

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Upcoming 21st CCLC Town Hall

Calling all 21st CCLC Providers! **ACT Now** will be hosting another Town Hall on **June 23, 2022, at 11:00 am**. ACT Now will be sharing updates from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and continuing to gather feedback on ongoing challenge and concerns. As always, there will opportunities to hear from your colleagues. After registering for the event, you will receive a confirmation email. For questions and concerns, please reach out to **Susan Stanton** (Network Lead) at StantonS@actnowillinois.org.

REGISTER TODAY!

New ACT Now Team Members!



Meet our new Afterschool STEM Specialist, **Kim Turnbull**! Kim recently joined our team and has already helped to support STEM and afterschool program providers! Read a brief message from Kim:

STEM and STEM education has always been my passion! During my 20 years of classroom teaching experience, connecting the curriculum to the real-world situations for students was a must. This was successful, but the most rewarding and memorable experiences came from working with students outside of the classroom on special projects, programs or contests. This is where I was able to form deeper relationships, ignite an interest, and spark a potential path in students that they may have never explored before. Upon leaving education, I knew I wanted to promote STEM for all children and what better way to do that than through afterschool and out of school programs. I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work with ACT Now to assist in strengthening STEM across Illinois and expanding future opportunities for all children.



We also have a new Afterschool Resource and Support Specialist, Jackie Tichler! Jackie has a MA in Organizational Management and a BA in Organizational Management and English. Read why Jackie is so passionate about afterschool:

Living in a rural community I did not have access to quality afterschool programming for my own children, so I operated a licensed daycare out of my home during my children's younger years to ensure they at least had a safe place to go to afterschool. Not everyone is able to do that, so once my children were old enough to care for themselves afterschool, I joined the Sterling Rock Falls Family YMCA and worked with the 21st Century afterschool program. I had a hand in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating the overall program, services, and activities to ensure Quality Standards were met along with student needs. I believe it is important for young people to have access to safe, quality out-of-school time (OST) programming, but it is just as important for parents/guardians to have comfort knowing their children are part of a safe, quality program.

I was first connected with ACT Now to complete the Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment Tool (IL-QPSA) and quickly realized there was a lot of support and encouragement along the way. ACT Now became my go to for reliable, authentic

updates and resources to ensure we hosted a quality program. Early in 2021 I applied and was selected, to be part of the ACT Now Quality Assurance, Outcomes and Evaluation Committee. Seeing the drive and passion ACT Now has for continuous quality improvement (CQI) and supporting providers and programs made me recognize I wanted to be part of those initiatives for out-of-school time programs throughout Illinois. Not only to help increase positive outcomes among youth, but to give parents a peace of mind that their children are a part of a quality program.

Kim and Jackie, we are thrilled to have you! WELCOME!

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[CDC guidance for K-12 including school age care and summer programs](#)

On **May 27, 2022**, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) released updated guidance for K-12 programs, with special considerations for day and overnight camps and out-of-school-time providers. The CDC continues to encourage families to vaccinate eligible youth to ensure the safety of staff and children during the summer. The CDC clarified that masking continues to be optional but highly encouraged as COVID-19 cases remain high across the nation. The CDC also included a [FAQ](#) that surrounds questions about summer day camps and programs as well as a [FAQ](#) specific to overnight camps.

State Updates

[Governor Signs Legislation To Protect and Expand Children's Mental Health](#)

On **May 25, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker signed two laws that aim to expand and improve access to mental health services for children across the state, with a focus on children in foster care. [SB3889](#) updates the work of our partner, the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership, to "advise state agencies on designing and implementing strategies to provide comprehensive and coordinated services for children from birth to age 25 and their families to better address children's mental health needs." [HB4306](#) changes the Children and Family Services Act and initiates the Holistic Mental Health Care for Youth in Care Task Force. Ultimately, these pieces of legislation will focus on providing youth with mental health professionals and supports, which the Governor has acknowledged is of highest priority as the state continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

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	21st CCLC Town Hall	June 23, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	June Membership Exchange	June 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 1: Program Handbook Development Workshop	July 26, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now and IDHS	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 2: eCornerstone & Business Objects	July 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now and ICOY	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 3: CBAT-O	July 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now	Teen REACH OST Summer Learning Series - Day 4: Core Service Breakouts	July 29, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	For Teen REACH Providers REGISTER
Youth Development	Illinois Student Advisory Council	Recommendations to Improve Learning Conditions	June 30, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

ACT Now Reminder: IL-QPSA Pledge to Quality

ALL Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) tool items are **due by or before June 15, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.** Questions? Comments? Concerns? Please reach out to **Emma Vibber** (Quality and Professional Development Manager) at vibbere@actnowillinois.org.

New York Uses Federal Aid to Offer Students with Disabilities Afterschool Programming

[Chalkbeat New York](#) wrote an article highlighting how New York City schools are leveraging COVID-19 funding to support students with disabilities with a focus on youth with sensory initiatives.

[Community Partnership Grant Recipient Highlight](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) has written a blog post and developed a full brief with insights from program providers around summer 2022. The takeaways highlight key challenges for the field as well as opportunities to expand programming for youth across the nation.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Afterschool Alliance Message to The Field On Supporting Grieving Youth](#)

After the recent events in Texas and New York, Jodi Grant (Executive Director of the [Afterschool Alliance](#)) has written a letter to communities across the nation and afterschool providers with resources for supporting grieving youth.

[Trauma-Informed Resources for Schools and Afterschool Programs](#)

- [ShareMyLesson](#) has a variety of materials and trauma-informed strategies for helping students discuss and process distressing events.
- The [New York Times](#) has an article for [talking about mass violence with youth of different ages](#) and in a supportive manner.

[Resources for Supporting LGBTQIA Colleagues in the Workplace](#)

[The National AfterSchool Association \(NAA\)](#) has compiled several resources for organizations and afterschool professionals to utilize for ensuring supportive workplace environments for LGBTQIA colleagues.

[Social and Emotional Learning Tools for Equity](#)

[The National Urban League](#) recently published a toolkit for informal educators to use to ensure equity in the social and emotional learning support services they offer to youth and community members.

Professional Development

[Planning for Sustainable 21st Century Programming](#)

Sustainability planning is integral to creating an enduring Illinois 21st Century program. [The Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly](#) has an article highlighting some ways that afterschool providers can prepare to sustain their 21st Century program. There are also suggestions for continuing programming after the grant ends.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Resources for Understanding and Teaching Youth About Juneteenth](#)

First celebrated on June 19, 1866, Juneteenth marks the day that African Americans living in Texas first learned that the Civil War had ended and slavery had been abolished. Though the holiday has existed for 155 years, both as a day of remembrance and celebration, very few students learn about Juneteenth in school. To learn more about the origins of Juneteenth and how to share its history with younger generations, visit:

- [New York Public Library: Books to Discuss Juneteenth](#)
- [ShareMyLesson: Juneteenth](#)
- [Learning for Justice: Teaching Juneteenth](#)
- [New York Times: So You Want to Learn About Juneteenth?](#)
- [Read, Write, Think: Classroom Resources, Calendar Activities, and More for Juneteenth](#)
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture: Celebrating Juneteenth](#)

[Chicago Moves - Transportation Cost Relief](#)

Chicago Moves is a short-term assistance program that provides financial relief for Chicago residents struggling with transportation expenses. The program grants \$150 prepaid cards eligible for redemption at local Chicago gas stations as well as \$50 prepaid cards eligible for use on public transit. Apply today!

Youth Development

[Million Girls Moonshot STEM Resources for June](#)

This month, the Million Girls Moonshot (MGM) celebrates the amazing work that women engineers around the world are doing to support lives and livelihoods every day. For the full list of opportunities in June's asset package, click [here](#).

[Webinars and Trainings](#)

- [DOS Certification Training: July 13th and July 14th \(two-day training\), from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.](#) Register by June 29, 2022.
- [DOS Program Planning Tool Training: August 2nd and August 4th, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.](#)
- [ACRES June Cohorts](#) on Asking Purposeful Questions and Modeling Engineering Practices (throughout the month).

[Resources and Activities](#)

- [Great Women in Engineering History](#) - Long before women engineers were considered something special, some amazing women were doing great things to pave the way. Although their contributions are sometimes unrecognized, women with a little ingenuity have always had the power to do great things.
- **Article:** [What is Environmental Engineering?](#) - Curious about what environmental engineering is, and what an environmental engineer does? Read on to find out! We've even got a hands-on environmental project for you—and it's delicious.
- **Article:** [Epic Fail! Working to Reframe the Concept of Failing](#) - Ways to make engineering and inventing accessible and exciting through celebrating failure.
- **Webinar Recording:** [NGCP Archived Webinar: Families & STEAM: Strengthening Relationships & Building Partnerships](#) - Family engagement in STEAM can come in many forms — STEAM nights, science fairs, family newsletters, etc. But how can you move into a deeper partnership with families in the service of STEAM learning?

- **Activity:** [4 Great Outdoor Activities to Do With Kids This Summer](#) - These easy activities are designed to be suitable in a COVID conscious environment. Young children play outdoor games, plant a garden, make ice cream, and participate in a scavenger hunt.
- **Activity:** [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.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Enlace Chicago Employment Opportunity](#)

Our friends at [Enlace Chicago](#) are hiring for a Community Health and Data Specialist. Applications will be accepted until the role is filled!

Professional Development

[Quality Standards 101 Training \(QST 101\) Opportunity!](#)

[ACT Now](#) is hosting a NEW opportunity to engage with the Quality Standards on **[June 22, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.](#)** During this Quality Standards 101 Training, participants will learn more about the benefits of quality programming for positive youth outcomes. Attendees will also create a plan for implementing the Standards and developing strategies for overcoming obstacles in implementing quality initiatives. There will also be time for peer discussion and connections! **Please note: ACT Now will mail FREE materials ahead of the training. The deadline to register for this training is tomorrow, June 15, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.**

If you have any questions, please reach out to [Emma Vibber](#) (Quality and Professional Development Manager) at VibberE@actnowillinois.org.

[Mizzen by Mott: A Demo of Free, Accessible Afterschool Activities](#)

The Mizzen by Mott app is a free resource for afterschool teachers and site coordinators that provides easy-to-access afterschool lessons, activities, tips, and articles. Mizzen has curated several different playlists and modules including STEM, the arts, 21st Century skills, social & emotional, and career prep. At the June Membership Exchange, on **[June 28, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.](#)**, ACT Now will be hosting a representative from Mizzen who will demonstrate:

- How to access the mobile app and the desktop site
- Walkthroughs of specific activities

- Use of the tool across content areas

At a time when so much is being asked of afterschool providers, this tool makes planning and preparing engaging lessons accessible for all. Come [join us!](#) For questions and concerns, please contact **Lesley Fisher Chapman** (Program Coordinator) at ChapmanL@actnowillinois.org.

Youth Development

[Monarch Club Educator Workshop](#)

[The Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum \(PNNM\)](#) has an initiative that aims to increase awareness and interest surrounding monarch biology, pollinator ecology, and related conservation efforts for youth during the summer. The curricula and activities are great for out-of-school time (OST) learning environments! **PNNM is facilitating a workshop on June 21, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., in-person.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[City of Chicago Mayor's Youth Commission](#)

The Mayor's Youth Commission is a group of high school and college aged students (14-19) that serve as a liaison between the Chicago Mayor's Office and Chicago's youth. The Commission meets on a monthly basis to foster youth-driven civic engagement and amplify youth voices to impact the city's critical policy conversations. Youth Commissioners will receive up to \$500 for their participation. **The Mayor's office is soliciting applications for its new cohort and applications are due by July 1, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.**

[Chicago Park District - Summer Day Camp 2022](#)

Registration for Chicago Park District's Day Camp is open! Every summer, the park district looks forward to reconnecting by engaging in fun, safe, and inclusive activities for children. The 6-weeks of summer fun includes sports, arts, fitness, and outdoor activities of the camp experience. Dates may vary.

[My CHI. My Future App - Lollapalooza Ticket Drawing!](#)

[C3 Presents](#) has partnered with [My CHI. My Future \(MCMF\)](#) to provide a weekly drawing/ sweepstakes for teen users, ages 16 to 24 years old, leveraging the new MCMF app. **Teens can enter by downloading the app and entering an app-exclusive weekly drawing through July 8, 2022.**

Professional Development

[Fellowship program for young Black leaders \(ages 18-24\)](#)

IDEAS Generation is hosting the Dream in Me program for young adults that "includes a financial stipend of \$500, mentorship, skill building workshops, and networking support in service of realizing a dream these leaders have for their own community." **Applications due July 20, 2022.**

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

Funding Opportunities

Family and Community Partnerships

[Fund for Workforce Equity](#)

[Workforce Matters](#) is soliciting applications from organizations that are "implementing initiatives centering workers and learners of color in designing workforce policies and programs." There is an [informational webinar](#) on **June 16, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.** Applications are due **July 31, 2022.**

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

Were you forwarded this email?

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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

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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