

ACTNOW! 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](#)

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee: Child Nutrition Reauthorization

On **March 25, 2021**, the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee held a hearing on child nutrition programs. The importance of strengthening the summer meals program was at the center of the committee's conversations. To read the summary of the discussion, click [here](#). The U.S. Senate's version of the Summer Meals Act is expected to be introduced by Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) and Senator Murkowski (R-AK) soon.

Congress: Climate Change Education Act Introduced

On **March 25, 2021**, U.S. Congress introduced The Climate Change Education Act. This legislation would create a grant program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to assist state and local education agencies improve climate literacy, as well as institutions of higher education and professional associations. The grant aims to ensure that students at all grade levels are taught about climate adaptation and mitigation, climate resilience, and the effects of climate change on the environment, energy sources, and social and economic systems, including environmental and climate justice. The proposed Act includes language around out-of-school time (OST) programming. To learn more about the legislation, click [here](#).

State Policy

Illinois State Board of Education: Preliminary ESSER III Funding Allocation to School Districts Released

On **April 1, 2021**, [the Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) released two Excel documents with information relating to the American Rescue Plan's ESSER III funding. The first document highlights the breakdown of federal education COVID-19 relief that the state agency is receiving. The second sheet shows ISBE's preliminary funding allocation data to school districts, based upon the Title I formula. ISBE also announced that **Non-Title I providers will receive approximately \$142 per student**. Additionally, ISBE is encouraging school districts and program providers alike to combine and blend federal funding sources – from ESSER to Title grants – in order to maximize equity and plan for sustainability. To access these documents, click [here](#). **ISBE shared that the application for ESSER III funds will be released July 1, 2021.**

Illinois Department of Human Services: Teen REACH Notice of Funding Opportunity Released

Last week, [the Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) has released its FY22 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Teen REACH program. Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring and Hope) is an out-of-school time program serving at-risk youth between the ages of 6 and 17. The purpose of the program is to expand the range of choices and opportunities that enable, empower and encourage youth to achieve positive growth and development, improve expectations and capabilities for future success and avoid and/or reduce risk-taking behavior. Specifically, this means providing youth with safe environments, caring adults, guiding them toward marketable skills, and opportunities to serve their communities. Teen REACH is not a drop-in program, rather it is intended to serve the same youth every day. The program is a year-round, 12-month program requiring services on average 3 hours per day, a minimum 240 days per year. Teen REACH requires programming in 7 CORE Service Areas. **IDHS will be hosting a technical assistance webinar for applicants on the NOFO on April 13, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, click [here](#). To read the full NOFO, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: P-20 Learning Renewal Resource Guide Published

On **March 31, 2021**, [the Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) shared the [P-20 Council's](#) Learning Renewal Resource Guide with the public. This 180-page guide is filled with recommendations from stakeholders from across Illinois to help school districts and their partners plan for learning renewal. There are 12 priorities, one of which includes providing afterschool, out-of-school time (OST), and summer learning programming for students. This guide is designed to help formulate initiatives that utilize federal education funding and is a working document.

In conjunction with federal COVID-19 aid and the Learning Renewal Resource Guide, ISBE is also launching four new state-led initiatives to provide guidance and support in the most critical areas:

- **High-impact tutoring**, with a focus on aligning tutoring with classroom instruction throughout the school year and during the summer.
- **Social and emotional learning community partnerships**, including with the Center for Childhood Resilience, housed at Lurie Children's Hospital.
- **Interim assessment**, intended solely for diagnostic purposes, to provide reliable measures for understanding the impact on student learning so educators can target their responses to students' needs.
- **Bridge/transition support**, to encourage enrollment in both early childhood programs and higher education.

ISBE and the P-20 Council invite program providers and community-based organizations to review the guide and share comments and additions. To read the entire guide, 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		To access the recording, click here
	ACT Now	21st Century Town Hall Series	April 19, 2021 May 3, 2021 May 17, 2021 June 1, 2021 June 14, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.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	Final IL-QPSA Webinar for New Users	April 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Final IL-QPSA Webinar for Returning Users	April 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Chicago Providers: Advisory Boards	April 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	Forefront	Nonprofit Town Hall with Senator Dick Durbin	April 7, 2021, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	Click here
	Illinois Department of Human Services	FY22 Teen REACH Notice of Funding Opportunity Webinar	April 13, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
Professional Development	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training (QST) 102	May 5, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Click here
	Illinois Collaboration on Youth	Organizational Values and Trauma-Informed Care Learning Collaboratives	April 22, 2021, at 1:30 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
	Learning Policy Institute	Accelerate Learning Webinar Series: Strategies for Whole	Today, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here

		Child Summer Learning and Beyond		
	Mikva Challenge	CHA Youth Summit	April 5, 2021 to April 9, 2021	Click here
	National Girls Collaborative Project	CryptoClub: Educator Training	April 12, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Click here
	National Summer Learning Association	Cultural Crossroads: Exploring the important intersection of summer program training & design with the critical need to address race, equity, and inclusion	April 28, 2021, from 1:00 p.m.	Click here
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	Illinois Department of Children & Family Services	Promoting Resiliency & Revitalizing Hope	April 27, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Click here

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development: Resources to Help Navigate These Hard Times

[The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development \(GOECD\)](#) has compiled a list of resources for program providers and caretakers to utilize with children and youth when speaking about mass and race-based violence.

- [GOECD's Guide for Responding to Anti AAPI Violence during COVID-19](#)
- [Coping After Mass Violence](#)
- [Anti Asian Violence Resources](#)

- [Bystander Intervention Training](#)

Advance Illinois: New Brief on Investing in Illinois Youth for COVID-19 Recovery

[Advance Illinois](#) has written a report on the impact of Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) on K-12 education resource equity in Illinois. The brief aims to share how there are remaining gaps between current funding levels and full, adequate funding. The report makes the case for Illinois to provide sustained state funding for schools instead of relying on federal aid and also highlights how EBF is necessary in order to support students and help school districts address long-term issues brought on by the pandemic. To read the report, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Ready4K Article: STEM Language to Encourage Children and Youth to Participate

[Ready4K](#) has published an article with strategies for engaging early learners and youth in STEM programming. The article emphasizes specific language in order to relate math competencies to everyday life. To read the article, click [here](#).

National Girls Collaborative Project: State of Girls and Women in STEM

[The National Girls Collaborative Project](#) has updated its resource on the reality for girls and women in the STEM sectors. This report presents compelling statistics and research and focuses on K-12 Education, Higher Education, and the STEM Workforce. To access the resource, click [here](#).

National Girls Collaborative Project: Celebrating Earth Day in April

[The National Girls Collaborative Project](#) has compiled a variety of resources for educators, afterschool providers, and youth to utilize in order to celebrate Earth Day 2021 (April 22, 2021) and Environmental Education Week (April 19-23, 2021). Below you will find some additional Earth Day challenges, events, and resources:

- [April goIT Monthly Challenge](#): Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has launched the goIT Monthly Challenge – an extension of the flagship STEM education program, goIT. Students are challenged to leverage technology to solve a problem that aligns to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). To celebrate Earth Day 2021, TCS is asking students to develop a digital innovation that aligns with the aforementioned goals and restores the climate in their communities.
- [Global Youth Biodiversity Network](#): GYBN is an international network of youth organizations and individuals who have united together with a common goal: preventing the loss of biodiversity and preserving Earth's natural resources.

- [Earth Day Initiative](#): A virtual event to continue the climate conversation and learn from environmental organizations and sustainable businesses.
- [NISE Network Earth Day Resources](#): Engage your community with these resources, many of which can be done from home, online, or virtually.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Illinois State Board of Education: New COVID-19 Resources in Spanish - Nuevos Recursos de COVID-19 en Español

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) has shared new translated COVID-19 resources for educators, program providers, and families.

- [Guía de salud pública revisada para escuelas](#)
- [Letra de Superintendente de Educación del Estado](#)
- [Preguntas frecuentes: Guía de salud pública revisada para escuelas](#)

Protecting Immigrant Families: Resources on Public Charge, Public Benefits, and Immigrants' Rights to Healthcare

[Protecting Immigrant Families](#) has compiled a variety of translated resources for immigrant community members. These resources relate to healthcare rights and public benefits. For translated documents, click [here](#). For English speakers:

- [KNOW YOUR RIGHTS! Top 5 Facts About Public Charge](#)
- [What Should I Know When Enrolling My Children in Public Benefits?](#)
- [Public Charge: Does This Apply to Me?](#)
- [Immigrants Rights to Health Care: Treatment and Coverage](#)

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.*



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. **The deadline to submit names and photos is Friday, April 9, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.***

Illinois State Board of Education: Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education Application Open

[The Illinois State Board of Education's \(ISBE\) Multilingual Department](#) is seeking applications for members of the Illinois Advisory Council on Bilingual Education (IACBE). The IACBE advises the State Superintendent of Education on issues that are related to the educational needs of students whose first

language is not English. To apply, send a letter of interest with your curriculum vitae/resume to multilingual@isbe.net by **April 30, 2021**. For more information, click [here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

Grand Victoria Foundation: Summer and Fall Internship Opportunity

[The Grand Victoria Foundation](#) is soliciting applications for its Communications Internship for the summer and fall. This internship is a paid 12 to 16-week opportunity and compensation will reflect the selected individual's experience and background. The Grand Victoria Foundation is looking to fill this position quickly. To read more about the position and eligibility for applying, click [here](#).

Global Girls Collaboration: Gender Diversity Scan Survey

[The Global Girls Collaboration](#) is looking for youth participants for its Gender Diversity Scan Survey. This initiative aims to understand the barriers for girls and young people as they relate to accessing STEM programming and entering the STEM sectors. To learn more about the survey and complete it, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Career Girls and National Girls Collaborative Project: Town Hall - Protecting Our Planet Together!

[Career Girls](#) and the [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) are working together to host an engaging Town Hall on **April 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.** Participants will hear from women and girls talk about their careers in engineering, marine biology, and environmental sustainability. Attendees will also address climate change and protect our environment. To learn more about the event and to register, click [here](#).

Chicago Park District: Summer Job Applications Live

[The Chicago Park District](#) is soliciting summer job applications from youth across the City. Positions include lifeguard and day camp recreation leaders, which are open to teens. To learn more about these summer job opportunities, click [here](#).

City Year AmeriCorps: Summer Applications Open

[City Year AmeriCorps](#) is soliciting applications from young people interested in working with students and community members in an educational environment. City Year AmeriCorps members work in schools full time for 11 months, partnering with teachers and principals to create learning environments where all students can build on their strengths and fully engage in their learning. To learn more about this service opportunity, 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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