

September 4, 2018

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

IL-QPSA Roll-Out & Sneak Peek Webinar

The Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment (IL-QPSA) is an online strengths-based self-assessment tool that allows individual out-of-school time (OST) providers the opportunity to self-assess on their performance based on the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards. ACT Now and a team of stakeholders from around the state created the Tool and Standards to identify areas of strength and areas for improvement, and to engage in conversations about quality and promoting continuous quality improvement. To learn more, view the Pledge to Quality [here](#).

Join us for a sneak peek webinar to walk you through the tool, as well as the assessment process. This webinar will be held **Monday, September 17th @ 9:30 a.m.** To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

Webinar Series: STEM Professional Development

ACT Now will be hosting a series of 4 STEM PD webinars for program providers to have an opportunity to strengthen their ability to navigate and implement STEM resources and activities. See the details below for a list of webinar topics and information about registering.

- **OST STEM Programming 101: September 21st, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))
- **Navigating STEM Resources and PD Opportunities: October 31st, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))
- **STEM Programming & Funding: January 23rd, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))
- **Making Industry Connections in STEM Programming: March 27th, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. CDT** (Register [here](#))

Policy Updates

Education Secretary Devos' Title IV-A Comments

Click [here](#) to read a full statement by ACT Now on Education Secretary Devos' recent Title IV-A comments.

Community Schools in Distressed Communities Act

September 4, 2018

On August 22nd, Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced The Full-Service Community Schools in Distressed Communities Act (S. 3362) to help school districts and students affected by the opioid addiction epidemic. This bill will invest \$45 million in full-service community schools and direct resources to schools serving low-income students particularly in areas with high poverty and high rates of substance use issues, fund site coordinators to work with designated school-site advisory teams, and set aside 30 percent of funds for rural schools. To learn more, click [here](#).

Hunger Free Students' Bill of Rights Act

On August 26th, Governor Rauner approved the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act. The act requires every public or private elementary or secondary school in Illinois that participates in a U.S. Department of Agriculture child nutrition program to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student of that school who requests the meal or snack, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks. To learn more, click [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

Webinar Series: Beyond the Bell

The *Beyond the Bell* team at AIR is excited to host a yearlong webinar series for afterschool and expanded learning professionals. On **September 19th at 1:00 p.m.** join the team for a discussion on staff development. To register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Building Partnerships

Learn how to build robust partnerships that change students lives in 30 minutes with Educator Leadership Award winner Deanna Hron. This webinar will take place **September 5th, 5 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** To register, click [here](#).

Webinar: Team Up for Attendance

This webinar features a national and state analysis of how many schools face high levels of chronic absence, reflects upon how those patterns can vary by state, and discusses how to use chronic absence data to anticipate and put in place effective solutions to poor attendance that are tailored to local realities. This webinar will take place **September 12th, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** To register, click [here](#).

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

Job Opportunities

Peace Corner Youth Center: Part Time Group Worker

The Catholic Charities of Chicago is seeking a part time group worker for their Peace Corner program. The group worker is responsible for establishing meaningful

September 4, 2018

relationships with youth, while reinforcing the development of skills and knowledge that youth gain through participation in the program. The preferred requirements include an associate's degree and 3-5 years of relevant experience. To learn more, contact Ralph W. Harris at rharris@catholiccharities.net

BEST Kids Program: Mentor

The Catholic Charities of Chicago is seeking a part time mentor for their BEST Kids program. The mentor is responsible for establishing meaningful relationships with youth, while assisting youth with homework help and tutoring. The preferred requirements include an associate's degree, mentoring experience, and experience working with at-risk youth. To learn more, contact Ralph W. Harris at rharris@catholiccharities.net

Funding Opportunities

Mission Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Grants

Forefront's MSI has two remaining grant application deadlines for the year:

- **Monday, October 8, 2018**
- **Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

Grants will be awarded to selected nonprofits to cover the one-time costs of exploring and implementing strategic partnerships and will be made on a sliding scale from \$5,000 to \$75,000. **Please note: Potential applicants must be invited to apply after an initial conversation with MSI Director, Genita Robinson. Please contact Genita at grobinson@myforefront.org or 312-578-0090 to schedule a time to speak in advance of the deadline.** Additional information on the grants process, including guidelines and a sample application, can be found [here](#).

Google Impact Challenge Illinois

The Google Impact Challenge Illinois rallies the state around bold ideas to make our communities even better. Local nonprofits submit innovative proposals to create economic opportunity in Illinois and ten winners will receive \$75,000 grants and training from Google to jumpstart their ideas. Applications are due September 21st. To learn more or apply, click [here](#).

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development related grants, click [here](#).

Resources for Providers

Strategic Restructuring Self-Assessment Tool (SRAT)

Take the SRAT for FREE! The SRAT helps nonprofits to gauge their readiness to undertake a strategic restructuring or partnership process (including shared staffing, co-

September 4, 2018

locations, joint venture partnerships, back office collaborations, and mergers) and to gain a better understanding of the key success factors and challenges in that potential partnership. Nonprofits interested in taking the SRAT should complete the brief online application by Thursday, **September 20th, at 5 pm** . To apply, click [here](#) .

Community Schools Policy Playbook

This guide provides tools for advancing community schools as a strategy to improve schools, provide more equitable opportunities, and prepare students for success in life and as citizens. To download the playbook, click [here](#) .

Social & Emotional Learning Booklist

Check out this resource list of social & emotional book suggestions from children's book publishers. To view the full list, click [here](#) .

Community & Family Toolkit

This toolkit has been designed with the goal of sharing best practices in engaging the families of English Learners (ELs) in classrooms, schools, and communities. To download this toolkit, click [here](#) .

Report: Building Community Schools Systems

This report details the evolution of community schools initiatives, which are increasing in number and are being led by school districts. It first explains how concentrated poverty affects the student populations of high-poverty schools in very low-income neighborhoods. The report then describes the community schools strategy, before looking at the examples of three case studies. To read the full report, click [here](#) .

For a list of previously listed afterschool and youth development resources, click [here](#).