

ACT NOW!

NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

State Updates

[Reimagine Public Safety Act Funding Applications are LIVE](#)

Yesterday, May 2, 2022, Governor JB Pritzker announced the launch of \$113 million in funding opportunities for community-based organizations (CBOs) working on violence prevention initiatives in Illinois. This funding will expand the program, of which \$73 million has already been distributed by the [Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) to organizations in FY22. Governor JB Pritzker also announced an additional \$71.8 million in the pipeline, with grant agreements expected to be finalized prior to the summer. These grant opportunities aim to reduce firearm violence by implementing evidence-based solutions such as youth development programming. As such, afterschool programs may be eligible to receive funding if based within the 42 areas across the state (26 in Chicago and 16 in the suburbs and downstate).

[Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\) Health Equity Initiative](#)

Yesterday, May 2, 2022, the [Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) shared that \$3.7 million in grants are available for communities outside of Cook County to address and implement COVID-19 health equity strategies. This initiative is a federally funded program called Activating Relationships In Illinois for Systemic Equity (ARISE). Collaboration between [IDPH's Center for Minority Health Services](#), The Center for Rural Health, and the [Well-being and Equity \(WE\) in the World](#) have made this opportunity possible. Organizations must address the long-standing health inequities in their communities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. 15 community collaborations, of three or more partners and their associated local health department, will be awarded up to \$235,000 to address and to implement a health equity strategy in the context of COVID-19. Up to 25 additional communities will receive \$10,000 microgrants to advance health equity. **Applications open June 1, 2022, and are due June 27, 2022, by 5:00 p.m.** Applicants are encouraged to attend a series of informational webinar sessions to learn more and to qualify to apply for the grants starting:

- **May 18, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** - About ARISE and how to build your health equity team
- **May 25, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** - Assessing community needs/identifying community equity zones
- **June 1, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** - Assessing your community collaboration and preparing to apply

More information and registration links will be shared in the upcoming days*

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	Community Schools CHICAGO Training: Family Engagement		Recording
	ACT Now	Community Schools DOWNSTATE Training: Grant Writing and Finding Resources	TOMORROW , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools SUBURBS Training: Policy and Advocacy	May 11, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	SEL Webinar #3: Integrating SEL with Classroom Learning	May 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now and ICOY	Teen REACH Quarterly Meeting #4	May 23, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Summer 2023 Planning Resources](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) recently updated its COVID Reopening Programs page. Providers can now access resources for planning for summer 2023!

[Students Are Pursuing STEM Careers at a Higher Rate](#)

[eSchool News](#) wrote a brief article highlighting how nationwide more students are pursuing STEM college and career experiences. The article also elevates continued barriers for youth to access STEM programming and could be used to make the case for more STEM afterschool in Illinois.

Youth Development

Million Girls Moonshot STEM Resources for May

During the month of May, the [Million Girls Moonshot \(MGM\)](#) initiative celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month). Our country owes a lot of our success to many hardworking, innovative AAPI computer scientists, engineers, and other STEM professionals. These assets will support program providers as they pay tribute to and highlight a host of AAPI professionals who have contributed to the STEM fields!

Webinars and Training Opportunities

- The M in STEM: Making Math Meaningful on [May 19, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.](#)
- PEAR Dimensions of Success (DoS) Training events on [July 13-14, 2022 and October 19-20, from 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.](#)
- Afterschool Coaching for Reflective Educators in STEM (ACRES) Asking Purposeful Questions Cohort. This cohort will meet on [May 26th, June 9th, and June 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.](#)

Resources

- **Article:** [Equity in Math Class: 5 Tips for Teachers - WeAreTeachers](#) - Ways to Build Equity into Your Math Lessons discusses how equity and social justice play a critical role in math instruction.
- **Network Spotlight:** [Engineering Mindset — Alaska Afterschool Network \(akafterschool.org\)](#)
- **Network Spotlight:** [Getting Started with "Engineering Mindset" in Afterschool STEM Programs - Vermont Afterschool](#)
- **Network Spotlight:** [Engineering Mindset - HAWAI'I AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE \(hawaiiafterschoolalliance.org\)](#)
- **Article:** [Incorporating the Stories of Women, People of Color, and LGBTQ+ Scientists Into the Physics Classroom](#) - Short article from NSTA about the contributions of women, people of color, and other diverse scientists to the field of Physics. Includes a link to lesson plans for lesson plans that could be adapted for K9-12.
- The [Mizzen By Mott app](#) is an application available at no cost to afterschool professionals! This month's featured activities include outdoor and planetary science STEM programming.

Activities

- [After-School Science PLUS](#) - Download Building with Wonderful Junk and take the challenge! Build a bridge or a platform that meets a set of requirements and test it. Challenge the kids to add to the activity (For example build a bridge that will hold a student up 6 inches from the floor).
- [Design Squad: Invent it, Build It: Making the world a better place](#) - Research tells us that when kids think their activity helps others it increases engagement. Activities encourage kids to think of themselves as inventors, discuss inventing and engineering, and dispels the stereotype that engineering is boring.
- [10 Simple Yet Thrilling Invention Ideas For Kids](#) - These are highly engaging activities for students including directions and videos. These activities use materials that are easy to find and can be done in a family setting.

AAPI Heritage Month Resources

Join **ACT Now** and our coalition partners in celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month)! We have compiled several resources to teach about the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have been instrumental in America's history and future success.

- [ACT Now archive](#) of resources related to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Resources and Events](#)
- [Anti-Defamation League's Resources for celebrating AAPI Heritage Month](#)
- [Learning for Justice's Article on AAPI Heritage Month](#)

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

SEL, Trauma-Informed Programming, and Mental Health Resources for Providers

Trigger Warning: *Some resources talk about self-harm and suicide prevention*

- [The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) offers free [social-emotional learning \(SEL\)](#) and trauma-informed resources to educators and program providers. ISBE also hosts an [online virtual learning community](#) on trauma-informed practices and has worked to develop the [Safe2Help hotline](#), which students can call or text to share safety concerns in a confidential environment at any time.
- [eSchool News](#) [also published an article](#) with support services tailored towards supporting students' mental health and ways in which schools and programs can integrate these supports into programming.
- May is also Mental Health Month, and [Mental Health America](#) has created an outreach toolkit in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This toolkit provides free, practical resources to introduce mental health topics such as recognizing warning signs, knowing the factors that can lead to mental health conditions, maintaining mental wellness, and seeking support for mental health. There are media materials, fact sheets, social media web banners, and posters.
- [ShareMyLesson](#) has curated a [list of mental health resources](#) for program providers to leverage every day with specific focus on elevating Mental Health Month.
- [The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership \(ICMHP\)](#) is "charged with developing and monitoring a plan to build comprehensive and coordinated mental health services, programs, and supports for Illinois children and their families." ICMHP developed its [initial plan in 2005](#), with a brief update to the [strategic priorities in 2012](#). **This week, during Children's Mental Health Week (May 2-6, 2022)**, ICMHP and the State of Illinois are embarking on the process to develop a [new Children's Mental Health Plan](#) to improve the overall wellbeing of all Illinois youth and families.

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

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.

[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.

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Chicago Youth Service Corps Opportunities for Young People](#)

[The Chicago Youth Service Corps \(CYSC\)](#) is soliciting applications for its year-long paid service learning program. Youth ages 16-24 can be paid \$15/hour while making a positive community impact and learning valuable leadership skills

[Builder's Coding Academy!](#)

Join [Code Your Dreams](#), the [University of Chicago Department of Computer Science](#), and the [University of Chicago Hillel](#) for Builder's Academy. This 6-week summer program combines design thinking, analytical problem-solving, and mentorship with Python programming and entrepreneurship. **This opportunity starts June 27, 2022, and is an in-person program in Chicago.** Students must be entering 10th, 11th, or 12th grade in the fall of 2022 to apply and no prior coding experience is required! Students will receive a computer, financial incentive, and transportation stipend to participate in the program. Students will walk away from the program with their own web app developed. **Applications are due May 23, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Freedom Schools Grant Opportunity Deadline EXTENDED](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) recently extended the deadline to apply for the Phillip Jackson Freedom Schools Grant opportunity. This grant establishes a Freedom School network to supplement public school learning by creating out-of-school time (OST) programs geared towards supporting youth from historically marginalized communities across the state. **Apply by Friday, May 6, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.**

[CURE After School Programs Funding Available](#)

[The Illinois State Board of Education \(ISBE\)](#) has announced the new CURE After School Programs Request For Proposals (RFP). This grant program totals \$10 million, leveraging state COVID-19 relief dollars, and aims to establish afterschool programs via partnerships between community-based organizations and Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts across Illinois. **Submissions are due May 23, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**

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

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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 (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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101 North Wacker, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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