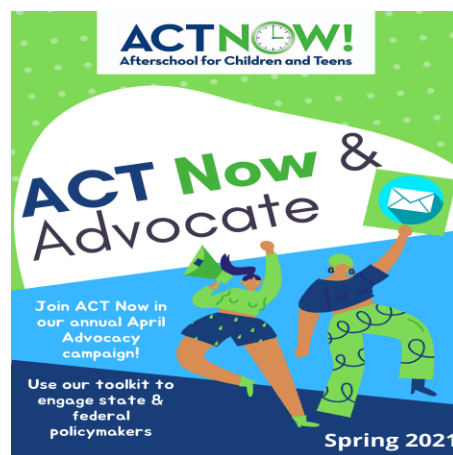


ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER



ACT Now & Advocate: April Advocacy 2021

ACT Now is launching our annual April Advocacy 2021 campaign by sharing our new advocacy toolkit with our membership! Join us during the month of April in highlighting the importance of afterschool, summer learning programs, and community schools across the state of Illinois. **We can't do it without you!**

DOWNLOAD IT [HERE!](#)

Don't forget to take action and tell your state and federal elected officials to support afterschool in order to keep families working and youth safe and learning! **It only takes 1 minute!**

STATE ACTION ALERT - Click [HERE](#)

FEDERAL ACTION ALERT - Click [HERE](#)

Policy Updates

Federal Policy

President Biden's Administration: FY22 Discretionary Budget Request Released

On **April 9, 2021**, President Joseph Biden released the [FY 2022 discretionary budget request](#), which features the topline appropriations levels for each governmental agency. However, these appropriation levels are not mandatory spending and revenue policies. Rather, the Biden Administration will release the mandatory request and revenue proposals, along with the program-level budget numbers for FY 2022 discretionary funding (including 21st CCLC funding) later this spring when the Administration submits its full budget request to Congress. The President's 2022 discretionary request includes:

- **\$102.8 billion for the Department of Education.** This is a \$29.8 billion or 41-percent increase over the 2021 enacted level.
- **\$36.5 billion for Title I grants, or a \$20 billion increase compared to the 2021 enacted level.** Notably, Title I funding can be used for afterschool and summer programming.
- **\$1 billion, in addition to the resources in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to increase the number of counselors, nurses, and mental health professionals in school.**
- **\$413 million in funding for Community Schools.** This increase in Community Schools funding brings the total amount to \$443 million, a historic level of funding.
- **\$19.8 billion for Health and Human Services' early care and education programs**, which is an increase of \$2.8 billion over the 2021 enacted level. This includes **\$7.4 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant**, an increase of \$1.5 billion over the 2021 enacted level to expand access to quality, affordable child care for families across the United States.

President Biden's Administration: American Jobs Plan and the American Family Plan Announced

Last week, President Joseph Biden announced the first part of his Administration's [Build Back Better](#) infrastructure plan called the [American Jobs Plan](#). This plan aims to invest more than \$200 billion in education and education-related infrastructure. Potential funding includes:

- **\$100 billion to upgrade and build new public schools, through \$50 billion in direct grants and an additional \$50 billion leveraged through bonds.** There is currently a bill

(Rebuild America's Schools Act) in the House and Senate, that hosts provisions for the construction of community learning centers as part of new or renovated school facilities.

- **\$25 billion to help upgrade child care facilities and increase the supply of child care in areas that need it most.** While the proposal specifies infrastructure for infant and toddler care, school-age care providers have also indicated a need for support.

Finally, President Biden also unveiled the American Family Plan, will be released in the coming weeks and is expected to include a number of priorities including a major expansion in health insurance coverage, subsidies for child care and free access to community colleges, and more. This is the second part of the Build Back Better Plan.

President Biden's Administration: Paycheck Protection Program Extended

Last week, President Joseph Biden signed legislation to extend the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) until **May 31, 2021**. In order to learn more about this extension and how to access funding for your organization before the new deadline, click [here](#).

State Policy

Governor JB Pritzker's Office: Illinois Opens to Full COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility to Individuals 16+

On **April 8, 2021**, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health announced that starting **April 12, 2021**, the state of Illinois will be opening universal eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccination for individuals 16 and older. Furthermore, the Governor shared that **starting this week**, an additional 150,000 new first-dose vaccine appointments will be made available at the 11 state-supported mass vaccination operations in Cook and the collar counties and area pharmacies. All sites still require appointments. To read the full press release and review the nearest vaccination location to you, click [here](#).

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

Trainings, Events and Webinars

Core Area	Organization	Name of Event/Training	Date	Registration Link
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Administration	ACT Now	Afterschool Town Hall - COVID, Summer Programming, and Planning for Vaccinations		To access the recording, click here
	ACT Now	Summer Learning Programs Addressing Learning Loss in 2021 - A Conversation with Statewide Leaders		To access the recording, click here
	ACT Now	21st Century Town Hall Series	April 19, 2021 May 3, 2021 May 17, 2021 June 1, 2021 June 14, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Suburban Providers: Evaluation and Needs Assessment	April 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Final IL-QPSA Webinar for New Users	April 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Final IL-QPSA Webinar for Returning Users	April 15, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Q4 Community Schools Training for Chicago Providers: Advisory Boards	April 22, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Click here
	Professional Development	ACT Now	Narrative 4: The Power Of Story Exchange	April 27, 2021, from 10:00

			a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	
	ACT Now	Quality Standards Training (QST) 102	May 5, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Click here
	ACT Now	Part I: Afterschool as a Safe Space	May 12, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here . To register for the entire series, click here .
	ACT Now	Part II: Afterschool as a Safe Space	May 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here . To register for the entire series, click here .
	ACT Now	Part III: Afterschool as a Safe Space	May 26, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Click here . To register for the entire series, click here .
	Education Systems Center	Chicago Equity-Centered Innovation Forum Kick-Off Webinar	May 3, 2021, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	Click here
Youth Development	ACT Now	FY21 STEM Webinar #4: Connecting STEM to Everyday Life & Career Exploration		To access the recording, click here
	National AfterSchool Association	Webinar: The Benefits of Computer Science in Afterschool	April 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.	Click here

For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Administration

U.S. Department of Education: COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2 Released

On **April 9, 2021**, the U.S. Department of Education released the COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 2: Roadmap to Reopening Safely and Meeting All Students' Needs to provide educators, child care and afterschool program providers with additional strategies for safely reopening. Another goal of this handbook is to promote educational equity by addressing opportunity gaps that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. This handbook also specifies ways American Rescue Plan (ESSER III) funds can be used. Allowable uses include:

- **Addressing the impact of lost instructional time** by supporting the implementation of evidence-based interventions that respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs
- **Providing afterschool, or other out-of-school time, programs that address students' social, emotional, and academic needs**
- **Addressing the mental health needs of students**, including through using funds to hire counselors and support staff
- **Providing integrated student supports, including through the use of full-service community schools**
- **Providing students with evidence-based summer learning and enrichment programs, including through partnerships with community-based organizations.**

To access the handbook, click [here](#).

President Biden's Administration: Community Violence Interventions Fact Sheet

Last week, the Biden Administration released a fact sheet detailing its initiatives, proposals, and investments as part of a package of initial actions to reduce gun violence. There was favorable language surrounding the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program as being an allowable framework for intervention. The Department of Education "will issue guidance on how grantees can use 21st CCLC funds to support children impacted by trauma and reengage disconnected youth." To read this fact sheet, click [here](#).

Illinois State Board of Education: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund Webinar Recordings

[The Illinois State Board of Education](#) (ISBE) has released the following recorded webinar sessions to support planning efforts for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, including the third round of funds enacted as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in March 2021. The following recordings are intended for district superintendents and regional

superintendents but also may be helpful for providers looking to partner with school administrators for afterschool and summer learning:

- [Learning Renewal and ARP ESSER Presentation](#)
- [Webinar Recording- April 1, 2021, 9:30 a.m.](#)
- [Webinar Recording- April 1, 2021, 11 a.m.](#)

To learn more about the Learning Renewal Resource Guide, click [here](#). To access more information on the ESSER III funding, click [here](#).

The Learning Accelerator Article: Strategies for Engaging Youth in Virtual/Hybrid Instruction

[The Learning Accelerator](#) has written an article for educators and afterschool providers which highlights several strategies for engaging youth in both virtual and hybrid instruction. There are videos, lesson plans, and activities for providers interested in supporting young people in diverse programmatic environments. To read the article, click [here](#).

Linked Learning Alliance and UCLA Center for Community Schooling Report: Linked Learning and Community Schools

[Linked Learning Alliance](#) and the [UCLA Center for Community Schooling](#) have released a report on the importance of engaging young people and their families. The report elevates the Community Schools framework as being integral to the social-emotional well-being of youth and their career and college exploration opportunities. To read the full report, click [here](#).

Youth Development

Earth Day Org: 2021 Restore Our Earth Climate Education Week Toolkit

[Earth Day Org](#) has developed a toolkit for educators, afterschool providers, and youth to utilize in order to celebrate Earth Day 2021 (**April 22, 2021**). The toolkit highlights the importance of civic engagement, restoring our diverse ecosystems, and participating in Climate Education Week (**April 19, 2021 to April 23, 2021**). Resources include lesson plans, activities, videos, and more. To access the toolkit, click [here](#).

EducationWeek Article: Q&A - Meeting the Needs of Students of Color in a Time of Collective Trauma

[EducationWeek](#) has written an article with questions and answers regarding strategies to help support students of color as the pandemic continues. The article also acknowledges the trauma

related to violence against communities of color and helps to frame a conversation on meeting these young people's needs. To read the article, click [here](#).

Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: COVID-19 Vaccination Messaging

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) has curated social media messaging on COVID-19 vaccinations. These materials emphasize the fact that all COVID-19 vaccines are free, regardless of an individual's immigration or health insurance status. The CDC also has Spanish versions of these social media messages on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

For an archive of our previously listed Trainings, Events and Webinars, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Providers

Administration

ACT Now: Program Coordinator Position

ACT Now is seeking applicants for its newest full-time position of Program Coordinator. The candidate who fills this position will have the opportunity to work on the development of ACT Now trainings and webinars for afterschool providers and community schools. The Program Coordinator will also help to foster ACT Now member relations. Applicants should have excellent communications skills, a strong work ethic, an ability to take direction and work independently, enthusiasm, and a background in youth development. To review the responsibilities of the position as well as the application eligibility, click [here](#). Please send a cover letter, resume (including GPA), and 2 writing samples to Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, at stantons@actnowillinois.org. **This position is open and ready to be filled immediately. Please submit applications by April 23, 2021.** *Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.*



ACT Now: Celebrate Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week (April 19, 2021 - April 23, 2021)!

To thank our afterschool professionals and elevate the amazing work you all have done over the past year, **ACT Now** is looking to spotlight staff members and programs that have engaged with the Coalition on our social media platforms and in our weekly newsletter throughout Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week. We will also share your stories and experiences with legislators and state agencies to advocate on your behalf!

*ACT Now will be selecting five individuals to be recipients of a \$25 Amazon Gift Card! Please email Emma Spencer (ACT Now - Youth Development Associate) at Spencere@actnowillinois.org. Please attach a photo, the name of the staff member and the name of the afterschool program. **The deadline to submit names and photos is Friday, April 16, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.***

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

Youth Opportunities

Administration

STEAMville: Summer Employment Opportunity

STEAMville is soliciting applications from college students, ages 18 to 24, interested in mentoring youth in STEAM activities during Summer 2021. Successful applicants will participate in paid training between **May 17, 2021**, and **June 11, 2021**, before programming begins on **June 14, 2021** (depending on site). STEAMville is especially seeking to hire mentors who match the identities of youth we are serving in different communities, prioritizing students who identify as Black,

Indigenous, or Latinx. **Applications are due April 22, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.** To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, click [here](#).

Youth Development

University of Illinois Chicago: Our Digital Scholars - Computer Science Virtual Summer Program

[The University of Illinois Chicago](#) (UIC) is facilitating a five-week virtual summer program on Computer Science starting on **June 28, 2021**. This opportunity affords high school sophomores, juniors, seniors and current UIC Students access to computer aided design projects. Participants will gain "hands-on" training and connect with computer science professional during in daily speaker series. To learn more about the application and participant eligibility, click [here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Administration

The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation: Youth Program Grant Opportunity

[The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation](#) has opened its newest cycle of grants to non-profits, community-based organizations (CBOs), museums, cultural and arts programs, skills-training programs, and schools for youth programming. Grants typically range from \$1,000 to \$20,000. **Applications for the grant are due May 10, 2021.** For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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

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