

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER



**Yesterday, April 25, 2022, marked the start of Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week 2022 (April 25-29)!**

**ACT Now** would like to highlight the important work that you do to support youth and families across the state of Illinois. Despite the ongoing pandemic and workforce crisis, we know that you all have continued to provide safe, engaging, and loving spaces for youth to connect with one another, be creative, catch up on learning, and more! We thank you for everything you do in support of young people and their families throughout the year. **ACT Now** encourages you to take the time this week to lift up your successes - big & small - and note the far-reaching impact you have on youth in the community! **Here's to YOU! #HeartOfAfterschool**

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# Policy Updates

## Federal Updates

### [Support in Congress for Youth Workforce Readiness Opportunities](#)

On **April 5, 2022**, the House Education and Labor Committee reviewed the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) of 2022](#). This legislation would reauthorize the WIOA Act of 2014, which aims at connecting individuals with quality jobs and includes funding to support young people gain the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. Some components within the proposed bill include:

- Comprehensive needs assessments at a local level to understand opportunities in the community/region
- Expands summer and year-round jobs programs for youth
- Support for youth getting additional workforce readiness opportunities via afterschool and summer learning experiences
- Opportunities for community-based organizations (CBOs) to lead the local Workforce Investment Board

In order for this legislation to go into effect, the Senate must pass a similar bill. To read more of the Afterschool Alliance's blog post on this support of out-of-school time (OST) workforce experiences, click [here](#).

## State Updates

### [Governor JB Pritzker Signs FY23 State Budget into Law](#)

On **April 21, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker signed the FY23 Budget into law, which included historic supports such as tax relief for working families, substantial investments for health and human services, as well as for education and afterschool, and state debt repayment. To read the full press release, click [here](#). **To access our summary of the FY23 budget items related to afterschool, click [here](#).**

### [Illinois State Board of Education Board April Meeting Recap](#)

On **April 18, 2022**, the [Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) met for its monthly meeting. The Board meeting materials and future meeting dates are available, [here](#). The Board heard a presentation from the Student Advisory Council (SAC) during which the importance of supporting student mental health was elevated. Then, the Board turned its focus towards discussing focus group data regarding the development of a new state assessment. Board members also heard presentations surrounding the FY23 budget and legislative session and highlighted wanting to ensure that the public has better access to legislative mandates to understand ISBE's stance on each piece of legislation during the budget session. ISBE Board members also expressed excitement over FY23 appropriations that would allow schools and programs to serve students more effectively. The Board then approved the April consent agenda and all items within the discussion and approval section, and reviewed upcoming board actions for May. **The next ISBE Board meeting will take place on [May 18, 2022](#).**

*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
Professional Development	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	April Membership Exchange: Crisis in the Field - Using Data to Support the Afterschool Workforce	<b>TODAY</b> at 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Illinois AfterSchool Network</a>	Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Self-Care Workout Session!	<b>TOMORROW</b> , from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">U.S. Department of Education</a>	2022 From Recovery to Thriving: How the American Rescue Plan is Supporting America's Students Summit	<b>TOMORROW</b> , from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Family Engagement	April 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Grant Writing and Finding Resources	May 4, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Every Hour Counts</a>	Data Symposium: Putting Data to Work for Young People	May 4, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Policy and Advocacy	May 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	SEL Webinar #3: Integrating SEL with Classroom Learning	May 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a> and <a href="#">ICOY</a>	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #4	May 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
Family and Community Partnerships	<a href="#">United Way of Metropolitan Chicago</a>	Arc of Recovery: COVID Response from Crisis Management to Long-Term Investment	April 28, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

<b>Safety, Health, and Nutrition</b>	<a href="#">Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago</a>	Children's Mental Health Plan for Illinois	<b>May 2, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.</b>	<b><a href="#">REGISTER</a></b>
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For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

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## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### [My CHI. My Future. Application Launches Soon!](#)

The [My CHI. My Future.](#) application is launching in May with the goal of reaching as many youth in the City of Chicago and increasing participation in youth development opportunities. Program providers are being asked to create a My CHI. account and add their spring and summer programs ahead of this launch. Teens will be able to view programs and events closest to them with the app and share these opportunities with peers!

#### [Afterschool Alliance COVID-19 Funding Map](#)

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) recently developed a map highlighting afterschool and summer learning programs that are leveraging COVID-19 relief funding for programming. There are also resources for advocating for partnerships with school districts and more!

### Youth Development

#### [Resource on Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeships](#)

[fhi360](#) recently published a brief on the U.S. Department of Labor's Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship (YDPA) program. The resources provides background into the apprenticeship program and key ways for afterschool programs to leverage apprenticeship opportunities.

#### [Strategies for Engaging and Culturally-Responsive Programming](#)

[EducationWeek](#) has shared two articles with suggestions and strategies for program providers looking to ensure that their programming is [culturally-responsive](#) and [engaging in a virtual setting](#).

### Professional Development

#### [Planning for a Game-Changing Summer Webinar RECORDING](#)

The [Afterschool Alliance](#), [Every Hour Counts](#), and the [National Summer Learning Association](#) recently released the webinar recording on summer learning programs to help providers develop an engaging and successful summer program. These organizations shared recommendations for facilitating programming in diverse learning environments!

## [Addressing the Needs of Out-of-School Time Leaders](#)

The [National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment \(NCASE\)](#) and the [National Center on Early Childhood Development, Teaching, and Learning \(NCECDTL\)](#) developed a module to help address several aspects of Out-of-School Time (OST) professionals needs. Topics within this professional development include: history of the field, children and families' needs, workforce needs, and qualities and responsibilities of an effective OST professional. Please note: login is required for module access. If you do not have an account, you can register for one!

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Administration

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

We launched our [Resource Survey](#) recently and are asking the field to share ideas and suggestions for making our professional development opportunities stronger. **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](mailto:spencere@actnowillinois.org).

### [2022 Community Schools Resource Survey](#)

As we enter the final quarter of our FY22 Community Schools Trainings, ACT Now is initiating our annual [Community Schools Resource Survey](#) to gather feedback from the diverse field. What you share with us will help us to strengthen our professional development opportunities as well as craft our Community Schools trainings for next year! **The survey closes May 20, 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 contact [Lesley Fisher Chapman](#) (Program Coordinator) at: [ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org](mailto:ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org).

### [StandOut Search Program Opportunity](#)

The [University of Chicago](#) and the [University of Illinois](#)' StandOut Search program connects community-based organizations and nonprofits with high school interns and volunteers for free assistance with anything from social media management to financial modeling!

## Youth Development

### [Chicago Learning Days!](#)

**Chicago Learning Days will be taking place on May 19-22, 2022.** The goal of this opportunity is to connect families to 21st century holistic learning opportunities and resources, and highlighting programs throughout the City of Chicago.

- **Step 1:** Review [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- **Step 2:** Sign up to host events on our national platform [here](#)

- **Step 3:** Forgot how to sign up to host event? Check out this video [here](#)
- **Step 4:** Join our [Office Hours or register for a Webinar](#) to help you successfully host an event at Chicago Learning Days

There are also modest [micro-stipends available to the first 100 organizations who meet the event funding criteria mentioned](#) in the CLD CHI [Event Google form](#). Please reach out to **Roberto Lopez** at [ChicagoLearningDays@chicagolx.org](mailto:ChicagoLearningDays@chicagolx.org) with any questions.

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

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## Youth Opportunities

### Youth Development

#### [Illinois State Board of Education's 2022-23 Student Advisory Council!](#)

The 2022-23 Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Student Advisory Council (SAC) application is now available! SAC represents a diverse group of young leaders from across the state who have demonstrated the ability to advocate for educational equity on the behalf of all Illinois public school students. ISBE is accepting applications from eligible public and charter high school students interested in serving as a member of SAC. Students must be entering the fall semester as a sophomore, junior, or senior to be eligible to serve on the SAC. **Applications are due by June 3, 2022.** For questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Leslie Ward at [mlward@isbe.net](mailto:mlward@isbe.net).

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

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## Funding Opportunities

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

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***[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the ACT Now Newsletter!***

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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](mailto: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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