

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ACT Now & Register: Addressing the Crisis in the Afterschool Workforce

[A Conversation with Legislators and Afterschool Providers](#)

The afterschool workforce in Illinois and across the nation is facing an unprecedented staffing crisis. With factors such as compensation and burnout only being worsened by the pandemic, providers are leaving the workforce at an alarming scale. **ACT Now** recently surveyed the out-of-school (OST) field and compiled data on some of the key strategies for supporting staff and encouraging individuals to enter the afterschool community. We will be launching a one-pager on this data and on how to address this issue. Join us on **August 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m!**

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Federal Support for Afterschool: Engage Every Student Initiative Has Launched!](#)

On **July 14, 2022**, the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced the start of the Engage Every Student Initiative, which aims to ensure that every child across the United States has access to high-quality afterschool programming. The initiative is a "bold new call to action to utilize American Rescue Plan funds alongside other state and local funds" to expand out-of-school time (OST) opportunities for children and families that want to participate in these experiences. This is the first time that leaders in the federal government are pushing for afterschool for all and plans focus on partnerships between a variety of stakeholders. There is also emphasis on building upon the 21st Century Community Learning Centers framework in

place to support more students with OST programming. Read more about this historic moment, [here](#).

State Updates

[Governor JB Pritzker Releases Updated Executive Order Related to COVID-19 Protocols](#)

On **July 13, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker shared his next step in ramping down the state's COVID-19 Executive Orders, which included updated vaccine requirements and testing protocols for specific industries. Specifically, "the updated executive order amends testing requirements for some unvaccinated healthcare employees and removes mandates for some other industries." Some of the important changes included:

- reduced requirements for school exclusion
- removed provisions relating to setting up alternative care facilities
- a return to non-emergency hospital oversight by removing several provisions
- a restart to normal jail-to-prison transfers
- lifting provisions in an effort to ensure governments are resuming normal operations

Related to afterschool and child care programming, Governor JB Pritzker also announced that

- **vaccine mandates for higher education** employees and students and emergency medical service providers **will not be reissued**
- **vaccination mandates will remain in place in K-12 schools, daycares**, state-run 24/7 congregate care facilities, and any health care facilities not covered under the federal CMS vaccine mandate (including independent doctors' offices, dental offices, urgent care facilities, and outpatient facilities)

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	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
	ISBE	Active Recruitment of Special Populations into CTE Programs and Nontraditional Careers - Educator Panel	July 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	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
	ACT Now	Peace Circle Train the Trainer Webinar	August 2, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	August Membership Exchange: Introducing the ACT Now Academy: An Online Learning and Training Platform for Illinois OST Providers	August 3, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Black Youth Leadership 21 and Gary Comer Youth Center	Educational Leadership Summit 2022	August 19, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	In-Person Event REGISTER
Family and Community Partnerships	NISE Network	Tools for Engaging Communities and Incorporating Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion Practices	TODAY, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	American Youth Policy Forum	AYPF Youth Summit	August 3, 2022 August 17, 2022 August 31, 2022 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	REGISTER
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	ShareMyLesson	Mental Health in the Classroom	August 4, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

TW: This section shares resources related to self-harm and suicide prevention as well as violence in communities.

[New 988 Crisis Line](#)

On **July 15, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced "that the Illinois Department of Human Services' (IDHS) Division of Mental Health, in coordination with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is expanding Illinois' mental health safety net by rolling out **988**, a new, nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis line." **Now, individuals in crisis may dial 988 to access support services for youth and adults.**

[Talking About School Safety With Kids: A Guide for Educators](#)

[EducationWeek](#) published an article for both formal and informal educators regarding school safety. This guide may help program providers develop a safe and trauma-informed environment for youth to discuss and process the recent violence in communities across the nation. In particular, the article share practices for talking about the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Youth Development

[Ten Durable Skills For Future Success](#)

[eSchool News](#) recently published a list of ten skills that employers view as the most desirable in employees. This article will help afterschool providers to integrating these skills into programming and help to ensure learners will reach success in the future.

[Social-Emotional Learning Games](#)

[Playworks](#) released a guide of games and activities that focus on the social-emotional learning (SEL) competencies in youth. The guide includes more the 150 activities that can be standalone sessions or combined to build upon one another. There are also tips for facilitation and other resources!

Family and Community Partnerships

[My CHI. My Future Scholarship for Allschool Opportunity](#)

[My CHI. My Future](#) has partnered with Allschool to provide 1,000 scholarships to families to try free online classes for students. Allschool is an innovative virtual platform that delivers highly interactive small group & 1:1 live classes to students around the US. Classes available include Art, Coding, English, Health, Life Skills, Math, Music, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. For questions and concerns, families may contact Jacob Kantor at jacob.kantor@sparkedu.com or 818-355-4179.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Professional Development

[Leadership Opportunity \(Board Membership\)](#)

[The Young Nonprofit Professionals Network \(YNPN\)](#) - Chicago, is seeking applicants for its 2022-2023 Board. **Applications are due July 29, 2022.**

[Joyce Awards for Artists of Color](#)

[The Joyce Foundation](#) is soliciting applications for its annual Joyce Awards, which focuses on supporting artists of color in Great Lakes including Chicago. New organizational applicants must register to apply before **September 7, 2022.**

Family and Community Partnerships

[We Will Chicago - Chicago Citywide Plan](#)

Mayor Lori Lightfoot recently announced the Draft of the We Will Chicago Plan. This is Chicago's first citywide plan since 1966 and reflects the vision and data of communities across the city. Now, the Mayor is asking youth, program providers, families, and residents to read the plan and provide feedback!

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[City of Stories: Summer at CPL](#)

[The Chicago Public Library System \(CPL\)](#) is offering events and opportunities for children, teens and adults across the City of Chicago to celebrate stories that explore people, community and culture and the common themes that connect us together. Participants will receive a free family ticket to the Art Institute of Chicago. **The events span from June 27, 2022, to August 14, 2022.**

[Dual Enrollment Information Session](#)

On **July 27, 2022**, [Forefront](#) will be hosting a virtual session on dual enrollment in Illinois for high school students enrolled in college courses. During this session, participants will learn about the dual enrollment policy landscape, remote dual enrollment, and equity in dual enrollment.

[Newberry Book Fair](#)

Between July 29, 2022, and July 31, 2022, the [Newberry Library](#) in the City of Chicago, will be hosting a free book fair. This event includes a range of activities for youth of all ages!

[Discover Computing Sessions Are Quickly Approaching!](#)

[The Discovery Partners Institute \(DPI\)](#), [Wilbur Wright College](#) and Google Chicago are partnering to offer Discover Computing for students in Illinois. The goal of these sessions is to build a deeper and more diverse pool of students pursuing computer science and tech pathways in the state. The first opportunity will be offered **Monday - Friday (August 8, 2022, through August 12, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)**. for high school freshmen and sophomores. These sessions will be held in person at DPI's downtown office (200 S. Wacker).

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

Funding Opportunities

Professional Development

[Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teaching Grant](#)

[The National Society of High School Scholars \(NSHSS\)](#) is soliciting applications for its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Teach grant. This grant offers \$1,500 to educators who serve in rural areas, diverse student populations and/or those who are actively promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives in their school or greater community. The grant funding must be utilized for supplies, materials, field trips or other resources to enhance the delivery of courses. **The deadline to apply is August 15, 2022.**

Youth Development

[Full-Service Community Schools RFP!](#)

On **July 13, 2022**, the [U.S. Department of Education](#) announced \$68 million in grants to support students through Full-Service Community Schools. You can review the [most updated grant timeline here](#). The Coalition for Community Schools is hosting several webinars to help interested applicants learn key ways to successfully access this funding! Learn more about the [ongoing weekly webinar series](#). **The deadline to notify the U.S. Department of Education of your intent to apply is August 12, 2022. The deadline to submit the full application is September 12, 2022.**

[Early Childhood Education Grant Opportunity](#)

On **July 13, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced a \$60 million grant opportunity for early childhood education providers through the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program. The funding aims to support the "construction, expansion, and renovation of facilities that support early student learning." Eligible entities include public school districts and nonprofit early childhood facilities that provide "educational, health, social, or child development services to children aged zero to five years old and their families." The grant opportunity also prioritizes centers that will increase their capacity to provide care or educational opportunities for children in underserved communities are eligible. **Applications will be accepted until October 10, 2022.**

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

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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