust stigma, promote wellness, and discuss mental health in young people. The two organizations will also be hosting a mental health rally on **May 15, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.** and are looking for youth to elevate their stories and ideas. Youth may submit videos for the rally. To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

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

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# Funding Opportunities

## Youth Development

### **eSchool News Article: 5 Fun Education Grants and Contests for Schools and Youth**

[eSchool News](#) has listed five education grant opportunities for schools and program providers to apply for. The education grants surround the topics of solving health challenges, strengthening financial literacy, promoting innovative ideas around sustainable communities, and supporting interest in STEAM learning. Some opportunities are limited to school districts, while others are open to community-based organizations (CBOs) and families. To review the full article, click [here](#).

### **Youth Service America and Hershey: Heartwarming Young Heroes Grant**

[Youth Service America \(YSA\)](#) and [Hershey](#) are soliciting applications from youth ages 5 to 25 for the Heartwarming Young Heroes grant. The organizations are awarding \$50,000 in grants for youth-led service projects and community-building activities that promote empathy and foster meaningful relationships. These projects must be facilitated during Global Youth Service Day (**April 23, 2021 to April 25, 2021**). **Applications are due March 31, 2021.** To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

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

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One North Dearborn, Suite 1000, Chicago, IL 60602 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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