

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ACT Now Blog

ACT Now Blog: Summer Programming During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Our newest Summer Intern, Isabel Randall, has interviewed several afterschool and summer learning programs in order to understand how providers are responding to diverse needs of youth and their families throughout the public health crisis and over the summer. Isabel highlights the strategies of several programs located in the City of Chicago, as they respond and serve their communities. Interviewed program providers include: The Gads Hill Center, The Gary Comer Youth Center, and Northeastern Illinois University, which collaborates with Morton East and West High Schools. To read the blog post, click [here](#).

Policy Updates

Federal Policy Updates

U.S. House: FY 21 Appropriations Process Begins

Last week, the House of Representatives officially began the FY2021 appropriations process with multiple subcommittee mark-ups. Key funding provisions of the bill that will support afterschool and summer learning programs include:

- \$13 million increase for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center program
- \$100 million increase for Child Care and Development Block Grant for a total of \$5.9 billion

- \$10 million increase for Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants for a total of \$1.2 billion. These funds can be used for afterschool
- \$172 million for an initiative to support social-emotional learning and “whole child” approaches to education, and includes \$30 million for Full-Service Community Schools

To read more about these appropriation, click [here](#).

U.S. Senate: Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act Proposed

On **July 1, 2020**, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Coronavirus Child Care and Education Relief Act (CCERA) in the U.S. Senate. This bill would build upon the educational investments from the CARES Act and provide almost \$430 billion in funding for child care, child abuse and neglect prevention, K-12 education, postsecondary education, services for individuals with disabilities, workforce development, and more. To read the full press release by Senator Murray, click [here](#). To read the entire proposed document, click [here](#).

U.S. Senate: Bipartisan CORPS Act Introduced

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Senate introduced the bipartisan Cultivating Opportunity and Response to the Pandemic through Service (CORPS) Act, which includes provisions that would improve benefits for national service members in programs such as AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, and Senior Corps and increase the number of available service positions. To read the full brief by the Afterschool Alliance, click [here](#).

U.S. House: Child Care for Economic Recovery Act Proposed

On **June 25, 2020**, the House Appropriations Chair Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Ways and Means Chair Richard Neal (D-Mass) introduced the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act, which would open up the child and dependent care tax credit for child care providers to cover mortgage payments, utility bills, and rent costs. The Act would also expand the employee retention tax credit to keep childcare workers employed. To read more about the Act, click [here](#).

State Policy Updates

Illinois State Board of Education: 21st Century Community Learning Centers RFP Deadline Extended

Yesterday, **June 13, 2020**, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced that due to challenges associated with COVID-19, the

agency will be **extending the deadline for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers RFP until Friday, July 17, 2020**. For more information regarding the RFP, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: FY 2021 21st CCLC Continuation Application Now Available via IWAS

The Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) application for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Continuation is now available in the electronic Grants Management System (eGMS) through the agency's Web Application Security (IWAS) system for FY 2021. **Applications must be completed at submitted electronically to t your application to ISBE by September 1, 2020, to ensure a July 1, 2021 start date.** For more information and instruction, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Administration

ACT Now Webinar: Reopening Schools and Afterschool

On **July 22, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, **ACT Now** is hosting a webinar to provide an overview of the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) guidance on reopening. Participants will:

- Take a deep dive into ISBE's Reopening Plan
- Hear from colleagues about what they are doing to address the challenges associated with reopening
- Receive tips for planning to reopen your program and how to support staff
- Gain resources for engaging school districts, families, and community members, in order to make the case for afterschool

To register for the event, click [here](#).

Safety, Health & Nutrition

City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services: Guided Meditation Event

On **July 18, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, the City of Chicago's Department of Family & Support Services Youth Services Division is offering during a guided meditation session. Participants will learn how to focus inwardly in order to change behavior and to utilize breathing and visualization activities as part of their daily lives. To register for and participate in this event, click [here](#).

Share Our Strength Webinar: Child Hunger and Summer Feeding Programs

On **July 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, Share Our Strength is hosting a webinar for providers interested in learning about child hunger and its implications, hear how child nutrition programs are supporting youth and families during COVID-19, and why summer feeding programs are so important. To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Youth Development

My CHI. My Future Webinar: Project SYNCERE

On **July 16, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.**, My CHI. My Future. is hosting a live professional learning session with Project SYNCERE to share their experiences in doing hands-on, real-world engineering learning via virtual programming this summer. To register for the event, click [here](#).

Discovery Education and TGR Foundation Webinar: No-Cost Digital Resources to Support STEM Teaching and Learning

On **July 21, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.**, Discovery Education and TGR Foundation are hosting a webinar to share with OST providers comprehensive, no-cost, high-quality, and standards-aligned resources to support STEM teaching and learning in the afterschool and summer camp environment. To register for the event, click [here](#).

College Changes Everything: 2020 Online Conference

Beginning on **July 22, 2020**, College Changes Everything (CCE) will be hosting its annual Conference. Due to the public health crisis, all events will be hosted online. To review the recorded and live opportunities and register for the conference, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide: Unit 4 Released!

The newest unit of the Summer Activity Guide, called "Invention & Imagination," has been released. All activities and challenges are based in STEM competencies and encourage youth to take part in hands-on projects that link innovation to imagination. To access the guides and all supporting materials, click [here](#). **Note: Unit 1 has been translated into Spanish and you can access the guides via our website.*

CASEL: Social and Emotional Learning Roadmap for Reopening School

CASEL, along with 40 organizations, produced a roadmap to support the return to school with equity-focused Social-Emotional Learning strategies centered on relationships and based upon the existing assets of a school community. To read the extensive guide, click [here](#).

Learning Policy Institute Blog: In the Fallout of the Pandemic, Community Schools Show a Way Forward for Education

The Learning Policy Institute has written a blog post on the holistic ways in which many Community Schools in New York City have responded to the pandemic and supported communities with distinct needs. The article also advocates for the Community School to be implemented in more regions of the United States. To read the full blog post, click [here](#).

COVID-19

Chicago Resiliency Fund: Apply for Assistance

In collaboration with the City of Chicago, the Resurrection Project has developed the Chicago Resiliency Fund. This fund is giving money to those who are undocumented, people who are part of mixed-status families, dependent adults, people experiencing homelessness, people who were formerly incarcerated, college students, etc. **Individuals must not have been eligible for federal stimulus checks to apply.** To read more about this project, click [here](#). To access the application, click [here](#).

Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund (ICRF): Round 5 Guidelines and Informational Webinars

The United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations, in collaboration with the Office of Governor, created the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund to raise funds and award grants to nonprofits across the state serving individuals, families, and communities enduring the greatest burden from the COVID-19 pandemic. For the final round of funding, the ICRF is seeking applicants:

- Primarily focused on serving Black and/or Latinx communities outside of Cook and the Collar Counties (DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will)
- Led by (or in meaningful partnership with organizations led by) Black and/or Latinx individuals. Successful applicants will have an innovative approach that provides basic needs and is designed to be sustainable

The deadline to apply for Round 5 funding is **July 24, 00 at 12:00 p.m.** The ICRF will be hosting informational webinars about the application process on **July 15, 2020, at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** To register for the webinar, click [here](#). For more information about ICRF funding and eligibility, click [here](#). Please send any questions regarding the application to icrf@cct.org.

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

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Youth Opportunities

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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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 (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate)** at Spencere@actnowillinois.org

NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).

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