

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Community Partners Communitywide Meetings

ACT Now and [Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\)](#) are launching a new citywide initiative to support out-of-school time (OST) program partners that facilitate programming for students in the school district. During FY23, we will be hosting four community meetings to ensure that there is clear communication and collaboration between CPS and program providers.

Both ACT Now and CPS will share updates with the cohort and provide information on new resources. These are also opportunities to connect with colleagues in the field and leverage partnerships. The first communitywide meeting will be taking place on [Thursday, September 15, 2022, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.](#), and will focus on starting off the school year strong! To register for the first meeting, click [here](#). The upcoming meetings are as follows:

- [Meeting #2: December 15, 2022, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.](#)
- [Meeting #3: March 9, 2023, from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.](#)
- [Meeting #4: June 7, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.](#)

For questions or concerns, please contact **Emma Spencer** (Policy and Communications Manager) at spencere@actnowillinois.org.

New ACT Now Team Member

ACT Now would like to introduce our new staff member, **Tiffany Ellison**, to our Coalition!



Tiffany is excited to join the **ACT Now** team as the Policy, Communications, and Operations Associate. Throughout her college experience, Tiffany worked with a number of different nonprofits that all centered around youth development. She most recently worked with the New York City Department of Education as a Research and Policy Specialist, and she is looking forward to the opportunity to use her experience in policy to help expand afterschool opportunities for all children across Illinois!

Welcome, Tiffany!

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

[COVID-19 Booster Shots Available and Encouraged for Eligible Individuals and Youth](#)

On **August 31, 2022**, [the U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#) authorized new boosters are to help protect individuals from the COVID-19 variants. [The Illinois Department of Public Health \(IDPH\)](#) has aligned its guidance with that of the CDC and [encourages Illinois residents to get up to date with the newly approved booster vaccines](#). The best way to locate a vaccine provider near you is to go to www.vaccines.gov and search for bivalent booster availability.

State Updates

[Illinois Families Will Need to Prove Meal Eligibility Moving Forward](#)

As this school year starts, some Illinois students will continue to receive free or reduced meals and afterschool snacks but families will have to [submit information](#) to local schools to see if they qualify. Districts that serve low-income students are able to apply for a [program](#) that allows them to serve breakfast and lunch to everyone, regardless of income.

[Governor JB Pritzker Invests \\$100 Million More into Violence Prevention Initiatives](#)

On **August 30, 2022**, Governor JB Pritzker announced that community-based organizations and local municipalities located outside of the City of Chicago are eligible to apply for additional \$100 million in grant funding. This funding must be utilized to provide violence prevention services for youth and communities across the state. This newest allocation of funding builds upon the historic \$113 million Reimagine Public Safety Act (RPSA) funding that was made available in May as well as \$10 million in funding for Chicago and other areas of the state in advance of summer 2022. To access more information regarding the grant opportunity, the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) created a list of [RPSA eligible municipalities in Greater Illinois](#).

For an archive of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings, Events and Webinars

To register for all upcoming **ACT Now** trainings, please sign up for the [ACT Now Center for Afterschool Learning \(ANCAL\)](#). ANCAL is an online learning and training platform that is FREE for all Illinois afterschool and OST professionals. Within this new online learning system, you will be able to access a full list of all of our professional development opportunities!

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
Safety, Health, and Nutrition	U.S. Department of Education	Partners in Prevention: Engaging the Campus Community to Prevent Gender-Based Violence	Tomorrow, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.	REGISTER
	ShareMyLesson and American Federation of Teachers	Community Schools: Building Relationships in Classrooms through Social Justice and Anti-racist Curriculum	September 27, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER

Professional Development	Forefront	GATA Training (Grant Accountability and Transparency Act)	September 15, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Part One: Finding Your Dream Team: How to Recruit, Hire and Support Staff	September 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	STEM Curricula Training	September 20, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	Community Schools Statewide Q1 Convening: The Extended Learning Day	This convening has been postponed to October 12, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	School Partnership Webinar Series: Designing Programming Using Needs Assessment and Asset Mapping	September 22, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	*This is tailored to school districts and administrators REGISTER
	U.S. Department of Education	Community School Leadership	September 22, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	Raising Illinois	A Deep Dive into One of the Infant Toddler Child Care Roadmap's Easiest Recommendations to Solve For	September 22, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	STEM Webinar #1: Launching the STEM OST Guidebook	September 27, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER
	Illinois AfterSchool Network	Part Two: Now That You've Got Them, How Do You Keep Them? Cultivating, Motivating and Retaining Your Staff	September 30, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	REGISTER
Youth Development	National Girls Collaborative Project	Leveraging Collective Impact to Support STEM Programs and Resources	September 29, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.	REGISTER
	ACT Now	October Membership Exchange: Lights On Afterschool 2022	October 4, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	REGISTER

	Afterschool Alliance	Lights On Afterschool 2022!	October 20, 2022 (ALL DAY)	Register YOUR EVENT
Family and Community Partnerships	Institute for Educational Leadership	Virtual Youth Town Hall: How Adults Can Help Address Challenges in the New School Year	September 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.	REGISTER

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

Resources for Providers

Administration

[Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week 2022 Resources](#)

[The Coalition for Community Schools](#) invites program providers, community members, and youth across the nation to support and celebrate community school coordinators this month! The appreciation week will be taking place **September 19, 2022, to September 23, 2022**. There is social media content, activities, and more, to show your appreciation for your coordinators! #CoordinatorsRock

Youth Development

[Report on Youth Voice in Community Schools](#)

[The Institute for Educational Leadership \(IEL\)](#) has produced a new brief on how the community schools model supports youth choice and voice in decisions and programming. This guide helps program providers understand how to elevate youth leadership leaderships in their programming, schools, and communities.

[Career Development Experience Toolkit Facilitation Guide](#)

[Education Systems Center at the Northern Illinois University](#) has designed a guide for educators to help guide them through the process of creating and maintaining successful Career Development Experiences for youth. The guide compiles best practices and resources that align with your community's needs while highlighting common barriers and solutions for equitably engaging underrepresented youth

[National Hispanic Heritage Month - STEM Resources](#)

In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month (**September 15, 2022, to October 15, 2022**), the [National Girls Collaborative Project \(NGCP\)](#) compiled a few resources that promote Latina students in STEM:

- [Latinas in STEM](#): Spreads awareness about STEM and encourages middle and high school Latinas, especially within underserved communities, to consider pursuing a STEM career.
- [TECHNOLOchicas](#): Designed to raise awareness among young Latinas and their families about opportunities and careers in technology
- [HMH Lesson Plan](#): In this free math activity for grades 9 and up, youth learn about Dr. Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman to go into space, and participate in an activity that explores functions using a real-world example of a space shuttle launch.
- [IF/THEN® Ambassador Role Model Resources](#): Explore assets featuring Latinx, Latina, and Hispanic role models, including Roselin Rosario-Meléndez, Polymer Chemist, Minerva Cordero, Mathematician and Mathematics Professor, and Luz Claudio, Environmental Health Scientist.

[Science Buddies](#) also [developed 21 brief profiles of Latinx scientists](#) for youth to learn more about!

[NASA Resource for High-Quality STEM Programming](#)

[NASA](#) has a suite of free NASA-funded STEM resources for students in grades three through eight. All resources are research-based and classroom-tested. They are designed to support students' understanding of space, while helping them see themselves as capable problem solvers.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[Creating Identity-Safe Schools and Classrooms](#)

[The Learning Policy Institute \(LPI\)](#) recently released a report highlighting the importance of creating safe and brave spaces for students and to support young people's social-emotional well-being. The report examines the ways in which afterschool program providers can build inclusive and affirming learning environments that support all students.

[Changes to EBT-Link Card Functionality](#)

[The Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) recently switched EBT vendors and the change will result in enhanced Link Card functionality and features. As a result of this change, Link Card holders can now expect the following changes:

- Increased security features
- Ability to freeze card

- Ability to block or grant out of state purchases on card
- Can sign up for text message or email notifications about activity on card
- New cards will now be gray with a blue stripe, though the old cards still work
- All Link recipients will be required to create an account and new password upon their first-time logging into the Link Card web portal

Please reach out to Ruby Larson at rlarson@gcfd.org with any questions.

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

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

[Job Opening at Metropolitan Family Services!](#)

Our friends at [Metropolitan Family Services \(MFS\)](#) are soliciting applications for a full-time Government Affairs Associate. This individual will help to develop the social service agency's policy and advocacy initiatives and support the Director of Government Affairs & Special Assistant to the President of MFS. **Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.**

[Scholarship Funding for Early Childhood Education and Child Care Providers](#)

[The Illinois Student Assistance Commission \(ISAC\)](#), in collaboration with the [Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity \(ECACE\)](#), is soliciting applications from individuals who work or have worked in early childhood education or child care and who are interested in getting an additional degree or credential in the field for the ECACE Scholarship. The scholarship can cover a student's total cost of attendance (including tuition and fees, books, and room and board) and there is still funding available for the 2022-23 school year.

[Helix Chicago Resources for 21st CCLC Programs](#)

- [21st Century PD Series Kick-Off](#) - On **August 30, 2022**, [Helix Chicago](#) launched a monthly professional development (PD) series for 21st CCLC grantees and staff! The first PD focused on reviewing data and research surrounding student learning, but future PDs will be based on community needs.
- [Helix Edu Happy Hour](#) - For folks in the Chicago-area, Helix Care is hosting a monthly Happy Hour at Helix HQ (6237 N Clark). This will be a fairly informal gathering with an emphasis on sharing resources and making connections in the youth development spaces.

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

[REACH Statewide Initiative In Need of Facilitators for Trauma-Responsive Communities of Practice](#)

The [REACH Statewide Initiative](#) is soliciting applications from mental health professionals and educational consultants in order to provide facilitators to support both the live, virtual activities and the management of its online community. These [Communities of Practice](#) is hosted by the [Partnership for Resilience](#) and the Individuals must have previous experience facilitating groups and be invested in trauma-responsive and equity-centered work. **Applications are due October 1, 2022, by 11:59 p.m.** For questions or concerns, please email REACHCoPInfo@partnership4resilience.org.

Youth Development

[Do You See Your High School Students in Future STEM Careers?](#)

The [National Girls Collaborative Project \(NGCP\)](#) is partnering with the American Association of Physics Teachers, Destination Imagination, Hispanic Heritage Foundation, National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, and the Student Research Foundation on a research project focused on high school students' perceptions of STEM careers. Including your students as part of this research project can help them: further consider their strengths, interests, and career options; receive information from colleges/universities, career and technical schools, and other post-secondary institutions seeking to recruit students with their specific interests, talents, skill sets, and career goals; and gain access to post-secondary scholarship opportunities. Please [fill out this online form](#) or email info@studentresearch.org to ensure your students are on the list.

Family and Community Partnerships

[Chicago Digital Equity Council Town Hall](#)

Have trouble finding reliable internet or an affordable computer? Share your experience and ideas with the [Chicago Digital Equity Council](#) and receive a \$25 gift card! **Join the Council for a Solution Workshop on September 27, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Chicago State University.**

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

Youth Opportunities

Youth Development

[Pathways Initiative](#)

[Evaluations Pathways Initiative](#) is now accepting applicants for its 2022 to 2024 cohort. The program is open to undergraduate students of color at universities, such as DePaul and Loyola, and will allow them the opportunity to be trained in the field of evaluation. To apply, submit your application to:

- The participating faculty member from your school (eligible schools are listed in the full posting)
- Lisa Aponte-Soto at admin@tanomaconsulting.com

The deadline to apply is **October 10, 2022**.

[STEAMBassador Applications are LIVE!](#)

Our friends at [Project Exploration](#) have opened applications for part-time K-12 STEM afterschool program instructors. If you are passionate about science, technology, engineering, math, or youth education/development, don't miss out on this opportunity for a year-long position!

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

Funding Opportunities

Youth Development

[FY23 Illinois Youth Investment Program \(IYIP\)](#)

[The Illinois Department of Human Services \(IDHS\)](#) is soliciting applications for the Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP), which was established to provide Illinois' at-risk youth ages 16-24, with the opportunity to participate in the employment recovery of the State. The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is open and can be found on the IDHS Grant Information Page: [IDHS: ARPA Illinois Youth Investment Program \(AIYIP\) \(23-444-80-2752\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(state.il.us\)](#) **Applications for this opportunity are due [September 14, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. \(TOMORROW\)](#).**

[City of Chicago Mentoring Program RFP](#)

[The City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services \(DFSS\) Youth Services Division](#) has announced the release of the DFSS Mentoring RFP (RFQ # 8834). This Request for

Proposals (RFP) requires cohort-based, trauma-informed mentoring for 45 hours annually per youth that need additional supports, with a focus on youth with complex needs, ages 12-24. Programs may be offered during the school day or during out-of-school time and must include sessions during the summer months. **Applications are due on October 12, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.** A pre-proposal [webinar will be held on September 15, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.](#) Attendance is not mandatory, but it is strongly suggested that interested applicants attend.

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** (Policy and Communications Manager) 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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