

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ISBE Restores Funding for All 21st CCLC Grantees!

Dear **ACT Now** Members,

Yesterday, on August 29, 2022, the [Illinois State Board Education \(ISBE\)](#) announced that the agency would be rolling back its decision to withhold funding from all 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC). As such, we will not be doing additional advocacy around this situation. **ACT Now** is incredibly grateful for our partners and the collaboration we have seen in the field over the past few weeks. We could not have accomplished this result without you all. We are also appreciative that ISBE heard our concerns and took action. We are hopeful that 21st CCLC programs are now set up for success for this school year and can focus their efforts on serving students and families across the state. We look forward to continuing to work with ISBE to provide feedback on grantee needs and effective monitoring practices.

Sincerely,



Susan Stanton (Network Lead)

New ACT Now Team Members

ACT Now would like to introduce two of three new staff members to our Coalition! **Meet Kasey and Andrew!**



Kasey Brown is excited to join the **ACT Now** team as an Afterschool Resource and Support Specialist. Throughout her time in the family services sector, Kasey found a love for community outreach, specifically youth-centered support. As a former program coordinator for Teen REACH, she is thrilled for the opportunity to use her experience in direct service to further connect with community members!



Andrew Hitzhusen is also excited to join the **ACT Now** team! After four years in the classroom as a History teacher in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, Andrew has seen first hand the incredible benefit of a robust afterschool program. When he's not working, Andrew is often teaching at an extracurricular arts program in Oak Park or handwriting letters to friends and family.

Welcome, Kasey and Andrew!

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[President Joseph Biden Announces Student Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

On **August 24, 2022**, President Joseph Biden announced his "three-part plan delivers on President Biden's promise to cancel \$10,000 of student debt for low- to middle-income borrowers." This plan aims to support students attain post-secondary education and strengthen the workforce as many individuals have had to navigate burdensome debt and other life changing events. The government will forgive up to \$20,000 for Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 in student loans for other borrowers. In addition to this debt relief, the White House also announced a final extension for the federal student loan repayment until **December 31, 2022**, and a 5% payment cap of a borrower's monthly income. For the majority of individuals earning less than \$125,000 a year, or the 93% of married couples filing jointly that make less than \$250,000 per year, this debt relief also applies. The White House had [developed a website to help share more information](#) about this program, including eligibility and deadlines for applications.

State Updates

[Chicago Public Schools Chief Unveils His Blueprint for Bouncing Back from the Pandemic](#)

On **August 24, 2022**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Chief, Pedro Martinez, shared the school district's new three year blueprint that promises to improve services for students with disabilities, strengthen career and technical education, make grading and school admissions fairer, and expand afterschool and summer programming. The first step of the plan will be to revitalize the district's neighborhood schools, which has been one of Martinez's priorities since he stepped into the role. School Board members praised the plan, specifically for its efforts to incorporate family and employee input.

For an archive of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Professional Development	ACT Now	The Scope of Afterschool in Illinois <i>*Audience: school districts and administrators</i>	Tomorrow , from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training (QST) 101	September 1, 2022 , from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER

	ACT Now	Community Schools Statewide Q1 Convening: The Extended Learning Day	September 21, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network and Girls Who Code	Introduction to Partnership with Girls who Code	September 3, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	Institute for Educational Leadership and the Coalition for Community Schools	Virtual Youth Town Hall: How Adults Can Help Address Challenges in the New School Year	September 22, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Community Resilience: Rebuilding Communities after Mass Tragedy	September 14, 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

[New Data on the Impact of COVID-19 on Programs](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) recently released more data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on afterschool programs nationwide. The dashboard, and accompanying data, highlights challenges from spring 2022 and also shares information on the top issues that programs are responding to as they relate to children's needs.

[The State of Afterschool Programs: Results of a National Survey on Programming During a Pandemic](#)

To assess the current state of afterschool programs, the [EdWeek Research Center](#) conducted a nationally representative survey of school principals and afterschool employees between May and June of 2022. The survey examined the types of activities that programs provide, perceptions of pandemic-related changes, and hiring or retention difficulties.

Youth Development

[Teachers Are Struggling to Find Time to Implement SEL](#)

[eSchool News](#) published an article about how many teachers do not have the capacity to implement social and emotional learning (SEL) curricula into their classrooms. The main challenges cited include lack of time to facilitate SEL activities and little support from school administrators. The article notes how the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on students' mental health, making SEL more important than ever.

[Celebrate National Coding Week](#)

Mark your calendars! **Between September 19, 2022, and September 23, 2022**, programs, youth, and families will celebrate National Coding Week. [The National AfterSchool Association](#) has compiled a number of resources to help encourage youth to engage with computer programming and learn about technology.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Resources for Afterschool Educators To Support Learning and Well-Being

[Education Week](#) has a [full library](#) of over 220 reports to use for professional development. Check out some of the recent reports, below:

- [Science of Reading: Where Rhetoric Meets Reality](#)
- [Student and Staff Mental Health: Emerging From COVID's Crisis](#)
- [Emerging Strategies in Teaching and Learning](#)
- [Disrupted Learning: The Hard Task of Getting Students Back on Track](#)

Family and Community Partnerships

[U.S. Department of Education Checklist for Back-to-School](#)

Recently, the [U.S. Department of Education](#) released a back-to-school [checklist](#) for parents and families. This resource looks to help parents, caregivers, and families engage with local school and district leaders about how they are supporting students as they recover from the impacts of the pandemic. "This checklist elevates key evidence-based practices for supporting students' learning and mental health, and ensuring the safety of students and staff, which districts are encouraged to implement using American Rescue Plan and other COVID relief funds."

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

Job Opportunities at PIE!

[Plan, Implement, & Evaluate Org \(PIE Org\)](#) is a Chicago-based, national provider of evaluation, capacity-building, and strategic planning services. PIE Org is in the process of hiring for two positions:

- [Director of Evaluation](#)
- [Evaluation Coach](#)

Check out the postings to learn more about the responsibilities of these two roles. **Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Future Founders Internship Program](#)

[Future Founders](#) is offering a paid virtual internship opportunity for students that are interested in developing their own business ideas and participate in Chicago's startup community. Applications for the October and November "Be Your Own Boss Internship" cohorts are officially open! **Applications for the October cohort are due September 23, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Laureus USA Funding Opportunity in Illinois](#)

[Laureus USA](#) has announced a new funding opportunity for sports-based youth development organizations operating in the state of Illinois. Total funding available is \$4 million and aims to help community-based organizations:

- work on violence prevention and intervention services
- focus on creating access to safe spaces
- continue to build out protective factors for youth through positive relationships
- develop transferrable life skills/competencies in youth through sport

Applications are due **September 19, 2022**.

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

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** (Policy and Communications Manager)
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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