

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## COVID-19

### Events and Webinars

#### **ACT Now: 21st CCLC Virtual Town Halls**

Join ACT Now for our UPDATED virtual conversation with 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs about responding to the COVID-19 outbreak **on April 20, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.** We will cover the latest grant updates, policy updates, resources, and how current programs are responding. Please **fill out our survey** beforehand and **register** for the Town Hall!

### Additional Resources

#### *Internet and Technology Resources*

- **The National Digital Inclusion Alliance** has compiled an [up-to-date webpage of resources](#) for families and teachers in need of **FREE and low-cost internet plans**, and other digital materials during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Everyoneon** provides low-cost internet plans and affordable computers for families and educators. Click [here](#) to review their COVID-19 plans.
- **PCs for People** provides FREE and low-cost computers to eligible families and non-profits. Learn more by [clicking here](#).
- **human-I-T** gives low-income individuals and nonprofits technology, internet, and digital training. Click [here](#) to read more about accessing this program.

## ***Learning At Home Resources***

### **Core Knowledge: Free Curricula for All Grades**

Core Knowledge is providing FREE access to its online and printable curricula in the subjects of [Language Arts](#), [History and Geography](#), and [Science](#). Core Knowledge also features teacher and student guides, as well as other FREE lessons in core subjects for all grades. Click [here](#) to review the resources.

### **BOOST: Free Resources**

BOOST has compiled more than 2500 FREE resources with links to the platforms and services, relating to online learning and youth development, in response to COVID-19 closures. Click [here](#) to access them.

## ***Emergency Funds***

### **Peace First: COVID-19 Rapid Responses Grants**

[Peace First](#) is launching a rapid response grant process to help young people around the world lead projects that address community impacts of COVID-19. Projects include: providing meals to elderly neighbors, creating digital mental health campaigns to support youth feeling isolated, etc. **Rapid response grants are open to young people between the ages of 13-25, anywhere in the world, starting last week.** Click [here](#) to apply!

### **The Arts for Illinois Relief Fund**

This fund will provide [financial assistance to artists, artisans, and cultural organizations](#) impacted by the public health crisis. This fund is a partnership between the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois, and the larger philanthropic community. More than \$4 million has been committed from public and private sources to develop an upcoming statewide campaign that will provide additional resources to meet the critical needs of the state's creative sector. Individuals looking to apply or corporations and charitable foundations looking to donate can learn more by click [here](#).

## **Resources for Nonprofits**

### **UpMetrics: Free Access to Its Analytics Platform**

UpMetrics is offering FREE access to its analytics platform to support nonprofits during the COVID-19 health crisis. Nonprofits can sign up [here](#), view a [quick video](#) for more details, and see an example [impact + fundraising profile](#). The UpMetrics platform is designed to help nonprofits track key data points, visualize data, and then seamlessly share program impact with key stakeholders.

## **Mental Health Resources**

### **The Illinois Department of Human Services: Call4Calm**

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Mental Health Division has created a FREE emotional support text line, Call4Calm, for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. Those who would like to speak with a mental health professional can:

- **Text : TALK to 552020 English**
- **Text: HABLAR to 552020 Spanish**

Individuals will remain anonymous. Once a resident sends a text to the hotline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support. **Individuals can also text 552020, with key words such as “unemployment” or “food” or “shelter” and will receive information on how navigate and access supports and services.**

Click [here](#) to find the Governor's press release about Call4Calm, telehealth programs, and the Governor's Youth Town Hall.

***National Hotlines:*** *Please be prepared to wait “on hold” to speak to a hotline counselor given the increase in people seeking to talk to someone*

**The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** has a variety of **FREE resources** if you, a colleague, family member, etc., are feeling overwhelmed about COVID-19 and need someone to talk to. **This is a 24/7 service** dedicated to emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.

- Call or text SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Hotline at: **1-800-985-5990**.
- Text: **TalkWithUs** to **66746**
- Read resources on their webpage [here](#)

**The Crisis Text Line** is a **FREE service** for folks to seek help and counseling about any type of crisis, include the coronavirus. A live, trained Crisis Counselor receives the text and responds, all from their secure online platform. The volunteer Crisis Counselor will help you move from a hot moment to a cool moment.

- Text: **HOME** to **741741**
- Visit their site [here](#)

There is also a hotline provided through an emergency preparedness partnership between **West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources (Bureau for Public Health)** and the **West Virginia Poison Center**. Operators are available **24/7**

- Call: **1-800-887-4304** Toll-free

*For our full list of Mental Health Resources, click [here](#).*

## **Policy Updates**

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

# Trainings, Events and Webinars

## Administration

### ACT Now's April 2020 Advocacy Campaign: ACT Now and Advocate!

This year, ACT Now is encouraging its coalition members to interact with state and federal legislators and advocate for:

- **The reinstatement of 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding in the federal budget** after President Trump's FY21 budget proposal eliminated the program.
- **The Illinois General Assembly to put ISBE's lines in the state budget.**
- **Funding for Teen REACH in the state budget in the amount of at least \$19.6 million.**
- **The Illinois General Assembly to approve the Governor's proposed \$100 million increase for CCAP in the state budget.**

### What Advocacy Actions Should You Take?

- **If you have 1 minute:** Send your legislators an action alert by clicking the buttons below and reviewing the toolkit!
- **If you have 5 minutes:** Find your legislators' contact info and call them! Encourage them to support your campaign!
- **If you have 10 minutes:** Post on social media about the need for out-of-school and summer programming using our fact sheets and templates and tag your legislators!
- **If you have more time:** Collect success stories from parents and youth in your program and share them with your local and federal elected officials!

**Join Us!** Our Toolkit provides guidance on our asks, hosts links to action alerts for **state** and **federal** elected officials, as well as highlights letter templates, best practices when communicating with policymakers, and sample social media to use during April. **To advocate alongside ACT Now, use our Toolkit!** Click [here](#) to download it.

## Professional Development

## **ACT Now Webinar Series: Create a System for Ongoing, Meaningful Family Engagement**

Based on data collected from our research-based Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards, ACT Now has developed a virtual three-hour series of family engagement training to improve family engagement in out-of-school time. You can register [here](#) for individual webinars or for the entire series. Each webinar is \$10. *Please contact Emma Vibber, VibberE@actnowillinois.org to inquire about group pricing.*

**Part 2:** Introducing a Family Engagement Framework and Recognizing the Importance of Language

- **Date: April 23, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**Part 3:** Family Engagement Common Barriers and Tangible Resources

- **Date: May 4, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

*We will also be launching a Cultural Competency training series. ACT Now anticipates launching this in early May. If your program would like to start on this series sooner, please contact VibberE@actnowillinois.org now!*

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

## **Opportunities for Providers**

### **Administration**

#### **Family Focus: Community Schools Resource Coordinator Position**

**Family Focus** is looking to hire a full-time **Community Schools Resource Coordinator** for their Burnham School location in Cicero, Illinois. For more information on the position, click [here](#). Please submit your Resume and Cover Letters to: Jane Norton, Community Schools Program Manager (Family Focus, Nuestra Familia) at jane.norton@family-focus.org

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

## Upcoming Community School Training and Networking Events

### Administration

#### **ACT Now: Community Schools Regional Meetings NOW VIRTUAL!**

**ACT Now will continue to hold meetings online** for community school providers. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive professional development based on topics selected by community schools providers. **Please fill out our [survey](#)** so that we can plan next year's training events and continue to advocate for the amazing work you and your programs are providing.

#### **Community Schools: Downstate Regional Meeting**

- **Date:** [April 14, 2020](#)
- **Time:** [10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.](#)
- **Topic:** COVID-19 Response and Needs Assessment
- **Speaker:** Hannah Mngwamba, Metropolitan Family Services
- **To register:** Click [here](#) (Log in directions will appear once registered)

#### **Community Schools: Suburban Regional Meeting**

- **Date:** [April 22, 2020](#)
- **Time:** [10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.](#)
- **Topic:** COVID-19 Response and Virtual Family Engagement
- **To register:** Click [here](#) (Log in directions will appear once registered)

#### **Community Schools: Chicago Regional Meeting**

- **Date:** [May 1, 2020](#)
- **Time:** [10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.](#)

- **Topic:** COVID-19 Response, Planning for Next Year, and Summer Learning
- **To register:** Click [here](#) (Log in directions will appear once registered)

## Youth Opportunities

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

## Funding Opportunities

*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 (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate)** at [Spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto: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](#).**

## Note to ACT Now Members

**ACT Now** would like to acknowledge the challenges many of our youth, families, colleagues, and communities are facing with the outbreak of COVID-19. We would also like to thank all our partners for their hard work in responding to the pandemic as we navigate unprecedented situations.

We will continue to support you all by sharing resources and materials relating to COVID-19 from reputable federal and state agencies, through our newsletter and E-alerts, as well as our [webpage, specifically designated for COVID-19 resources](#), and our social media platforms.

We are available for questions and concerns remotely. Please contact our **Network Lead, Susan Stanton:** at [stantons@actnowillinois.org](mailto:stantons@actnowillinois.org) or our **Youth Development Associate, Emma Spencer:** at [spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto:spencere@actnowillinois.org).

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