

ACT NOW!

Afterschool for Children and Teens

ACT Now Quality Standards

Trainings

ACT Now is holding free ongoing trainings around the state on the Quality Standards. The trainings will provide participants a general overview of the Standards and strategies for implementation. **Credit for the trainings will be available through the Gateways to Opportunity system and participants can also earn CEUs.** For more information on these trainings, click [here](#).

- To register for our Joliet training on October 5, 2016, click [here](#).
- To register for our Chicago (Gary Comer) training on October 6, 2016, click [here](#).
- To be added to the waitlist for our Chicago (CPS-Garfield Park) training on October 13, 2016, click [here](#).
- To sign up for our webinar on October 26, 2016, click [here](#).
- To register for our Rockford training on October 27, 2016, click [here](#).

Resources

Check out these resources for discussing quality with key stakeholders.

- [How to Talk to Boards and Administrators About Quality Standards](#)
- [How to Talk to Parents and Families About Quality Standards](#)
- [How to Talk to Policymakers and Funders About Quality Standards](#)

Policy Update

Teen REACH Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Illinois Department of Human Services has released its Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Teen REACH afterschool program. DHS anticipates

awarding 90 grants for an estimated total program funding of \$12 million. **Only applications submitted in response to the Teen REACH NOFO posting will be considered for funding in FY17.** The submission deadline is **Tuesday, October 11, 2016** at 12:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to learn more about the grant program, eligibility requirements, and how to apply.

While this is good news for afterschool in Illinois, you will notice that although the grant period extends to June 30, 2017, DHS cannot guarantee funding through June 30th because the stopgap funding ends funding on December 31st. We will either need more FY17 funding or the ability to use the FY16 funding, which was not available to Teen REACH providers without contracts, toward FY17.

We are encouraging Teen REACH NOFO applicants to communicate this concern to their legislators. ACT Now has made available a [sample letter to legislators](#) as well as a short [fact sheet](#). [Here](#) is also a link to send an automated message to your legislators via ACT Now's Action Alert. We also encourage applicants to make phone calls to legislators and try to set up meetings. If you get any feedback from legislators, please share it with us right away. If you have any questions, please contact ACT Now's Network Lead Susan Stanton at sstanton@voices4kids.org or 312-877-0725.

Illinois ESSA Plan Draft

Congress passed the [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) in December 2015, reauthorizing the nation's largest education law with many much needed updates and revisions. ISBE is working on its plan to implement this new law which provides Illinois with many opportunities to tailor implementation to our needs. You can find ISBE's draft plan [here](#).

There is a lot of language in ESSA that is really favorable to afterschool programs - even programs outside of 21st Century. It is important that afterschool providers point this out to ISBE so that it is included in Illinois' plan. We encourage providers to submit comments on the plan electronically to essa@isbe.net by the **Friday, October 7, 2016** deadline. ACT Now has made available its [testimony](#), [suggested comments](#), and [suggested talking points](#) for your use. Remember, it is always more effective to individualize your comments to your programs specific needs. Please contact Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, at sstanton@voices4kids.org, with any questions.

21st CCLC Payments

ISBE has recently released the continuing application for 21st Century programs, which will allow programs to obtain their continued funding. This funding will be back dated to July 1, 2016. Thank you to all of the programs that reached out to ISBE and their

legislators. Your action truly helped to speed up the process in getting the application out to providers. 21st Century providers should note that they must submit the application by the October deadline in order for their funding to be back dated to July 1st. Applications submitted after the deadline will have funding that starts at the time of submission. If you have any questions, please contact ACT Now's Network Lead Susan Stanton at sstanton@voices4kids.org or 312-877-0725.

Upcoming Events

National Youth Science Day

4-H National Youth Science Day is the world's largest youth-led science experiment. Each year thousands of youth take part in a National Science Experiment that focuses on important STEM topics and issues. On **Wednesday, October 5, 2016**, youth from across the country will participate in the 2016 National Science Challenge, Drone Discovery. As a part of this experiment young people will explore the engineering design and flight principles of drones and discover how remote sensing can be used to solve real-world problems. For more information on how your afterschool program can register for this event, click [here](#).

Chicago Idealist Grad Fair

Idealist will hold a free graduate fair on **Wednesday, October 5, 2016** from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the UIC Forum, located at 725 West Roosevelt Rd, Chicago. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about admissions requirements and application deadlines from 133 local, national, and international universities. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Lights On Afterschool

Lights on Afterschool (LOA) is a national celebration of the afterschool programs that keeps kids safe, inspire learning, and help working families. On **Thursday, October 20, 2016** more than one million Americans will attend more than 8,000 Lights On Afterschool events in all 50 states and in the District of Columbia. If you are considering hosting an activity, click [here](#) to visit the Afterschool Alliance LOA webpage. There you will find tips for planning an event and engaging the community as well as marketing resources. For more advocacy resources, check out ACT Now's [Lights on Afterschool 2016: Elections and Civic Engagement Advocacy and Planning Toolkit](#).

Afterschool: Growth! Conference

The All Stars Project of Chicago will be hosting its 3rd Afterschool Growth Conference on **Thursday, October 20, 2016**. This one-day event will be held at East West University, located at 829 South Wabash in Chicago from 8:30am until 4:00pm. Participants will explore ideas and practices for strengthening and expanding afterschool through panel discussions, break-out sessions, and a networking lunch. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Bullying: How Schools Can Respond

Northern Illinois University (NIU) is hosting a conference on bullying behavior on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016**. This event will inform and educate administrators, teachers, counselors, and staff members about how they can respond to the issue of bullying in their schools. It will be held on the campuses of NIU and the University Center of Lake County. Click [here](#) for more details or to register.

College Changes Everything . . . Continuing the Conversation

Inspired by the College Changes Everything (CCE) Conference, the CCE . . . Continuing the Conversation events offer more in depth discussions around College and Career Readiness and Success topics. The first event will be held on **Thursday, November 3, 2016**, from 8:30 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. at ISAC's Deerfield office, located at 1755 Lake Cook Rd. This free workshop will focus on the importance and impact of students' attendance during their Pre-K-12 school years. To register, click [here](#).

NAA16 Virtual Convention

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) will be hosting its second virtual convention **November 6-20, 2016**. This online resource features the top-rated workshops from the annual convention in a convenient format that allows afterschool providers access to professional development opportunities on their own time. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

12th Annual Community Schools Forum

The Federation of Community Schools will convene its 12th Annual Community Schools Forum on **Thursday, November 10, 2016**. This year's theme, "The Power of Us: Community Schools and Success for ALL," will focus on creating and sustaining strong community school partnerships that promote success for students, families and schools.

Attendees will be provided tools, strategies, research, and inspiration that will enhance their community school efforts. The event will be held at The Hilton Lisle/ Naperville, located at 3003 Corporate W Drive, in Lisle, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Youth Opportunities

Webpage Workshop

Black Girls CODE Chicago is hosting a one day webmaking workshop on **Saturday, October 29, 2016**, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. This workshop uses fun games and activities to introduce girls age 7 to 17 to HTML, CSS, and basic web structure to build their own webpage. The event will be held at Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL, located at 300 East Randolph in Chicago. Space is limited. For additional details or to register, click [here](#).

World of 7 Billion Video Contest

Population Education, the only national program with a strong emphasis on curriculum and professional development for K-12 educators that focuses on human population issues, is hosting the *World of 7 Billion* video contest. The competition challenges students in grades six through 12 to illustrate, in 60 seconds or less, the connection between world population growth and one of three global challenges: climate change, ocean health, or rapid urbanization. Participating teachers can receive free curriculum resources and student winners will receive cash prizes up to \$1,000. All entries must be submitted by 4:00 pm CST on **Thursday, February 23, 2017** to be considered. Contest guidelines and resources can be assessed [here](#).

Trainings and Webinars

How to Promote Positive Discipline in our Afterschool Programs

IAN will be conducting a regional training on promoting positive discipline in afterschool programs on **Tuesday, October 12, 2016**. The session will be held at Illinois House, located at 207 West Jefferson Street, Suite 500, Bloomington, IL from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. During this workshop, participants will review youth behavior and discuss engaging strategies with a trauma informed approach. Contact Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4265 to register.

Advocating Your Message

The Midwestern Governor's Association is hosting an hour long advocacy webinar on **Thursday, October 13, 2016** at 10:00 a.m. The session will cover advocacy basics and provide tips for meetings with leaders and elected officials. To register, click [here](#).

Developmentally Appropriate Practice & Successful Room Arrangement in Afterschool

IAN will be conducting a training on **Tuesday, October 25, 2016** that will assist afterschool teachers and support staff with scheduling/planning developmentally appropriate activities. The workshop will be held at Children's Home + Aid, located at 2133 Johnson Road, Granite City, IL, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. To register, call Kate at 1-800-467-9200 x116.

Quality Standards Webinar

ACT Now will be hosting a webinar on its Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards on **Wednesday, October 26, 2016** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The session will provide participants a broad overview of the Standards, an introduction into how to use the Standards resources, and an opportunity to ask questions about implementation and ACT Now's next steps. To sign up for the webinar, click [here](#). The webinar link will be provided to those who have signed up closer to the webinar date. Please reach out to Susan Stanton, ACT Now Network Lead, with any questions at sstanton@voices4kids.org.

Engaging Youth in Civic Engagement & Service Learning

Join IAN on **Thursday, November 3, 2016** for a training entitled "Engaging Youth in Civic Engagement & Service Learning." In this session afterschool teachers and support staff will learn how to integrate character development throughout their curriculums. The workshop will be held at John A. Logan College, located at 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. To register, email Jackie Richie at ianetwrk@att.net or call 217-953-4620.

Prioritizing Social Emotional Learning

The American Youth Policy Forum is holding a webinar on **Wednesday, November 30, 2016** from 2:00 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. entitled "Bringing Social and Emotional Learning to the Forefront: What Happens When Districts Prioritize SEL?" The session will feature a

panel of researchers and practitioners who will share what coordinated and purposeful SEL looks like in practice. Click [here](#) for additional details or to register.

Paper Tigers: Screening and Discussion on Trauma Informed Schools

Warren Township Youth Services is hosting a screening and panel discussion on the documentary “Paper Tigers.” The film follows an alternative high school’s journey to becoming trauma-informed utilizing the science and framework of adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs. The event will be held on **Thursday, December 1, 2016** from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall, located at 17801 West Washington Street, Gurnee, IL. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Resources

Tower Engineering Challenge

In this month’s National AfterSchool Association STEM Gem activity, participants will use drinking straws, paper clips, and tape to demonstrate the balance between a structure’s design, the material used, and its load. This experiment will help students understand the principles of compression and tension by creating a freestanding tower. To view the lesson plan, click [here](#).

NAA STEM Resources Survey

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) is requesting that afterschool professionals complete their five question STEM capacity building survey. The findings will help NAA determine the impact of their current efforts and provide guidance for future supports. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative Landscape Survey

The Chicago STEM Pathways Cooperative is conducting a STEM out-of-school time (OST) landscape survey on programs offered in Chicago between January 1st and December 31, 2015. The findings will help the Cooperative understand how the Chicago STEM OST community is serving youth and families, identify gaps in service, and inform future work to better meet community needs. The survey must be completed by **Saturday, December 31, 2016**. Participants will receive a \$5 Starbucks gift card as a thank you for filling out the survey. To take the Assessing Chicago OST STEM Opportunities 3.0 survey, click [here](#).

Roles of Parents in STEM Education

In a “A Parent’s Role in STEM Education,” Margaret Honey, president and CEO of the New York Hall of Science, acknowledges the connection between family engagement and a child’s educational success. She identifies five things as being essential programs/resources that parents need in order to effectively advocate for their children’s access to STEM opportunities and careers. The list includes assistance navigating the school system, dual generation STEM exposure, and community reinforcement. For additional parent engagement recommendations, click [here](#).

Involving Children and Families in Program Planning

In “Involving Children and Families in Program Planning,” Jim Murphy, Chief Program Officer of CypherWorx, shares insights on how administrators can best engage children, parents, and families to improve their programs and the services they deliver. He recommends that providers understand the roadblocks to parent participation and find ways to assist with those barriers. Murphy also encourages the use of surveys, questionnaires, focus groups, and involvement opportunities in planning teams to make sure the ideas of children, families, and staff are included. To read more, click [here](#).

Competency-Based Education as a Strategy for College and Career Readiness for All

Click [here](#) to view a recording of the American Youth Policy Forum’s webinar on the merits of competency-based education serving as a strategy to prepare students for success in college and careers.

#OneInAMillionIL Campaign

A United Way survey released earlier this year revealed that one million people in Illinois have been harmed by the budget impasse. In response, the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) has launched its #OneInAMillionIL social media video campaign. RBC is asking member and partner organizations to record a 30 second to one minute video talking about the budget impasse’s impact on their organization, community and/or people they serve and post it on Facebook and Twitter with the hashtag #OneInAMillionIL. Watch last week’s videos posted by [Women Employed](#), [Voices for Illinois Children](#), and [Young Invincibles](#). For more information on joining the campaign, click [here](#).

Employment

BPI, a nonprofit dedicated to resolving compelling issues of social justice and quality of life in the Chicago region, is seeking a full-time Education Program Associate. The associate will help coordinate and facilitate BPI's early learning initiatives in Chicago's Altgeld-Riverdale community. For more information, click [here](#).

Opportunities for Afterschool Providers

NAA17 Call for Proposals

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) is accepting proposals for its 2017 Convention. Those who would like to present at next years' meeting in Dallas must submit their bids by **Monday, October 17, 2016**. To access additional information, visit the NAA convention website [here](#).



Read more about the [ACT Now Coalition](#). Please send any information you would like included in the next newsletter to SStanton@voices4kids.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.

Please send this information to others who might be interested by forwarding this e-mail.

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