



ACT Now Events Calendar

MARCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
04	05	06	07	08
		Quality Standards Training Chicago, IL (9 AM to 12 PM)		
11	12	13	14	15
	Webinar: "The Need for Afterschool in IL" (10 AM to 11 AM)			
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
		Webinar: "Making Industry Connections in STEM Programming" (10 AM to 11 AM)		

APRIL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
01	02	03	04	05
	Webinar: "April Advocacy" (10 AM to 11 AM) Quality Standards Training Springfield, IL (9 AM to 12 PM)			

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

Policy Updates

ISBE Board Meeting Recap

On February 26, 2019, the Illinois State Board of Education met for their monthly meeting. A new board was sworn in with the following board members: Darren Reisberg (Chairman), Dr. Christine Benson, Cynthia Latimer, Dr. Donna S. Leak (voted in as Vice Chair), Dr. David R. Lett, Susie Morrison (appointed Education Policy Planning Committee Chair), Cristina Pacione-Zayas (voted in as Secretary), Jane Quinlan (appointed Finance and Audit Committee Chair), and Jacqueline Robbins. Dr. Carmen Ayala was also sworn in as the new Illinois Superintendent. The Board heard updates on the Governor's proposed budget, which includes an increase in early education funding and career and technical education funding. There will be Education appropriations hearings in the Illinois Senate on March 5, 2019 and in the House April 2, 2019 (tentatively). The Board also heard presentations on the arts accountability indicator according to the state's ESSA plan and on the new RFP for IL-EMPOWER vendors. To access the Board packet for this meeting, [click here](#). The next Board meeting is **March 20, 2019**, and you can find further information [here](#).

Webinar: Perkins V CTE Deep-Dive

Join the Illinois State Board of Education to learn more about the Perkins V reauthorization and how Illinois is rethinking career and technical education (CTE). Learn about the timeline for the Illinois State Plan, requirements for the local application and local needs assessment, and new program performance measures. Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to participate and provide your feedback on CTE. This webinar will be held on **March 27th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Webinar: The Need for Afterschool in Illinois

ACT Now collected data on locations of afterschool programs in Illinois and the services they offer in order to create the Afterschool Map & Database. Join this webinar to hear more about the subsequent report ("The State of Afterschool in Illinois 2018") generated from our map data and learn about

what you can do to support the afterschool landscape in Illinois. This webinar will be held on **March 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Webinar: April Advocacy

Join ACT Now to learn how to get involved in advocacy activities this April 2019 to raise awareness on the need for afterschool! This webinar will provide you with an overview of ACT Now's advocacy toolkit and ACT Now's 2019 legislative priorities, as well as concrete actions you can take this year to ensure that policymakers are aware of the need for afterschool programs in Illinois. The webinar will be held on **April 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click 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](#))

Family & Community Partnerships

Webinar: Making Industry Connections in STEM Programming

ACT Now will be hosting another webinar in a series of STEM PD opportunities for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. In this webinar, ACT Now will discuss the STEM pipeline, why STEM supports the workforce, and how to make your own industry connections. This webinar will be held on **March 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Crystal Charitable Fund

Eligible, low-income individuals aged 13-19 years are eligible to apply for up to \$4,000 to support a range of enrichment experiences including cultural exchange, community service, college experience, environmental programs, boarding schools, sports and language programs. Teachers, counselors, and/or mentors should apply on the student's behalf. For more information on the Crystal grants, [click here](#). To submit an application for a student, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

IL-EMPOWER Vendor Learning Partner RFSP

IL-EMPOWER is seeking vendors to serve as Learning Partners for Illinois schools to help build capacity and offer support. IL-EMPOWER will use findings from comprehensive needs assessments to guide the identification of priority areas to address in collaboration with Learning Partners (i.e. Governance and Management, Curriculum and Instruction, or Culture and Climate). Applications are due **March 28th**. To learn more, access the full Request for Sealed Proposals (RSFP) [here](#). Questions regarding the RFSP should be directed to [Sara Power](#).

IL Association of Title I Directors Conference

The Illinois Association of Title I Directors (IATD) is an association composed of directors, coordinators, superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, and teachers who administer the Title I programming in their respective districts or schools. The IATD Spring Conference 2019, scheduled for **April 23rd in Springfield, IL**, provides valuable networking opportunities for those involved in supervising and/or administering Title I programs in their districts or schools. To register, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Teen REACH FY20 Continuation

The announcement for the FY20 Teen Reach Continuation Application has officially been released. This Continuation Application is limited to those public or private, not-for-profit community-based agencies who received an award from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the implementation of the Teen REACH program in the past 12 months and continue to meet the additional eligibility criteria. Applications are due **March 25th**. To learn more, [click here](#).

Full-Service Community Schools NOFO

The U.S. Department of Education is issuing a notice inviting applications for FY19 for the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) program. FSCSs provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services for students, students' family members, and community members that are designed to improve education outcomes for children. The deadline to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply is **March 18th**. For more information, [click here](#).

Grants for Medically Underserved Communities

VNA Foundation awards grants to support home- and community-based healthcare and health services for medically underserved communities in Cook, Lake, McHenry, DuPage, Kane and Will counties. Community and school-based organizations are encouraged to apply. Letters of Intent are due no later than **March 21st**. Upon review, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application by **April 25th**. For more information, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

March for Children & Youth Month

March for Children and Youth Month was launched in 2017 as an annual campaign to concentrate community schools advocacy efforts among national, state, and local partners in the month of March. Check out the March for Children

& Youth Playbook for a series of educational and action-oriented efforts aimed at building a grassroots movement to promote community schools as a vehicle to ensure all young people have the conditions they need to succeed and thrive. To access the playbook, [click here](#).

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Promoting Civic Engagement in Afterschool Programs

It is important to recognize that afterschool and summer learning programs are critical partners in the work toward creating an informed public that has knowledge of democratic institutions and processes and opportunities to apply lessons learned. Afterschool programs strengthen student civic engagement by providing students with valuable hands-on experiences that help them become informed, involved, and conscientious individuals. To learn more, [click here](#).

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth

Eileen Wise, a youth development specialist at Penn State Better Kid Care, shares four things to keep in mind when thinking about how you can support LGBTQ+ youth in your programs. To read more, [click here](#).

Free "Women in STEM" Posters

Download these free posters and print them out for your program or workplace in order to help raise awareness of the achievements of women in STEM, and hopefully inspire a new generation of women working in STEM. To access the posters, [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](#).

Do you find the ACT Now newsletter to be a quality resource for your program? If so, please consider making a contribution to ACT Now so that we may continue to provide free resources to afterschool program providers, and, in turn, create a brighter future for the state of afterschool programs in Illinois!

