

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

ACT Now Blog

ACT Now Blog: Self Care and Program Administration

Our Network Lead, Susan Stanton, has written a blog post highlighting some suggestions for afterschool providers to share with supervisors or program administrators in order to promote self care practices in our work environments as we all continue to navigate the challenges associated with COVID-19. Taking care of our afterschool professionals will ensure that they are able to keep doing such an amazing job supporting the youth and families of Illinois! To read the blog post, click [here](#).

Policy Updates

Federal Policy Updates

U.S. House of Representatives: FY 2021 Appropriations Passed

Last week, the U.S. House of Representative's Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2021 Labor, Health, and Human Services-Education (LHHS-Education) bill along party lines. The bill increases 21st Century funding lines by \$13 million. It is expected to pass the full House this week. However, it is not likely that the U.S. Senate FY 2021 appropriations bill will be passed until later this year. A Continuing Resolution is expected to keep the government funded after the current Fiscal Year ends on September 30, 2020. To review highlights from the LHHS-Education bill, click [here](#).

U.S. Senate: Back to Work Child Care Grants Act Proposed

Senate Republicans proposed the Back to Work Child Care Grants Act, which is sponsored by Senator Ernst (R-IA) and Senator Alexander (R-TN). Currently, the bill does not specify allocation levels, but would provide stabilization funding to states to support child care providers. The proposed legislation would establish grants, extending for nine months, to child care providers including license-exempt school-age programs. This funding would complement services supported by Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). To read more about the Back to Work Child Care Grants Act, click [here](#).

State Policy Updates

Governor Pritzker's Office: Governor Pritzker Announces Plan to Use \$108.5 Million in COVID-19 Relief Funding for Pre-K and Higher Education

On **July 14, 2020**, Governor Pritzker announced that he will allocate \$108.5 million, from the Federal Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds, to PreK-12 public education institutions and higher education institutions to meet the diverse challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, Governor Pritzker mentioned that this funding will help to promote equity, bridge the digital divide, ensure the health and safety of students, and help to overcome barriers created by COVID-19.

- \$10 million will be allocated to support early childhood programs across the state
- \$50 million will be reserved for K-12 schools in order to close the digital divide, train educators and parents, and social-emotional supports for students
- \$7.5 million in training for K-12 educators and families, so they can support students' growth holistically and strengthen their understanding of new technologies and learning models
- \$2.5 million for the Illinois State Board of Education to create the Student Care Department
- \$49 million for higher education institutions to overcome barriers facing students that have been created by the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$3 million in grants designed to enroll and retain underrepresented, first-generation, and high-need students at public and non-profit, independent four-year institutions of higher education in Illinois

To review the entire press release and learn more about the Governor's allocation of funds, click [here](#).

Chicago Public Schools: Preliminary Framework for Released

On **July 17, 2020**, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) released its preliminary framework for reopening in the Fall to the public and is soliciting feedback on the plan. To review the framework in English, click [here](#). To read the framework in Spanish, click [here](#). To submit reactions and feedback via the reopening survey, click [here](#). **All responses must be submitted by July 31, 2020.**

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](#).

Illinois State Board of Education Webinar: Digital Equity Grant Request for Proposals

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is hosting a webinar to provide technical assistance for those who are applying for its [Digital Equity Grant Request for Proposals](#). The webinar will be held on **Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.**, and will include information on eligibility requirements and application procedures. **Proposals must be submitted electronically by August 14, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.** To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Illinois Resource Center: Free FY21 Webinar Trainings for Providers

The Illinois Resource Center, in conjunction with the Illinois Principals Association, has announced several free webinar trainings for afterschool providers and educators to participate in during FY21. Topics include: Preparing for Remote Learning, How to Support English Learners, Implementing Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies in Programming, and more! To review these opportunities and register for them, click [here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

Council for a Strong America Webinar: Coming Together for Our Youth - Innovating Out-of-School Time

On **July 22, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.**, the Council for a Strong America is hosting a discussion about out-of-school time (OST) and the potential impact of OST innovations on our nation's youth as we continue to confront challenges related to the pandemic. Panelists will include a law-enforcement leader from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a retired military leader from Mission: Readiness, and a business leader from ReadyNation. To register for this event, click [here](#).

Youth Development

The Summer Activity Guide

Check out the Summer Activity Guide, which hosts a variety of activities and challenges for youth ages 5 to 18. To access these guides and all supporting materials, click [here](#). **Note: Unit 1 has been translated into Spanish and you can access them via our website.*

College Changes Everything 2020 Conference: Recorded Webinars Posted

The College Changes Everything (CCE) 2020 Conference released several recorded sessions on a variety of topics relating to afterschool, education, college and career exploration, and more. Don't miss the "Focusing on Career Exploration Outside of the School Day!" session featuring ACT Now. In this webinar, you will receive resources, activities, and curriculum for how you can incorporate career exploration outside of the school day and find afterschool programs with who you can collaborate. To view the recordings, click [here](#).

Museum of Science and Industry: Summer Brain Games

The Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) just released its Summer Brain Games for youth to stay engaged and active during the summer. These activities are based in STEM competencies and use everyday items! Learn what materials conduct electricity, make a map to understand scale, and more! To access the instructions for these creative and hands-on activities in English and Spanish, click [here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

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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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