

ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

Policy Updates

Federal Updates

Youth Workforce Readiness Act

In late September, plans to introduce the bipartisan Youth Workforce Readiness Act were announced in the House and Senate by Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Reps. Josh Harder (D-CA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). The Youth Workforce Readiness Act would establish a competitive grant program at the U.S. Department of Labor for eligible afterschool programs. The grants would focus on four pillars of youth workforce readiness: essential skills development, career exposure, job-readiness, and work-based learning. To learn more, [click here](#).

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

Trainings and Events

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

Webinar: STEM Equity & Identity

Join ACT Now on **October 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** to learn about how to ensure there are equitable STEM opportunities for all youth and the importance of developing a STEM identity in youth. This webinar will include presentations from Girls Who Code, CIS STEMpathy, NextWaveSTEM, and the YWCA. To register, [click here](#).

Fermilab STEM Workshop

Fermilab, a branch of U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science, will provide a STEM workshop for afterschool program providers on **November 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Capital Area Career Center in Springfield, IL**. Fermilab's workshop will provide K–12 afterschool program providers with proven activities and strategies for teaching challenging STEM topics in an engaging way. Fermilab programs are designed and taught by master teachers, and have been updated to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

Culture & Trauma Training

This [Illinois Collaboration on Youth](#) training will explore the relationship between trauma and culture by looking specifically at populations who are at high risk for experiencing trauma. Participants will also learn about the ways power and oppression impact trauma and access to resources, as well as the resilience and protective factors these communities have built to combat trauma. This training will be offered in two locations:

- **October 17th in St. Charles from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** ([Register Here](#))
- **October 18th in Chicago from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** ([Register Here](#))

Vicarious Trauma Training

This [Illinois Collaboration on Youth](#) training addresses trauma and its impact on those in caring professions. Participants will discuss the "caring traumas" and learn how to identify and address the signs and symptoms of each. Additionally, participants will learn about ways to address trauma and promote individual and organizational self-care. This training will be offered in two locations:

- **October 17th in St. Charles from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** ([Register Here](#))
- **October 18th in Chicago from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** ([Register Here](#))

Developmental Relationships Workshop

This workshop lays the foundation for youth-serving organizations to introduce and begin implementing Search Institute's Developmental Relationship framework. Participants will leave ready to be more intentional and inclusive in building developmental relationships with and among young people. This workshop will be held on **October 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Breakthrough FamilyPlex in Chicago.** Please RSVP to Marcie Curry at mcurry@breakthrough.org to reserve a seat.

Introducing Drones in STEM Learning

Join NextWaveSTEM to build a foundational knowledge of how drones can help students to deepen their understanding of STEM and the world around them. The workshop includes an orientation to the Tello Quadcopter Drone and the TelloEdu application; training on pedagogical strategies; suggestions for making drones relevant across a variety of curricular areas; and a collaborative planning session in which providers work together to develop practical plans to implement learning with drones in their schools. This workshop will be held on **November 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Chicago.** To learn more or to register, [click here](#). (*Note: This is a fee-based workshop.*)

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

Youth Opportunities

Hacktober Hacking Workshop

CyberUp has teamed up with Scott Air Force Base in celebration of National Cyber Security Awareness Month to provide a beginner's hands-on hacking workshop for youth. The workshop will start off with a hacking demo followed up by teaching youth how to stay safe online through

various cyber challenges. This event will be held on **October 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Lebanon**. This event is **FREE**, but seats are limited so [register now!](#) (*Computers will be provided.*)

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Prudential wants to honor youth who gave back to their communities in 2019! Youth in grades 5 to 12 are invited to [apply](#) for the [2020 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#), which recognizes outstanding youth leaders who have made a meaningful impact in their communities through volunteer service. Top honorees will receive scholarships and all-expenses paid trips to Washington, D.C. to be recognized. Applications are **due November 5th**.

CUS.T.E.M. Car Experience

From future concept vehicles to restoring and modernizing the vehicles of today, at this interactive hands-on engineering and design event youth will work in teams to design their ideal rides. This event will take place on **March 6, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Rosemont**. The event is **FREE**, but space is limited so reserve spots as soon as possible. To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

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

Opportunities for Providers

SCY Quarterly Meeting

Join Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) and partners across Chicago to explore the role you and your organization can play in addressing justice reform and violence prevention, discuss asset-based solutions, and promote the health and healing of all Chicagoans. This meeting will take place on **October 22nd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Lurie Children's Hospital**. To learn more or to register, [click here](#).

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

Funding Opportunities

Future Fund Grant

The [Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln](#) invites nonprofits to apply for the Future Fund grant. The Future Fund provides support to community programming addressing childhood development and education in *Sangamon County*. Applications are **due November 1st**. To learn more or to apply, [click here](#).

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

Resources for Providers

ICMHP Annual Report

The Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP) is pleased to announce the release of the [2019 ICMHP Annual Report](#). Under the Children's Mental Health Act of 2003, the Partnership submits an annual report to the Governor on the state of children's mental health in Illinois. This year's report looks at current estimated needs, reviews the current children's mental health system, including highlighting innovative public and private programs, and identifies three current issues for the state to focus on in the next year.

Administration

Basics of Proposal Writing

After you have identified, qualified and cultivated your funding prospect, it is time to make the solicitation by submitting a proposal. Check out [this guide](#) for an overview of the basics of a standards grant proposal.

Youth Development, Programming, & Activities

STEM Activity Archive

[Siemens](#) provides tools for educators to implement hands-on STEM activities, including a STEM activities archive and 5-minute refresher lessons for providers.

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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](#).