

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ACT Now & Sign On!

ACT Now: COVID-19 Relief Sign On Letter

Illinois is receiving a historical level of federal aid to support afterschool and summer learning providers. As a result, **ACT Now** has written a letter highlighting several recommendations for state agencies to consider when allocating and utilizing COVID-19 relief aid. To advocate alongside **ACT Now** and read the letter, click [here](#). To sign on, click [here](#).

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

President Joseph Biden: American Family Plan Released

On **April 28, 2021**, President Joseph Biden revealed the American Family Plan, which aims to support families and invest in young people. Key aspects of the plan include:

- **Investing in the country's education system to provide universal, preschool, and two years of free community college for each American individual.**
- **Investing in the child care system**
- **Comprehensive paid family and medical leave for families**
- **Extending tax cuts**

To read the White House's fact sheet on the plan, click [here](#). The plan will be sent to U.S. Congress for deliberation.

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Note to Members: Afterschool as a Safe Space Training CANCELED

ACT Now has canceled the Afterschool as a Safe Space webinar series. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to Emma Vibber (vibber@actnowillinois.org).

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Administration	ACT Now	21st Century Town Hall Series	May 17, 2021 June 1, 2021 June 14, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	Brighter Prospects for Chicago's Youth: Strengthening Summer Jobs and Beyond	May 5, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	Click here
Professional Development	Learning Policy Institute	Accelerating Learning: Best Practices for Expanded Learning Time	May 4, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	Hunt Institute	Race & Education: Preparing the Next Generation of BIPOC STEM Leaders	May 5, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Click here
	ShareMyLesson	Building Trusted Spaces and SEL Muscles: How Adults and Students can Heal and Thrive	May 12, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.	Click here
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Summer Health & Safety Planning During COVID	May 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
Youth Development	National Summer	Creating Healing-Centered Summer Programs	May 5, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.	Click here

	Learning Association			
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	ShareMyLesson	For All Abilities: Mindfulness and Yoga with Grand Love	May 4, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	Click here
	ShareMyLesson	Medication and Mindfulness Practices for the Busy Mind - Part II	May 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.	Click here
	ShareMyLesson	Practicing Mindfulness with the Holistic Life Foundation	May 6, 2021, at 4:30 p.m.	Click here
	ShareMyLesson	Virtual Zumba: An Exercise Party for Your Body - Part II	May 19, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.	Click here
	Forefront	Balancing Act - Safety and Operations Plans During COVID	May 20, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Click here

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Illinois State Board of Education: Return to In-Person Instruction Guide

[The Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) has released a guide for school administrators, educators, and out-of-school time (OST) providers to utilize in preparation of returning to in-person instruction or programming. To read the guide, click [here](#).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Updated Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps during COVID-19

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) have updated its guidance for providers facilitating youth development and summer learning programs amidst the pandemic. To review the document along with a variety of resources for planning for summer 2021 operations, click [here](#).

eSchool News Article: How to Choose a STEM Platform for Hybrid Learning

[eSchool News](#) has written an article on how to elect a STEM learning platform for hybrid instruction in order to support program providers facilitate STEM in an ever-changing environment. To read the article, click [here](#).

Youth Development

ShareMyLesson Resources: Celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

[ShareMyLesson](#) has compiled a variety of resources on celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage for afterschool providers to incorporate into programming. There are videos, lesson plans, and strategies for hosting deep conversations relating to historical racism in the United States. To access these resources, click [here](#).

eSchool News Article: 10 Learning Channels for Youth

[eSchool News](#) has written an article for educators, families, and afterschool providers highlighting ten learning channels for children and youth to bolster learning while at-home. Topics include mathematics, earth science, and more. To review the article, click [here](#).

EducationWeek Article: How to Discuss the Trial of Derek Chauvin with Young People

[EducationWeek](#) has compiled some strategies for educators and out-of-school time (OST) providers looking to discuss the trial of Derek Chauvin with students and young people in a constructive and supportive manner. To read the article, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

National Federation of Families: Celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Awareness week. [The National Federation of Families](#) has created activities for families to help educate their children on mental health, including the mood crew. To access these resources, click [here](#).

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Opportunities for Providers

Administration

ACT Now & Complete the Survey!

ACT Now is launching its annual spring Resource Survey!

Take the **Survey!**

The information you share with us will be critical in helping ACT Now continue to serve your needs as an afterschool professional and expand upon the services we already offer. We are also, for a limited time, sending resources to interested respondents. **The survey closes May 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. People who complete the survey will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 Target gift card or a \$50 Amazon gift card.**



Illinois State Board of Education: FY22 21st CCLC Program Grant Evaluators

[The Illinois State Board of Education](#)'s (ISBE) Wellness Department is seeking grant evaluator applications for the FY22 21st CCLC grant competition. To be considered for this opportunity, please complete the **survey**. After completing the survey, please send your resume or curriculum vitae describing your expertise and experience to jbaiter@isbe.net.

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

City Colleges of Chicago: Advancing Chicago's Education Scholarship

[City Colleges of Chicago](#) (CCC) are soliciting applications for the Advancing Chicago's Education (ACE) scholarship. This opportunity is open for 2020 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) graduates who are planning on becoming first-time college students. To learn more about the scholarship, eligibility, and to apply, click [here](#).

Chicago Public Schools, City Colleges of Chicago, and Illinois State University: Teach Chicago Tomorrow Pathways Partnership Program

[Chicago Public Schools](#) (CPS), [City Colleges of Chicago](#) (CCC), and [Illinois State University](#) (ISU) have partnered to provide young people with The Teach Chicago Tomorrow Pathways Partnership Program. This program is a structured pathway for aspiring teachers to meet like-minded students, complete college, earn their teaching credential, and start a CPS teaching career. To learn more about this program and to apply, click [here](#).

Youth Development

The Art Institute of Chicago: The Obama Portraits Teen Poetry Competition

[The Art Institute of Chicago](#) is hosting a competition for City of Chicago high school young adults interested in poetry, art, and spoken word. 9 winners receive a Visa gift card of either \$250, \$100, or \$50! To learn more about eligibility, click [here](#). **All submissions are due May 23, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.**

Illinois State Board of Education: 2021-22 Student Advisory Council Application Open

[The Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) is soliciting applications from young people for its 2021-22 ISBE Student Advisory Council (SAC). **The deadline to submit an application is May 31, 2021.** To learn more and to apply, click [here](#). For questions, please contact Dr. Leslie Ward in the Student Care Department at lward@isbe.net.

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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