



| ACT Now Events Calendar | | | | |
|---|---|---|----------|--------|
| January | | | | |
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| | | STEM Programming & Funding Webinar (10 AM to 11 AM) | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 11 |
| | Effectively Communicating the Need for Afterschool Webinar (10 AM to 11 AM) | The State of Afterschool in Illinois (9 AM to 10:30 AM Springfield, IL) | | |
| February | | | | |
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 |
| | 60 by 25 Conference | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | IL-QPSA Webinar #3: Analyzing Your Data (10 AM to 11 AM) | | |
| <p align="center">To register for events, click on the calendar, or visit: actnowillinois.org For questions, email Faith Knocke (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at KnockeF@actnowillinois.org</p> | | | | |

Policy Updates

Federal Government Shutdown Update

On Friday, January 25th, President Trump signed a bill to reopen the government for three weeks. Though afterschool programs were not directly impacted, several federal programs that support afterschool were directly impacted by the partial government shutdown. These programs include the Department of Justice's youth mentoring initiative, as well as afterschool program support from national museums and parks. Additionally, if Congress and the President are unable to reach an agreement regarding the budget at the end of these three weeks, there is a possibility that the federal government will once again shutdown. This could lead to interruptions in child nutrition programs which would mean that afterschool programs could face a delay in reimbursement for meals served and some, which cannot float the money, may have to stop serving food that students rely on. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Membership Meetings

ACT Now is holding meetings for ACT Now members to network with one another and learn more about the work of ACT Now. We are holding our second membership meeting for the year on **February 27th in Granite City, IL from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** At this meeting, ACT Now will provide information about our advocacy efforts, resources we offer to support afterschool programs, and professional development. Providers will spend Much of the time will be spent interacting with one another and creating new partnerships. To register, [click here](#).

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. (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](#))

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Advancing Youth Development Trainings

Advancing Youth Development is a nationally acclaimed 21-hour course designed for front-line youth workers, youth advocates, volunteers, law enforcement, educators, agency directors who interact with youth of all ages. Trainings will be held every Tuesday (beginning March 5th) at the Gary Comer Youth Center in Chicago, IL. The deadline to apply for this training program is **February 28th**. For more information, [click here](#).

Webinar: Getting to Work on Summer Learning

This webinar will explain the elements of successful summer programs and dive into the accompanying online [Summer Learning Toolkit](#), which features more than 50 practical tools and planning resources to help school districts and their partners design and deliver high-quality summer programs. This webinar will be held on **February 27th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Healthy Out-of-School Time

The Illinois AfterSchool Alliance is offering this training to help program providers discover how out-of-school time programs play an essential role in impacting the health and wellness of the youth they serve. This training is \$10 and will be held at the **Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.** Please e-mail Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-753-4620 to register.

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. The deadline to apply is **March 31st**. For more information, [click here](#).

Code Rush

CodeMonkey's Code Rush is an annual coding competition for 3rd-8th graders. Students are challenged to solve as many CodeMonkey challenges as they can. 20 lucky teams will win prizes for your school! The deadline to sign up is **March 12th**. For more information, [click here](#).

Girls Who Code: Summer Immersion Program

The Girls Who Code Summer Immersion Program is a free 7-week introductory computer science program for 10th and 11th grade girls going into their junior or senior year of high school. During the 7-week program, girls will learn about computer science, gain exposure to technology careers, and join a sisterhood of girls who are using computer science to become change-makers in their community. The early acceptance deadline is **February 15th** and the application closes on **March 15th**. For more information, [click here](#).

STEM Day

STEM Days are half-day programs where young women, currently in their sophomore or junior year, learn about STEM in a broad sense during a "beyond the school field trip experience." Students visit STEM sites around Chicago to meet with leaders, participate in hands-on activities, and learn about STEM and STEM careers. The next STEM Day will be held on **April 6th in Batavia, IL**. To learn more, [click here](#).

STEM Summer Academy

Summer Academy is a free week-long residential academy at Illinois Institute of Technology for students who will be juniors and seniors in high school in the Fall 2019. Young women learn about STEM and how it relates to the energy industry. The upcoming Summer Academy will be held **August 4th to August 9th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Call for Proposals: College Changes Everything

College Changes Everything (CCE) is calling for interest session proposals for their upcoming 2019 conference. Each one-hour session should provide in-depth information, practical ideas, and best practices for the audience and demonstrate positive steps taken and lessons learned. CCE welcomes proposals that cover a wide range of topics related to college access and completion and career readiness. Proposals are due **March 8th**. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

STEM Grant Archive

[STEMfinity](#) offers an archive of both nationwide and state-specific STEM-related grant opportunities. [Click here](#) to access funding opportunities in Illinois.

EJK Mini-Grants

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation is offering funding of up to \$500 to design and implement a creative program within your school or library. Public schools, public libraries, and public preschool programs are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is **March 31st**. For more information, [click here](#).

Half Price Books

Need books for your classroom or program? Half Price Books is considering donation requests from nonprofit organizations and educators that focus on literacy, the environment, or education. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Family & Community Partnerships

CTE Signing Day

February is national Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month! This CTE Month, celebrate your graduating students' success in securing a high-skill, high-wage, in-demand career with a CTE Signing Day. Similar to athletic signing days, CTE Signing Day recognizes the culmination of students' hard work and promotes CTE to the community. [Click here](#) for suggestions on how to plan a successful CTE Signing Day.

The Connectory

This free online collaboration tool gives STEM program providers a chance to find partners based on interests as well as a platform to showcase STEM opportunities to families. Families, in turn, have a free, go-to resource to connect the children in their lives to STEM learning opportunities in their community. 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](#).