



Policy Updates

Every Kid in a Park Initiative

In 2017, the Every Kid Outdoors Act was introduced as a way of ensuring that the Department of Interior establish a program that gives fourth graders free entry to national parks and lands continues. The bill was never signed into law, however it is being reintroduced within a government lands package as the Every Kid in a Park initiative. To learn more, [click here](#).

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

Trainings and Events

Community School Providers Meetings

ACT Now is continuing to hold meetings for community school providers to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now in the Community Schools space. Participants will hear about policy updates, network with other providers, and receive professional development in evaluation and messaging/marketing for community schools. (See below for a schedule of upcoming meetings.)

Upcoming Community School Providers Meetings:

- **Skokie, IL:** February 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Chicago, IL:** March 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

Quality Standards Trainings

ACT Now is providing free in-person trainings on the Illinois Statewide Quality Standards in order to help afterschool providers and staff continuously improve the quality of their programs.

Upcoming Quality Standards Trainings:

- **Chicago, IL:** March 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))
- **Springfield, IL:** April 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ([Register Here](#))

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Developing SEL Climates in OST Programs

At this training provided by the Illinois AfterSchool Network, attendees will gain strategies on how to create safe spaces, learn creative check-ins, check-outs and participate in activities to encourage continued social and emotional learning through instruction. The session will be facilitated by Ashley Perkins, founder of Be WELL Tools for SEL. This training will be held on **March 5th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** For questions or to register, please email or call Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620. (This training costs \$10 per person.)

To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Power of Youth Challenge

The Power of Youth Challenge invites youth to bring positive change to their community by leading a local service project. Each team that signs up will have access to financial support in the form of mini grants of up to \$250. Those who complete their projects will be eligible for an accelerator grant of up to \$5,000 to grow their project over the next year. Applications are due **March 31st**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Doehrman Buba Scholarship

The Give Back Scholarship of Doehrman Buba is unique in that not only does it help students pay tuition, but a portion of the award (\$500) will go directly to the nonprofit organization where the student volunteered their

time. Doehrman Buba is offering a total award of \$3,000. Applications are due **May 31st**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

STEAM in OST Survey

The Innovation Collaborative is conducting a national study that will help outline effective practices for sciences, technology, engineering, arts/humanities, and math (STEAM). Being the first national study of its kind, your participation could help determine what constitutes an effective STEAM program in a broad range of out-of-school settings, as well as provide the foundational research base for the out-of-school STEAM movement. To participate, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Environmental Stewardship & Outdoor Activities Grant

The Clif Bar Family Foundation seeks to provide small grants for non-profit afterschool programs that work on environmental stewardship, youth outdoor physical activity, and service to the community. Awards vary depending on the request. Applications are due **June 1st**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

OST Tech Toolkit

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) and Google announced a new toolkit to support your STEM work! This free resource includes a series of modules, webinars and hands-on training that will help you plan and prepare to integrate technology into your program. To learn more, [click here](#).

Science Buddies

Science Buddies is a K-12 nonprofit that has developed a unique library of quality STEM resources that are free for students, parents, and teachers. These resources include standards-aligned lesson plans, career profiles, hands-on activities, and 1,000+ project ideas. To learn more, [click here](#).

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 Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) KnockeF@metrofamily.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](#).