

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

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	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Grant Writing and Finding Resources		<a href="#">Recording</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Policy and Advocacy	<b>TOMORROW</b> , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">National Council for Mental Wellbeing</a>	Social Justice Leadership Academy Learning Series: STRUCTURAL & SYSTEMIC BIASES	May 16, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">ACT Now</a>	SEL Webinar #3: Integrating SEL with Classroom Learning	May 23, 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 24, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Illinois AfterSchool Network</a>	Summer Health & Safety Planning	May 25, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

	<a href="#">NISE Network</a>	Tools for Engaging Communities and Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion Practices	<b>June 19, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Administration</b>	<a href="#">Illinois Student Assistance Commission</a>	Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Webinars	<b>May 20, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</b> <b>May 25, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Safety, Health, and Nutrition</b>	<a href="#">Illinois Partners for Human Service</a>	Behavioral/Mental Health & I/DD Investments in the FY23 State Budget	<b>TOMORROW, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">EducationWeek</a>	Boost Student Mental Health and Motivation With Data-Driven SEL	<b>May 16, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative</a>	TRAUMA-INFORMED AWARENESS DAY Building a Healing Centered Illinois	<b>May 25, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
<b>Youth Development</b>	<a href="#">NASA STEM</a>	The Lunar Eclipse and Storytelling	<b>May 12, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">National Girls Collaborative Project</a>	Addressing STEM Stereotypes with Young Children	<b>June 1, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>
	<a href="#">National Girls Collaborative Project</a>	Addressing STEM Stereotypes with Youth and Young Adults	<b>June 7, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.</b>	<a href="#">REGISTER</a>

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

## Resources for Providers

### Administration

#### Updates about American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

[The City of Chicago](#) continues to update the community about ARPA grant opportunities and open Requests for Proposals. [Email the Chicago Mayor's Office of Community Engagement](#) to be added to their email list.

# Youth Development

## AAPI Heritage Month Resources

**ACT Now** continues to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month) by collecting resources to help programs teach about the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have been instrumental in America's history and future success. There are also events being hosted in the upcoming weeks that will honor AAPI communities across the City of Chicago.

- [National Association of Asian American Professionals](#) (NAAAP) offers a diverse range of professional development programs that engages its membership in community service and organizes professional networking events. Celebrate with NAAAP's [webinars in May](#).
- [Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center](#), connects educators with Asian American and Pacific Islander voices, stories, and community-created resources.
- [IF/THEN® Collection](#) enables educators and youth to connect with AAPI IF/THEN® Ambassadors by utilizing the search function to find role models.
- [Spring Festival](#) at Caldwell Park, **Sunday, May 15, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
- [Japanese Film Festival by the Chicago Japan Film Collective](#), **May 21 – 30, 2022**
- Chicago Public Library in Albany Park, [Book Discussion and Author Event: Jeong Soon Shin](#), **Tuesday, May 31, 2022**

## Out-of-School Time Pass

[The Chicago Learning Exchange \(CLX\)](#) is debuting its premier out-of-school time (OST) pass. The Pass unlocks free admission for OST providers to Chicago's iconic museums, access to capacity building platforms like Catchafire, and more!

# Safety, Health, and Nutrition

## Mental Health Resources for Afterschool Providers

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) has compiled [15 high-quality resources](#) for supporting young people's mental health and wellbeing during afterschool experiences. NAA also has elevated a [free toolkit](#) that can be used to start a conversation about youths' mental health.

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

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# Opportunities for Providers

## Administration

### FINAL CALL - Spring 2022 Resource Survey for the Field!

**OUR [Resource Survey](#) CLOSES THIS FRIDAY at 5:00 p.m.** Please help us identify ideas and suggestions for making our professional development opportunities stronger. [Take the Survey!](#) **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

**Calling all Community Schools Providers!** Please take our annual [Community Schools Resource Survey](#) to help us 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).

## Youth Development

### National Week of Making

The [National Week of Making \(May 16-22, 2022\)](#) highlights the diversity of Makers, and is an opportunity for youth and families to participate in Making activities locally while celebrating the innovation, ingenuity, and creativity of the maker community!

- [MakerGirl](#) has [online workshops](#) for elementary and middle school girls focused on 3D printing and its diverse uses. Participants may learn how to use 3D printing for coral reef preservation.
- [Makers + Mentors Network](#), a STEM initiative of [Citizen Schools](#), partners with communities to build their capacity to uplift STEM mentoring and maker-centered learning to foster a stronger, more diverse workforce.

### STEM Resources from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The [Illinois Department of Natural Resources \(IDNR\)](#) has [grant funding available for field trips](#) and teaching tools for summer programming! Applications are being accepted for the *Historic Sites Field Trip Grant*, *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* and *Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant*. [IDNR's trunks and packs are available for loan from locations throughout the state](#). This resource can be used to teach students about wild mammals, trees, prairies, aquatics, invasive species, state symbols, people and animals from Illinois' past, and more! There is no charge to borrow the trunks/packs, although a refundable deposit may be requested.

### Girls Who Code Summer Clubs

[Girls Who Code](#) is offering tutorials on Swift and new meeting models for free for program providers looking for Coding resources for summer 2023. This is girls-supportive curricula for 3rd-12th grade students of all genders. Whether your community needs a fully-packaged program or supplemental materials to meet summer learning needs, folks can [sign up here](#) to access 120+ hours of resources, curriculum, activities, and training.

## Professional Development

### Science Teaching Network Opportunity

[The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum](#) is inviting formal and informal educators in grades K-1, 3-5, and 6-8 to join its 2022 Science Teaching Network, a grant-funded teacher professional development program. This opportunity ensures that participants walk away with best practices in science instruction, understand and implement the Next Generation Science Standards, and gain access to locally-relevant nature and science topics and resources.

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

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# Youth Opportunities

## Youth Development

### [Young Adult Council](#)

[Steppenwolf](#) is soliciting applications for its Young Adult Council (YAC). The YAC is a diverse community of arts learners, makers, and appreciators and aims to bring together and create space for teens within the City of Chicago who are passionate, curious, or interested in theater. **Applications are due THIS FRIDAY, ay 13, 2022.**

### [Apply for the Team Nutrition School Meals Recipe Development Grant](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) is soliciting proposals for the Team Nutrition School Meals Recipe Development Grant. Eligible entities will guide students in recipe development and plan activities, such as field trips and local taste tests. ISBE will host a recipe tasting event for all grant recipients to celebrate the students' efforts and bring participants together to sample recipes created by themselves and their peers. **The deadline to apply for the grant RFP is May 31, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

### [Intrepid Museum's Virtual Youth Summit: Transform Hope to Action](#)

[The Intrepid Museum](#) is hosting a virtual youth summit on **June 11, 2022**, for those interested in participating in workshops and hear from diverse youth voices in STEAM fields. Youth ages 14 to 20 are invited to engage in panel discussion, and a virtual dance party as well!

### [Illinois State Fair STEAM Expo](#)

[The Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology \(DOIT\)](#) will host the [Tech Prairie STEAM Expo at the 2022 Illinois State Fair](#) daily on **August 17 to August 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** (This is an in-person event and will take place in the Orr Building on the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield). Attendees will engage in interactive STEAM demonstrations and include drone and esports competitions. Free admission to the State Fair may be available for organized student groups. Scheduled tours are available that include exploration of STEAM careers inside the Expo, as well as agriculture tours on the fairgrounds that offer a behind-the-scenes view of Illinois agriculture.

## Administration

### [Survey for High School Seniors](#)

[The Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative \(IWERC\)](#), in collaboration with the State of Illinois, is asking high school seniors to fill out a survey to tell them about decisions after high school. Some of the questions include:

- What are the factors influencing students' decisions to pursue education after high school?
- What options are young people weighing?
- Will students be attending college or a trade school?
- Will young people stay in-state or go out of state?

**The survey is anonymous and will take about 15 minutes.** Survey responses will be used to inform how IWERC improves postsecondary options, access, equity, and enrollment in Illinois.

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

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## Funding Opportunities

### Youth Development

#### [New Gender Equity Grant Funding for STEM Museums](#)

[The Association of Science and Technology Centers \(ASTC\)](#) has grant funding of up to \$4,000 available to support projects by cultural institutions and museums, that use materials from the IF/THEN® Project Library. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis until September 30, 2022, or until all available funds are awarded.

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](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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