

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER



ACT Now & Advocate: April Advocacy 2021

ACT Now is launching our annual April Advocacy 2021 campaign by sharing our new advocacy toolkit with our membership! Join us during the month of April in highlighting the importance of afterschool, summer learning programs, and community schools across the state of Illinois. **We can't do it without you!**

DOWNLOAD IT [HERE!](#)

Don't forget to take action and tell your state and federal elected officials to support afterschool in order to keep families working and youth safe and learning! **It only takes 1 minute!**

STATE ACTION ALERT - Click [HERE](#)

FEDERAL ACTION ALERT - Click [HERE](#)



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. Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member and the name of the afterschool program.

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

Afterschool Alliance: American Rescue Plan Provides Necessary Funding for the Child Care Block Development Grant

The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) provides funding for low-income and working families so that they can access quality child care for children ages 0 to 13 years old. The American Rescue Plan provided \$39 billion of funding support for the CCDBG program and will be added to the \$5.9 billion appropriated for the program for FY 2021. Of the \$39 billion of federal aid, nearly \$15 billion will be utilized to expand child care assistance to families, providers, and support the child care needs of essential workers. The remaining funding, approximately \$24 billion, will be used to create a stabilization fund for eligible child care providers, including programs that were not eligible for previous CCDBG funding. The state of Illinois is projected to receive the following funding:

- Expanded Child Care Assistance: \$497,857,043
- Child Care Stabilization Fund: \$796,272,356

To read the Afterschool Alliance's article on this historic funding, 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 |
|----------------|--------------|---|---|---|
| Administration | ACT Now | Afterschool Town Hall - COVID, Summer Programming, and Planning for Vaccinations | | To access the recording, click here |
| | ACT Now | Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021 - A Conversation with Statewide Leaders | Today, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. | Click here |
| | 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 here |
| | ACT Now | Q4 Community Schools Training for Chicago Providers: Advisory Boards | April 22, 2021, from | Click here |

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| | | | 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. | |
| | Partnership for Children & Youth | Make Your Summer Game Plan Webinar Series: Creating Solutions for Summer Staffing | April 1, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. | Click here |
| | National Summer Learning Association | Fine Tune Your Engine for High Impact Summer Operations | April 7, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Click here |
| | Partnership for Children & Youth | Make Your Summer Game Plan Webinar Series: How to Engage High School Youth in Summer Learning | April 8, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. | Click here |
| | Illinois AfterSchool Network | Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week Event: The Afternoon Workout! Moving through your day in a HEALTHY Way! | April 21, 2021, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Click here |
| | Partnership for Children & Youth | Make Your Summer Game Plan Webinar Series: Creating Solutions for Summer Staffing - Partnering with Higher Education and Pre-Service Teachers | April 22, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. | Click here |
| | Partnership for Children & Youth | Make Your Summer Game Plan Webinar Series: How to Engage English Learners in Summer Learning | April 29, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. | Click here |
| Youth Development | ACT Now | FY21 STEM Webinar #4: Connecting STEM to Everyday Life & Career Exploration | | To access the recording, click here |
| | Lt. Governor Stratton's Office | Women and Girls Summit: Advocating for Self-Care | March 31, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. | The events will be livestreamed on Facebook and Twitter |
| | All Stars Project | Creating Developmental and Empowering Conversations with Young People – An Interactive Workshop | May 7, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. or June | Click here |

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| | | | 11, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. | |
| | All Stars Project | The Hidden Power of Ensemble Building – An Interactive Workshop | November 5, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. | Click here |
| Safety, Health, and Nutrition | Protecting Immigrant Families | Improving Immigrant Access to COVID Vaccines: Public Policy and Outreach Strategies | March 31, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Click here |
| | National Summer Learning Association | Incorporating Interactive Nutrition Education into Your Summer Program | March 31, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Click here |

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Afterschool Alliance Brief: Afterschool and Summer Learning Renewal

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has published a brief on the importance of summer learning programs as they relate to supporting our young people and ensuring that students begin the journey of academic recovery and social-emotional healing in an equitable manner. To read the brief, click [here](#).

National AfterSchool Association Resource: Preparing for Funding from the American Rescue Plan

[The National AfterSchool Association](#) has compiled resources for afterschool providers to utilize in order to prepare for the influx of the federal aid from the American Rescue Plan. Resources include talking points that can be used to encourage potential partners, such as school districts, to collaborate with programs. To review the resources, click [here](#).

Education Week Article: Data Indicates that During Pandemic Nearly Half of All Students Learned Remotely

[Education Week](#) has published an article with survey data from the federal government that indicates that more than half of all students in the United States participated in remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. To review this data, click [here](#).

Wallace Foundation: Summer Programming Recruitment Toolkit

[The Wallace Foundation](#) has released a toolkit for program providers on how to encourage youth to participate in summer programming. The toolkit also highlights strategies for partnering with school districts and other providers in order to leverage resources. To read how five school districts have planned for summer 2021, click [here](#).

Family and Community Partnerships

Education Week Article: Anti-Asian Violence - What Schools Should Start Doing About It

[Education Week](#) has published an article with suggestions and strategies for school districts attempting to address the topic of violence against Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) with students. The article also hosts information pertinent to supporting AAPI youth in afterschool programs and hosting difficult discussions. To read the article, 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.*

Forefront and Education Equity Fund: Fellowship Opportunity for Nonprofit Education Organizations

[Forefront](#) and the [Education Equity Fund](#) are soliciting applications for their fellowship opportunity. This experience is for 12 professionals serving nonprofit education organizations in Chicago. Selected applicants will participate in 8 customized workshops and receive a \$5,000 honorarium paid to their organization. **Applications are due April 12, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.** To review the application, click [here](#).

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: Continuous Quality Improvement Community Conference

[The Continuous Quality Improvement \(CQI\) Community](#) is inviting applicants to submit a proposal for its Annual CQI Community Conference. The conference is will be taking place virtually on **October 6, 2021, and October 7, 2021**. The conference will focus on community engagement and equity and how CQI can make a positive impact in these areas. To learn more about this opportunity, and to submit your proposal, click [here](#).

Youth Development

American Writers Museum: OnWord Student Writing Competition

[The American Writers Museum](#) is soliciting submissions from students in grades K-12 for its second annual OnWord Student Writing Competition. Educators, afterschool providers, and young people themselves can submit their work based on the prompt: ***Using writing as a catalyst to create change in the world, would you empower, inspire or disrupt?*** Students will be eligible to win up to \$2,000! **Submissions are due June 15, 2021.** To learn more about this opportunity, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: COVID-19 Vaccination Survey

On March 2, 2021, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services directed states and territories to get all teachers, school personnel, child care program educators, and other child care program staff members their first coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination by the end of the month. We need

your help to monitor the implementation efforts of this directive. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a short survey to learn:

- The estimated number of staff in child care programs who have received a COVID-19 vaccination
- Their reasons for getting vaccinated
- The vaccination concerns or challenges that people who have not been vaccinated may have

To take the brief survey, 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

My CHI. My Future.: Spring Forward Events for Youth

[My CHI. My Future.](#) has partnered with community-based organizations and afterschool providers to host over 200 spring break programs, including job opportunities, for youth. There are in-person and virtual programs for children and teens. The in-person activities are based in the City of Chicago. Check out My CHI. My Future.'s homepage and toggle through the "Fun," "Service," and "Opportunities" panels to learn more about these events. To access the homepage, click [here](#).

My CHI. My Future.: One Summer Chicago Applications Open

[My CHI. My Future.'s](#) One Summer Chicago program is soliciting applications from youth. The program aims to provide teens ages 14 to 24 with more than 20,000 paid opportunities during the summer months. To review these opportunities and apply, click [here](#).

Chicago Public Library: Spring Break Programming

This Spring Break, the [Chicago Public Library](#) will be hosting virtual programming for both children (ages 5 to 12) and teens (ages 13 to 18). To access all the great art, media, and reading related content the library has to offer during spring break, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

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

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