



Policy Updates

Mayor Lightfoot on Community Schools

On May 17, 2019, Mayor Lori Lightfoot's transition team presented their 100+ page transition report. Within the report, the transition team noted that educational inequities should be addressed through coordination to grow Chicago's full-service Community Schools model. The report goes on to say that scaling and connecting this effective school model to a robust citywide system of out-of-school time learning opportunities would accelerate positive outcomes. You can read the [full report here](#).

Summer Meals Act

On May 16, 2019, Congressman Rick Larsen (WA-2) and Congressman Don Young (AK-At Large) introduced the Summer Meals Act – bipartisan legislation to fight childhood hunger by expanding access to summer meal programs across the country. The Summer Meals Act would help strengthen childhood nutrition by cutting red tape for local organizations serving summer meals and expanding the availability of meals and snacks to students outside of normal school hours. To learn more, [click here](#).

Commerce Justice Science Spending Bill

On May 22, 2019, the House Appropriations Committee approved the fiscal year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bill. It is noteworthy that this bill increases resources for programs that reduce violent and gun crime, including \$100 million for youth mentoring programs. To learn more, [click here](#).

Webinar: Federal Policy & Afterschool

Join the Afterschool Alliance for the first installment on their Federal Policy and Afterschool webinar series. Get the latest scoop on the funding process, what's next, and learn how you can add your voice to those of the afterschool advocates! This webinar will be held on **May 29th at 12:00 p.m.** To register, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Starting an Afterschool Program: Research & Planning

Join us for the first installment of our *Starting an Afterschool Program* webinar series: **Research & Planning**. During this webinar, you will learn about assembling a **planning task force**, conducting **needs assessment** surveys, establishing your organization's **mission and objectives**, and **more!** We will also be launching and providing an overview of our *Starting an Afterschool Program toolkit!* This webinar will be held on **June 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.** To register, [click here](#).

Please also consider forwarding this webinar information to anyone you know who may be interested in starting their own program!

IAN Fall Afterschool Training

Join the Illinois Afterschool Network (IAN) for their fall training opportunity! Attendees will have the chance to choose from two of four awesome training workshops. This event will take place on **September 21st from 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** *This training costs \$25. A light breakfast and attendance prizes will be provided.* To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

EarthEcho Water Challenge

Participating in the [EarthEcho](#) Water Challenge is a great way to be a part of the solution to water issues worldwide. The Water Challenge builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local bodies of water. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

Summer Learning Week

Led by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA), **July 8-13**, the country will unite in advocacy efforts and celebrations hosted by hundreds of partner organizations to promote awareness of the importance of keeping kids healthy and engaged during the summer. [Register](#) your summer learning event or [find one](#) near you today.

Empatico Peer Learning

Empatico connects groups of students ages 6-11 with peers domestically and around the world. Through a combination of live video and activities, youth have the opportunity to connect and find common ground with others that come from very different backgrounds through meaningful conversations. [Join the Afterschool Alliance on June 19th at 12 p.m.](#) for their webinar to learn how you can use Empatico at your afterschool or summer learning program site! For a limited time, the **Afterschool Alliance is offering \$50 gift cards** for sites that sign up through our link and complete an activity on Empatico. *Additional funds may be available for sites that complete more than one activity.*

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

Funding Opportunities

National Community Transformation Block Grant

The U.S. Department of Education is continuing to accept applications for the [Innovation & Modernization discretionary grant program](#). This program is designed to identify, support and rigorously evaluate evidence-based and innovative strategies and activities to improve and modernize career and technical education (CTE). Preference will be given to projects focused on STEM and computer science and those that prepare students for in demand careers in manufacturing and health care. Applications are due **June 14th**.

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

Resources for Providers

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

12 Prompts for Summer SEL

These straight-forward prompts make it easy to weave social emotional learning into summer reading, board games, and outdoor activities. To learn more, [click here](#).

Family & Community Partnerships

Guiding SEL Questions for Quality Partnerships

These guiding questions can help school staff and out-of-school time providers to think intentionally about how to fully partner with one another to promote school-wide social and emotional learning (SEL). 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](#).