

# ACT NOW!

## Afterschool for Children and Teens

### Policy Update

#### ISBE Board Meeting

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) met on October 18, 2017. The following are updates from the meeting that affect out-of-school time providers:

- The Board voted to approve the release of the 21st Century RFP. This RFP will start in FY19 and grants will last for 5 years. This RFP will include \$60 million in funding over 5 years.
- The Healthy Communities Investment Grant Program grant agreements and RFP release was also approved by the Board. This program includes \$12.5 million in school district grant allocations for districts that have low-income concentrations of 60 percent or more in order to improve outcomes for youth, provide opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment, and to strengthen public, private, and philanthropic partnerships. The program includes \$2.5 million in non-school district grants for afterschool programs serving 100 students or more with 90 percent or more low-income students.
- The State Board of Education will be pursuing some Tier funding amendments to the new funding formula during the veto session for populations left out of the school funding plan passed over the summer.
- In regards to ESSA, ISBE provided updates on the advisory groups and the IL-EMPOWER pilot program. Vendors that applied for IL-EMPOWER funds will be notified shortly and 26 superintendents have committed to working through the pilot program.

More information about the meeting, you can access the Board Packet [here](#). For information about future meetings, click [here](#).

***ACT Now policy updates affecting the afterschool/youth development field, including information about Teen REACH and 21st Century, can be found [here](#).***

### Upcoming Event

#### Lights On Afterschool

*Lights On Afterschool* (LOA) is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families, and communities. On **Thursday, October 26, 2017** more than one million Americans will attend more than 8,000 LOA events in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. For more information on *Lights On Afterschool*, click [here](#). For additional advocacy resources, check out our [Lights on Afterschool 2017: Advocacy and Planning Toolkit](#).

## Youth Opportunities

### **Build a Game in a Day**

Black Girls CODE Chicago Build a Game in a Day workshop will introduce girls age seven to 17 to animation, gaming, and interactive stories using Scratch. The event will be held on **Saturday, November 4, 2017**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards**

Student volunteers in grades five through 12 who have made meaningful contributions to their communities are welcome to apply for a 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. The application deadline is **Tuesday, November 7, 2017**. For additional information or to access the application, click [here](#).

*For archived youth opportunities, click [here](#).*

## Trainings and Webinars

### **Measuring Neighborhood-Level Health and Well-being**

The Build Healthy Places Network's next online discussion will take place on **Tuesday, October 24, 2017** at 12:00 p.m. The conversation will feature national metrics experts sharing their efforts to develop innovative cross-sector tools to measure neighborhood-level health and well-being. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

### **The Need to Grow Afterschool in Illinois Webinar**

ACT Now has created a white paper that uses research and data to explain what the afterschool field looks like in Illinois and where the gaps are in afterschool programming statewide. We will be hosting a webinar on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017** at 10:00 a.m.

that will explain what is inside the “The Need to Grow Afterschool in Illinois” white paper as well as how it can be used and accessed. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

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

## Resources

### **Career and College Exploration in Afterschool Programs in STEM**

STEM Ready America’s compendium identifies the role afterschool plays in preparing youth for college and careers in STEM fields and provides recommendations for promoting STEM learning. Among the programs highlighted is Illinois’ Project Exploration. To access the article, click [here](#).

### **SEL and Traditionally Underserved Populations**

The American Youth Policy Forum’s recently published policy brief addresses how social and emotional learning (SEL) initiatives affect traditionally under-served student populations and how they can be tailored to better meet the unique needs of different learners. The access, click [here](#).

### **Healthy Kids Chicago Report**

The Chicago Department of Public Health’s healthy kids report contains policy recommendations informed by community feedback on its Healthy Chicago 2.0 initiative. To access the report, click [here](#).

***For a list of afterschool and youth development related resources collected by ACT Now, click [here](#).***

## Funding Opportunities

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



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to [StantonS@metrofamily.org](mailto:StantonS@metrofamily.org)

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The ACT Now Coalition brings together afterschool and youth development stakeholders from across Illinois to work towards ensuring that all young people in Illinois have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

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