



Policy Updates

21st Century Update

On April 30th, the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee marked up their FY2020 spending measure, showing strong support for education programs including a record funding level for federal afterschool support. Among the programs supported by increased funding is the [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#) (21st CCLC) initiative, which provides federal funds leveraged by local school-community partnerships to provide quality afterschool and summer learning programs to 1.7 million children. The bill proposes to expand the program by \$100 million. To learn more, [click here](#).

ESSA Listening Tour

The Illinois State Board of Education is hosting an Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Support and Accountability Listening Tour in order to gather stakeholder feedback that will inform an amendment to the Illinois ESSA Plan and improve Illinois' approach to measuring and supporting school performance. ACT Now has drafted [sample comments](#) that providers can pull from when drafting their own comments. Check out the tour stops below or submit feedback by emailing essa@isbe.net.

ISBE will make the following tour stops:

- **May 16th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 - DuPage County ROE (421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton)
- **May 20th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 - City of Chicago School District 299 (TBD, Chicago)
- **May 22nd, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 - Springfield School District 186 (1900 W. Monroe St., Springfield)
- **May 23rd, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**
 - Carbondale Community High School (1301 E. Walnut, Carbondale)
- **May 29, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**
 - Rock Island ROE (3430 Avenue of the Cities, Moline)

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STEM Education Bills Introduced

March saw the reintroduction of two STEM education bills in Congress. The **Building Blocks of STEM Act** ([S737, HR1665](#)), is a bipartisan bill to support research in STEM education focused on early childhood. Additionally, the **21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act** ([HR3119](#)) was reintroduced in the House to provide grants for programs and curricula for girls and underrepresented minorities in STEM. A companion bill may be released for HR 3119 in the Senate in the near future.

Public Charge Updates

On Friday afternoon, [Reuters reported](#) that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has drafted a proposed rule related to deportation on public charge grounds. The new DOJ proposal expands the impact by putting at-risk immigrants, including green holders, who have accessed basic needs programs. Though the proposal has not yet been finalized, there are already widespread reports of immigrant families withdrawing from critical health and nutrition programs, including for their U.S. citizen children. Review this [FAQ document](#) to help advocates and community members understand current policy and what we may see in the proposed rule.

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

Trainings and Events

ACT Now Trivia Night!

Grab your friends and join ACT Now for a brain busting evening of trivia, food, fellowship, and fun. Players have a chance to win a \$100 event gift card and various awesome raffle items! All money raised from this event will go towards supporting our work of advocating to legislators about the need for afterschool programs in Illinois and ensuring that quality afterschool programs exist all across the state! This event will be held in **Chicago on May 14th from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** For more information or 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. **The last meeting for the year will take place in Wheaton on May 14th (10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)** at the Metropolitan Family Services office in DuPage County. Topics: Policy Updates, Messaging, and Needs

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Assessments. Speakers: Susan Stanton (ACT Now) and HannahMngwamba (Metropolitan Family Services). To register, [click here](#).

Past CS Providers Meetings Recap

ACT Now has held two successful meetings so far in May. The first was held in Chicago (May 1st). This group received policy updates from Susan Stanton (ACT Now) and heard presentations on family engagement from Sarah Ogeto (UIC) and Eric Werge (YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago). You can access the family engagement slides [here](#) and [here](#). The second meeting was intended for downstate providers and was held via an online meeting platform (May 6th). This group also heard policy updates from Susan Stanton, as well as a presentation on evaluation and assessment by Joie Frankovich (WeGo Together for Kids). You can access the evaluation and assessment slides [here](#). Both groups also had time to share ideas and network with one another.

Elevating Youth Voices Fair

This [Bright Promises](#) event will gather 100 youth leaders from across Metropolitan Chicago to share how they are taking the lead to make a positive impact in their communities. Programming includes youth performances, family-friendly activities, and interactive youth-made displays. This event will take place on in **Chicago on June 1st from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** For more information, [click here](#).

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Youth Mental Health First Aid

The [Illinois Collaboration on Youth](#) is providing an 8-hour public education program which introduces participants to the risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teaches how to help an adolescent in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. This program will take place on in **Chicago on May 9th from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** For more information, [click here](#).

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

Youth Opportunities

Democracy Strong Youth Summit

Democracy Strong is a youth-driven summit designed to provide resources to inspire and encourage young adults to generate a national conversation around the

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progression of civil rights. This summit is designed by young adults to empower their peers to explore social justice topics. The event will include a community resource fair, youth-led panel discussion, networking, music, etc. This event will take place in **Chicago on May 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

IL-EMPOWER Peer Learning Partners

The purpose of the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Peer Learning Partners (PLPs) is to provide peer-to-peer learning and supports to schools designated for comprehensive or targeted support. ISBE, schools, districts, and PLPs work collaboratively to promote shifts in practice and build capacity for continuous school improvement. Exemplary and Commendable designated schools are able to apply to become IL-EMPOWER PLPs. Applications are **due by May 17th**. For more information, [click here](#).

Gateways to Opportunity Registry

Gateways to Opportunity is a statewide professional development support system for individuals and programs serving youth and families. The Gateways Registry membership is FREE and offers a quick and easy way to track your training and education online, and meets Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) licensing requirements. To learn more, [click here](#).

Mentor Illinois Nominations

[MENTOR Illinois](#) is sending out a call for nominations to recognize the Champions of Youth Mentoring in the state of Illinois! If you are, or know of, a youth mentoring program that deserves to be recognized for its impact, please submit a nomination. All nominations must be **submitted by May 27th**. *Winners will be announced at the Impact Awards Breakfast on July 12th.* To submit a nomination, [click here](#).

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

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Funding Opportunities

Free Book Giveaways

Nonprofit organizations and schools are invited to attend any Half Pint Library book giveaway event at Half Price Books. At these events, Half Pint Library will distribute free books. There are two events being held on **May 11th at 10:00 a.m. (Naperville & Niles)**. To register, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

Safety, Health, & Nutrition

Play All May

May 2019 marks the first annual celebration of play! Check out these 31 play inspiration ideas and join the fun on the official [Play All May](#) celebration page.

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](#).