

ACTNOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Child Care Funding for School-Age Youth Afterschool Programming](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) wrote a brief article on the challenges that school-age child care providers face in accessing federal COVID-19 relief funding and highlights each state's plan for the CCDF supplemental funding. This funding has until September 2023 to be obligated and then will be liquidated in 2024. The Afterschool Alliance encourages child care providers to learn more about their state's proposals for this funding.

For a list 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 & Illinois State Board of Education	Community Partnerships Grant Training: Needs Assessments & Logic Models	TOMORROW , at 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	EducationWeek	A Trauma-Informed Approach To Accelerate Learning With Social-Emotional Learning	April 25, 2022 , at 1:00 p.m.	REGISTER

	ACT Now	April Membership Exchange: Crisis in the Field - Using Data to Support the Afterschool Workforce	April 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Family Engagement	April 27, 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

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Promoting Healthy Futures: Afterschool Provides the Supports Parents Want for Children's Well-Being](#)

On **April 13, 2022**, the [Afterschool Alliance](#) released new data that showcases the importance of afterschool nationally and within the state of Illinois. Most Illinois parents see afterschool programs as part of the solution to the social and mental health struggles so many students are experiencing right now.

[3 Reasons why SEL Programming is Important](#)

[eSchool News](#) has written an article highlighting some of the reasons why educators and afterschool program providers should integrate social-emotional learning (SEL) strategies into programming.

[Resources for Supporting Trans and Nonbinary Youth](#)

Last week, [U.S. Department of Education](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) hosted a webinar featuring educators and experts who will discuss challenges faced by many transgender and nonbinary students and actionable strategies for providing support. Below, you will find several of the resources that were highlighted during the event for formal and informal educators to leverage (**Trigger Warning for the following Content**):

- [Confronting Anti-LGBTQI+ Harassment in Schools \(June 2021\)](#)
- [Resilience and Transgender Youth](#)
- [Safe and Supportive Environments](#)

- [Transgender Identity and Experiences of Violence Victimization, Substance Use, Suicide Risk, and Sexual Risk Behaviors Among High School Students — 19 States and Large Urban School Districts, 2017 | MMWR](#)
- [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System \(YRBSS\) | Data | Adolescent and School Health](#)
- [2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health: Supporting Trans + Nonbinary Youth section \(The Trevor Project\)](#)
- [A Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth \(The Trevor Project\)](#)
- [Improving School Climate for Transgender and Nonbinary Youth \(GLSEN\)](#)

Family and Community Partnerships

[Cash Assistance Program for Chicago Residents](#)

[Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot](#) has launched the Chicago Resilient Communities Pilot and allocated \$31.5 million to the program. The goal is to give 5,000 Chicago residents \$500 a month in cash assistance for twelve months. **Applications remain live but the pilot program will kick off April 25, 2022.**

[Website for Finding Summer Learning Opportunities](#)

[The National Summer Learning Association \(NSLA\)](#) has developed a website for families to use in order to find where youth programs will be located this summer.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Spring 2022 Resource Survey for the Field!](#)

ACT Now is launching its annual spring [Resource Survey](#)! As we continue to navigate the pandemic, we recognize that there are new issues that must be addressed in order to better support the afterschool field. As we reflect on Fiscal Year 2022 and move towards planning for summer and fall, we ask that you share your ideas and experiences with **ACT Now** by completing the [survey](#). It takes 15 minutes!

[Take the Survey!](#)

The [survey](#) closes **May 13, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.** By completing the survey, you have entered a chance to win a gift card! If you have any questions or concerns, please email Emma Spencer (Youth Development Associate) at: spencere@actnowillinois.org.

Professional Development

[Community Partnerships Grant Training: Needs Assessments & Logic Models](#)

The [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) announced its first cohort for the Community Partnerships Grant program in March 2022. **ACT Now**, in partnership with ISBE, will be hosting a workshop **TOMORROW, April 20, 2022, at 12:30 p.m.** for grantees. **ACT Now** will review grant requirements and upcoming deliverables in addition to offering an in-depth review of the program objectives, needs assessments, logic models, and evaluation plans. Participants will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other grantees to begin drafting these materials in preparation for submittal to ISBE. Additionally, participants will receive access to various resources, materials, and templates to better support their efforts.

[Every Hour Counts Data Symposium](#)

Do you want to use data to work smarter, not harder? How can data reveal inequities and help us find stronger solutions? Learn more during a free, virtual event from Every Hour Counts: Data Symposium: Putting Data to Work for Young People on **Wednesday, May 4, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST.** Participate and strategize how to collect, analyze, and use data to advance racial equity and drive continuous improvement in your community.

Youth Development

[41st Congressional Art Competition for Students in Illinois 17th Congressional District!](#)

Congresswoman Bustos (Illinois 17th Congressional District) is encouraging high school students to submit their artwork for the chance to be featured in the U.S. Capitol Building. This is a great opportunity for students to show their talent and tap into their creativity. To enter, students must submit a digital form through Congresswoman Bustos' [website](#), and also send a digital version of their art to Artwork.Bustos@mail.house.gov. All entries will be posted online for the public to vote for the eventual winner. **The deadline for submission is Thursday, April 21, 2022.**

[ISTC Education's 9th Annual STEM Challenge Showcase](#)

The [Illinois Science & Technology Coalition \(ISTC\)](#) is hosting its annual STEM Challenge Showcase at the Chicago Cultural Center on **April 28, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** This event is also going to be streamed virtually with the goal of celebrating 16 student teams as they present their innovative solutions to pressing industry challenges. **Registration closes soon and tickets range from \$15 to \$25.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events \(DCASE\) Grant Program](#)

[The City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events \(DCASE\)](#) is launching a new grant program to help support emerging and established cultural presenters host free live, in-person, outdoor events in Chicago neighborhoods. **The deadline to apply for grants is April 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CST. Grants will support events happening between June 18, 2022, and October 31, 2022.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

[2022 Samuel Halperin Youth Public Service Award](#)

Do you know someone who is 18-26 years old and making a difference in their own life and the lives of others through public service? They could win a cash award of \$1,500 as well as share their voice at a special [American Youth Policy Forum \(AYPF\)](#) event. **Please encourage them to apply for this award by June 6, 2022, and please share this information with other youth in your network.**

Youth Development

[One Summer Chicago](#)

One Summer Chicago brings together government institutions, community based organizations and companies to offer employment and internship opportunities to youth and young adults ages 14 to 24 each summer. **The deadline to apply is June 10, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Child Care and Early Education Program Funding for Apprenticeship Opportunities](#)

On **February 23, 2022**, the [U.S. Department of Labor \(DOL\)](#) announced their Apprenticeship Building America (ABA) Grant Program which provides opportunities for workers to “learn while they earn” in priority, in-demand industries, including child care, Head Start and other early learning settings. This apprenticeship program also provides an opportunity for organizations to address workforce shortages. The programs can be used to recruit a diverse workforce and compensate staff, while also providing the training and experience needed to develop key skills and competencies. ECE Apprenticeship Programs can support the professional growth of both new and existing ECE staff while they are working with children. Eligible applicants include nonprofits, labor organizations, public and state institutes of higher education, and county governments. **The funding opportunity closes April 25, 2022.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events \(DCASE\) Grant Program](#)

Emerging and established cultural presenters are invited to submit grant proposals for free live, in-person, outdoor music and dance festivals, block parties, and parades that activate Chicago’s neighborhoods. Grants administered by the [City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events \(DCASE\)](#) will support events happening between **June 18, 2022 and October 31, 2022**. **The final application deadline is April 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. CST.**

[Funding for Nonprofits serving Youth and Communities](#)

[The United Company Foundation](#) will provide up to \$400,000 to support charitable organizations and philanthropic ministries providing assistance with food, shelter, clothing, education, youth programs, the Arts, health, wellness, and improve the quality of life in the community. **Applications are due August 31, 2022.**

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

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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 (Youth Development Associate) 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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