

# ACT NOW!

## NEWSLETTER



### January 2023 RPSA Blog Post!

**This month's RPSA blog post**, features a conversation with ACT Now Afterschool Resource and Support Specialists, Kasey and Tyrone, about an upcoming training that they're going to present to the field about Implementing a Culturally Responsive Framework in Afterschool. This blog gives a look into the process of developing the upcoming training! The Implementing a Culturally Responsive Framework in Afterschool training will take place on **March 15, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** To register, click [here!](#)

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# Policy Updates

## Federal Updates

### [Congressionally Directed Spending Items in the Omnibus Spending Bill](#)

The [Afterschool Alliance](#) wrote a blog post that discusses Congressionally Directed Spending Items that were in the FY 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill. A number of the Congressionally Directed Spending Items in the FY 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill focus on afterschool, youth engagement, social and emotional learning (SEL), summer learning, STEM, STEAM, literacy, and other issues of interest to the afterschool community. The blog also features two charts of the requests from Members of the House and Senators and how much money will be allocated to the cause.

*For an archive of our previously listed Policy Updates, click [here](#).*

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## 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 I 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!

### **ACT Now Events:**

- **[STEM Webinar: Creating Collaboration](#)**: January 31, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **[RPSA YDS Quarterly Meeting #3](#)**: February 8, 2023, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- **[SEL Webinar: Youth and Youth](#)**: February 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- **[February Membership Exchange](#)**: February 28, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### **External Events:**

- [EducationWeek: A Seat at the Table: Chronic Teacher Shortage: Where Do We Go From Here?](#): February 8, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- [Brookings Institute: Education systems transformation symposium](#): February 17, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- [Learning Policy Institute: Building Adult Capacity and Expertise](#): March 1, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- [Illinois AfterSchool Network: Informado en Trauma / Trauma Informed](#): March 11, 2023, from 11:00 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.

## Resources for Providers

### Youth Development

#### [How Do Students Feel About School?](#)

Last month, [Chicago Public Schools](#) (CPS) students had the opportunity to respond to a survey that asked them questions about their experience in school. This survey is part of a new district effort to measure student attitudes toward school, which experts say can help boost students' grades and well-being.

### Family and Community Partnerships

#### [End of SNAP Emergency Allotments - Awareness Toolkits Now Available!](#)

The [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#) is sharing toolkits with materials to help increase awareness in communities about the upcoming decrease in SNAP benefits. Awareness materials in the toolkits include: content for website, printable flyer to distribute, social media graphics and text, and frequently asked questions.

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

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## Opportunities for Providers

## Administration

### [2023 Hunger Heroes Nomination Form!](#)

Hunger Heroes work towards the [Rise and Shine](#) mission of ending childhood hunger in Illinois. Hunger Heroes represent diverse communities, and come from a wide range of career sectors. The spring/summer Hunger Heroes nominations will close on **April 13, 2023**. **Nomination forms will be reviewed on an ongoing basis.**

### [Engaging Girls in Engineering!](#)

[Scientific Adventures for Girls](#) (SAfG) is hosting a three part curriculum training series focused on their free curriculum aimed to engage and excite more girls in engineering and design. Participants will leave the series with four engineering design projects and a materials list that they can implement with youth. **The training will take place on February 21, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.**

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

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## Youth Opportunities

### Youth Development

#### [Apply to a Free After School Matters Program!](#)

Youth are now able to apply to an [After School Matters](#) program to explore their passions, learn new skills, and earn money at the same time. **Applications are due on February 13, 2023** and **programs start on February 27, 2023.**

#### [3 vs. 3 Basketball Tournament Delayed to February 10th](#)

The [Chicago Y.O.U.T.H. Council](#) will be rescheduling their 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament to **February 10, 2023 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, at [Michelle Clark High School](#). The event aims to foster community building, register young people to vote, and promote civics education as well as inform community members about the roles and responsibilities of elected officials.

## [Submit Your Art to the CPL Teen Winter Challenge 2022-2023!](#)

[Chicago Public Library's](#) annual Teen Winter Challenge is accepting submissions for original artwork by teens until **March 1, 2023**. Winners of the challenge will have their art featured in a catalog and exhibitions and receive up to \$175 in prizes.

## [Be a SAFE Ambassador!](#)

[Chicago Department of Transportation](#) has promoted safe cycling and walking through the City of Chicago's SAFE Ambassadors. The SAFE Ambassadors work at a different park each day and get paid to ride a bike and teach kids with a simple safety presentation and bike rides. Ambassadors will be paid \$15 to \$24 an hour. The start date is mid June and ends mid-August. For more information, email Angel Montalvo at [angel@chicagocompletestreets.org](mailto:angel@chicagocompletestreets.org).

## [Teen Advisory Meeting at Lincoln Library!](#)

The [Lincoln Library](#) is hosting a Teen Advisory Meeting on **February 15, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Youth will be able to work with other teens to tell us what the library can do to better help them. Teens can also plan programs that they think would be fun!

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

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# Funding Opportunities

## [Minority Teachers of Illinois \(MTI\) Scholarship Program](#)

The [Minority Teachers of Illinois \(MTI\) Scholarship Program](#) recognized the importance of having teachers that reflect the communities they teach. To be eligible you must be a resident of Illinois, be a minority student and be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at an Illinois institution of higher education in a course of study which, upon completion, qualifies you to be licensed as a preschool, elementary or secondary school teacher by the Illinois State Board of Education. **The deadline to apply is March 1, 2023.**

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

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## ***Were you forwarded this email?***

[Click Here](#) to Subscribe to the **ACT Now** Newsletter!

**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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