

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[Summer Meal Waivers and Flexibilities Pass in Congress and Start to Roll Out](#)

[The U.S. Department of Agriculture's \(USDA\) Food and Nutrition Service \(FNS\)](#) recently issued several waivers and flexibilities related to the national child nutrition program. These actions were a direct result of the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022, which aimed to continue and expand the provision of meals for students (as waivers first introduced at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic were set to expire). These rules will allow Out-of-School Time (OST) programs, schools, and other community-based organizations that offer meals to youth to operate during Summer 2022 and School Year 2022-2023. The following are flexibilities provided in the Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022:

- **Area Eligibility:** allows meals to be offered through the Summer Nutrition Programs at sites that do not meet the 50 percent area eligibility requirement
- **Meal Times:** allows meals to be served outside traditional times to maximize flexibility for meal pickup
- **Non-Congregate Feeding:** allows meals to be served in a non-group setting (i.e., allowing for “grab and go” and delivered meals)
- **Parent/Guardian Pick-Up:** allows parents or guardians to pick up meals without children being present;
- **SFSP Reimbursement for Meals Served Under SSO:** allows schools operating the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to receive the higher Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) reimbursement for meals served this summer
- **Eligibility for Closed-Enrolled Sites:** allows all closed-enrolled sites to participate without individually qualifying each child

The Keep Kids Fed Act also makes available additional funding for child nutrition program operators by:

- Providing afterschool meal providers and child care centers with a temporary supplement of 10 cents reimbursement per meal and snack
- Providing schools with a temporary supplement to reimbursement of 40 cents per lunch and 15 cents per breakfast
- Providing family day care homes with the higher (“Tier 1”) reimbursement rate for school year 2022-23

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	TODAY , 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	TOMORROW , 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	August 3, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

		Training Platform for Illinois OST Providers		
	You 4 Youth (Y4Y)	New Leaders Academy (Four-Part Webinar Series)	August 9, 2022 August 11, 2022 August 16, 2022 August 18, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.	For 21st CCLC Providers REGISTER
	ACT Now	Addressing the Crisis in the Afterschool Workforce: A Conversation with Legislators and Afterschool Providers	August 10, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	U.S. Department of Education	Providing Required Compensatory Services That Help Students with Disabilities in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic	July 27, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Families in Chicago Highlight Difficulties Finding Child Care During the Summer](#)

[Chalkbeat Chicago](#) recently asked families to share their child care plans for the summer and wrote an article reflecting some of the challenges in accessing affordable and inclusive programs.

[New Map Showcasing Afterschool Programs Leveraging COVID-19 Relief](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) and the [National League of Cities \(NLC\)](#) have partnered to produce the newest iteration of a map that pinpoints the location of Out-of-School Time (OST) programs across the country that are using COVID-19 funds. The article itself highlights three programs in Connecticut, Washington, and Virginia, respectively.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Supporting and Promoting Mental Health in Out-of-School Time \(OST\)](#)

[The Afterschool Alliance](#) released an article summarizing a recent brief written by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) on supporting mental health needs in OST. The article outlines different tips and the implications of supporting youth and program providers.

Youth Development

[5 Ways to Create a Strong Math Culture in the Classroom](#)

Data shows that most students feel negatively about math and carry these feelings throughout their educational career. [eSchool News](#) published a list highlighting five ways to combat this negativity around math and enforce habits and skills that will support students' math learning for years.

[Summer Learning Activities](#)

[ShareMyLesson](#) has released over 100 activities for formal and informal educators to leverage in summer programming! The resources are split into grade levels and span from Preschool to high school. There are also materials for healthy living and social-emotional competencies. *For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).*

Opportunities for Providers

Youth Development

[STEM Events for Youth and Educators](#)

- **[RISE Challenge Virtual Kick Off Event](#)**: The Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) is hosting this event on **August 22, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for youth and families. There will be a raffle and prizes awarded!
- **[Educator Open House](#)**: [The College of DuPage](#) is hosting this event for educators on **August 30, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Morton Arboretum**. Pre-registration is required and capacity limits will be in place. Pre-registration will open **Monday, August 1, 2022**.
- **[EEAI Needs Assessment Meeting](#)**: The EEAI is working on developing its 2023 strategic plan so new goals and objectives of the organization are better aligned with the needs of Illinois Educators and Communities. **Sign up for just one session**. These sessions are

designed for PreK-12 school educators, administrators, support staff or organizations that work directly within these settings (such as afterschool clubs).

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

Youth Opportunities

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[Louder Than Words Grant](#)

[The Finish Line Youth Foundation](#) launched a nationwide grant cycle to support organizations that make a difference in diverse and underserved communities. The Foundation is soliciting applications and grant awards go up to \$25,000. **The deadline to apply is August 8, 2022.**

[Growth Opportunities Program](#)

The U.S. [Department of Labor](#) recently [announced awards](#) for Round 1 of the Growth Opportunities ([GO](#)) initiative. **The Round 2 competition is now live and accepting submissions until October 5, 2022.** The grant program works to ensure youth avoid violence and build conflict resolution skills, introduces and prepares youth for the world of work, helps youth identify career interests and attain skills and good work habits, and provides income to youth to start them on the path of earning living wages.

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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101 North Wacker, 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606 | Tel: [312.877.0725](tel:312.877.0725)

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