



Kafecito

26TH STREET

City of Chicago 2025 YOUTH IMPACT REPORT

CHICAGO

 **CHICAGO**
MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON

PROFIT! 2026

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ABOUT THE ARTIST



The City of Chicago is proud to partner with youth artist Arturo Anguiano III for the cover art of this Youth Impact Report. Arturo, who works out of Little Village, has honed his art style for years and drew inspiration from artists that have come before him.

"I have a very special way on how I interpret different subjects and ideas. Through my creative expression, I make sure that everyone can take a look at my pieces to search for everything they can find in them.

Ever since I was in 2nd grade, I was obsessed with the beautiful chaos of doodle drawings. As time passed on, I found people that pushed the limits of art styles I was interested in. As my inspiration grew so did my process in drawing.

My artist inspirations like GawxArt, SentRock, or Vexx are whom I studied to progress my art forward. Then when the time came, I didn't need to look at other artists anymore to create something beautiful. It came naturally. But I still loop back around to any artist for inspiration, from taking someone's character and making it my own, or using the same colors or art style.

All artists are thieves, and they all wonder the same question at a time in their career, "What is Inspiration?" I want to be the definition of that, with everything you can find in my art.

I was very hyped to start making art for people, like for My CHI. My Future., or simple flyers and posters for events. I've become involved with the City of Chicago because of Clue? and The Alliance 98. Without them, I wouldn't have been here today making art for my community. My inspiration is everywhere. And I hope I can be someone else's inspiration some day."



For more, check out [@real_orbit__](#) on Instagram

YOUTH ON CHICAGO

JANUARY 2025- DECEMBER 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

OPENING LETTER _____	PAGE 3
YOUTH STRATEGY _____	PAGE 6

CITY DEPARTMENT & AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

2025 HIGHLIGHTS _____	PAGE 7
-----------------------	--------

YOUTH SAFETY

BACKGROUND _____	PAGE 30
2025 HIGHLIGHTS _____	PAGE 32

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

BACKGROUND _____	PAGE 36
MISSION AND IMPACT _____	PAGE 37
TIMELINE OF INCREASING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT _____	PAGE 40
2025 HIGHLIGHTS _____	PAGE 42

YOUTH ECOSYSTEM & MY CHI. MY FUTURE.

BACKGROUND _____	PAGE 46
PARTNERS _____	PAGE 49
DIGITAL RESOURCES _____	PAGE 51
IN THE COMMUNITY _____	PAGE 54
FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH: MARKETING _____	PAGE 61
CITYWIDE 2025 HIGHLIGHTS _____	PAGE 63

MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

BACKGROUND _____	PAGE 72
COHORT OVERVIEWS _____	PAGE 73

LOOK OUT FOR:

YOUTH ON CHICAGO = YOUTH QUOTES AND ARTICLES!



= CONTENT TO SCAN ON YOUR PHONE



INTRODUCTION

YOUTH IMPACT 2025

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR AND THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

Dear Chicagoans,

As we move into 2026, our administration is grateful to look back on the work we did for our youth in 2025. We are proud to share all the information in this booklet with you, and we hope it serves as a means for further youth connection.

Investing in and supporting our youth has been a central focus of the administration since we took office in May 2023. Since then, our administration has delivered thousands more jobs annually for young Chicagoans, invested in safe spaces created by and for youth, built out robust collaborative strategies for youth safety, and facilitated investment into communities that have faced historic neglect.

The work displayed in the coming pages is the culmination of effort from tens of thousands of Chicagoans. You will see the impact from our colleagues in the various departments and agencies who oversee programming, manage events, and interface with our youth; the success of our partners in the community who run organizations that provide safe spaces, enrichment, and resources for our youth; the effort of our parents and caring adults who empower our youth each and every day; and, perhaps most significantly, the voice of our youth who provide direction for this work at every turn.

Our youth strategy, which encompasses increasing safety, offering employment, providing access to a rich ecosystem of out-of-school supports, and emboldening youth voice, cultivates a strong foundation for Chicago's future generations. Developed from the richness and diversity of our 77 communities and the demonstrated challenges and needs of the young people who call these neighborhoods home, our youth philosophy will continue to be a critical north star as we work together.

We must continue to support our young people. New challenges will continue to arise. If this report serves as nothing else, let it be a call to action to collaborate even more in this upcoming year. Our administration looks forward to working with all of you as we continue to support this generation and generations to come.

Sincerely,



Brandon Johnson
Mayor, City of Chicago



Khari Humphries
Deputy Mayor for Education
and Youth Services (EDYS)





My CHI. My Future. Teen Bash
Navy Pier | March 2025

YOUTH ON CHICAGO LEADERSHIP

For the 2025 Youth Impact Report, youth created and contributed two articles based on interviews with DFSS leadership. Look out for these articles as part of the *Youth on Chicago Leadership* series throughout the booklet.

"The invitation to speak with these City leaders in social services was not only an honor but a responsibility. ... We wanted to ensure our conversation reflected the voices and concerns of young people. ... Our goal was not just to ask questions, but to create a conversation rooted in curiosity, respect, and accountability. And we did just that."

Hear more from True Star Media after their interview with DFSS's Angela J. Green & Kathy Cullick on Page 43

"There's a wide variety of interview questions one can ask a potential interviewee, but these questions should aim to uncover their perspective. Hearing someone's story may sometimes lead you to view society and their way of life from a different angle. Learning and listening to those impacting our future is crucial."

Hear more from Northwest Center youth after their interview with DFSS's Andrea Chatman on Page 69



My CHI. My Future. Safe Spaces Showcase
Chicago Cultural Center | August 2025

CITY OF CHICAGO YOUTH STRATEGY



SAFETY

Youth are provided safe spaces to be themselves and programming is developed to directly serve youth who have experienced trauma.



EMPLOYMENT

Youth are employed to provide access to career pathways, mentorship, and experiences that provide immediate support and build toward future security.



ECOSYSTEM

Youth access is ensured to thousands of opportunities across the city. A community of youth-serving entities share this information through one resource.



LEADERSHIP

Youth are empowered to lead and participate in efforts that affect themselves and their peers. Youth voice is central in every strategy and decision that is made.



DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



CITY OF CHICAGO COLLABORATION

FIRST FRIDAY MEETINGS

City of Chicago departments and agencies continued to meet with the collective mission of supporting youth in Chicago through “First Friday” meetings. Taking place on the first Friday of each month, these meetings centered key discussions, direct partnership opportunities (such as the Teen Bash), support for community organizations, and more.

Represented departments, agencies, and entities include:

- **Office of the Mayor**
 - **Education and Youth Services (EDYS)**
 - **Mayor’s Office of Community Safety (MOCS)**
- **Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA)**
- **Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)**
- **Chicago Housing Authority (CHA)**
- **Chicago Park District**
- **Chicago Police Department (CPD)**
- **Chicago Public Library (CPL)**
- **Chicago Public Schools (CPS)**
- **City Colleges of Chicago (CCC)**
- **Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA)**
- **Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA)**
- **Cook County Juvenile Probation and Court Services**
- **Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)**
- **Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)**
- **Department of Housing (DOH)**
- **Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)**
- **After School Matters (ASM)**



First Friday Meeting
City Hall | March 2025



MAYOR'S OFFICE

In July 2025, the Mayor's Office hosted a Youth Budget Engagement session aimed to bring youth voice directly into the 2026 budget development process. Over 300 youth attended the event at the Winter Garden in Harold Washington Library and engaged in table discussion on key budget areas.





Youth Budget Roundtable
Harold Washington Library Center | July 2025

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISION



The Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Youth Services Division (YSD) designs initiatives and funds programs aimed at serving young Chicagoans ages 6-24 to support their growth, development, and success. Funding provided by the YSD supports more than 150 community-based organizations annually who then implement these programs directly with youth and young adults.

As part of the social safety net for young people across Chicago, the DFSS Youth Services Division pays careful attention to youth needs and the composition of their population across the city. Work is driven by best-practice research in the field of youth development as well as feedback from youth and the community. The YSD supports young people through programming in three distinct portfolios: **Enrichment, Prevention & Intervention, and Youth Employment**

The Youth Services Division works with stakeholders to develop initiatives that are outcome-driven, focusing on whether youth are actually better off after receiving services. Currently, YSD programs are focused on the following outcome goals:

1. Increase access to education, employment, and supportive services that assist in the achievement of youth-identified goals.
2. Develop relationships between youth and caring adults who advocate, support, and assist in their transition to adulthood.
3. Provide youth with a sense of increased safety, enhance their emotional well-being, and support their self-efficacy to make choices that decrease their likelihood to engage in violence.
4. Build work readiness skills, financial literacy, and personal and professional development.



Inclusive Summer Jobs Expo
Little Italy Library Branch | April 2025

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ENRICHMENT

DFSS Enrichment programs provide supervised after-school and year-round programs for more than 17,000 youth and young adults each year throughout the City of Chicago that strengthen relationships with parents, teachers, peers, and community. Enrichment programs support participants' success in school, physical and emotional safety, and social and emotional development. [Read more on page 13.](#)

My CHI. My Future.

CHA Programs

Out-of-School Time Programs

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The Prevention and Intervention Portfolio programming serves youth and young adults who may not be connected to school, may have been impacted by the juvenile justice system, may be experiencing homelessness, or need behavioral health support. Programs are focused on making connections to education, mental health services, prosocial activities, and other support services. [Read more on page 14.](#)

GEMS

Service Coordination and Navigation

Youth Intervention Pathways

Mentoring

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The Youth Employment Portfolio brings together government, community-based organizations, and employers to offer career exploration, financial literacy, paid employment, and internship opportunities to youth and young adults ages 14-24. Through increased advocacy and funding, DFSS has been able to offer thousands more paid positions for youth each year since 2023. [Read more on page 36.](#)

One Summer Chicago

Chicago Youth Service Corps

Chicagobility

Corporate Partnerships


**BY THE
NUMBERS**

\$86 MILLION AWARDED IN FUNDING
108,000 YOUTH SERVED **18** PROGRAM MODELS



YOUTH ENRICHMENT AT DFSS

BACKGROUND

DFSS Enrichment programs provide youth ages 6 to 21 with safe, supportive, interactive, and engaging activities outside of the school day, during evenings and weekends, and while youth are on school breaks. These supervised after-school and year-round programs serve more than 17,000 young people each year. Youth from all 77 Chicago communities and 50 aldermanic wards participate in DFSS Enrichment programming.

Youth in Enrichment programming feel safe and supported by trained practitioners; grow social, emotional, and cognitive skills; build positive relationships and belonging with peers and adults; and become leaders and role models in their communities.



See the impact of enrichment programming in Brighton Park!

Thank you to Angel Flores at Brighton Park Neighborhood Council for creating and sharing this video.

BY THE NUMBERS

3,900 YOUTH SERVED IN SUMMER 2025
172 PROGRAM SITES IN SUMMER 2025



PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION AT DFSS

BACKGROUND

In 2017, in response to emerging trends and an evolving local landscape, the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) reviewed its existing investments and programs and saw an opportunity to reorganize its work to provide more resources and support to youth who were considered at risk and especially at high risk. The result was the creation of the **Prevention & Intervention (P&I)** Portfolio within the DFSS Youth Division.

The P&I Portfolio serves youth ages 10-24 with complex needs. This could mean offering a young person support because they face high exposure to violence or trauma, may have interacted with the juvenile justice system or law enforcement (Chicago Police Department, Cook County Juvenile Probation, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice, or Cook County Department of Corrections), are experiencing homelessness, are victims of gender-based violence, or require intensive, individualized wrap-around services. Based on our programming pyramid, these are youth with

complex needs who may have a high risk of involvement in violence and/or potential victimization.

These programs focus on building healthy relationship with adults and peers, limiting the impact of contact with the justice system, addressing gender bias, increasing informed decision making, and building self-efficacy and stability for youth. These programs ultimately aim to impact youth's decision-making process before they engage in violence or other activities that put them at risk of victimization, decrease their safety, and increase their contact with law enforcement.

P&I continues to align with the Mayor's Office of Community Safety through community wraparound supports. The philosophy for the work is that if these efforts can intervene and change youth's decision-making process towards prosocial responses and activities, they can limit that young person's exposure to violence and increase their stability.

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION AT DFSS

GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MOTIVATION SERIES

The **Girls Empowerment and Motivation Series (GEMS)** is a gender-responsive violence prevention and early intervention program for girls ages 10–17 involved in or at risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system.

Funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Department of Justice, the grant supports provider training, collaboration with Cook County Juvenile Probation, and direct services delivered by Box United. DFSS has a standing MOU with Cook County Juvenile Probation to guide this partnership. The federal grant, extended for one year, expired on September 30, 2025. DFSS is developing a white paper to share lessons learned and recommendations for expanding and strengthening gender-responsive programming.

YOUTH INTERVENTION PATHWAYS

The **Youth Intervention Pathways (YIP)** program is a citywide effort to reduce youth contact with law enforcement through trauma-informed, restorative approaches. This short-term, voluntary case management program (30–90 days) serves low-risk youth ages 10–17 referred by CPD.

YIP focuses on connecting youth to community services based on their needs and strengths, aiming to reduce arrests and increase access to support. Services are hyper-local and emphasize family engagement and restorative justice practices. Delegate agencies operate across eight zones aligned with CPD Police Areas to ensure comprehensive citywide coverage.

GROUP COHORT MENTORING

The DFSS **Mentoring** program strengthens connections between youth and trusted adults through a flexible, youth-centered approach that blends individualized and group mentoring.

Grounded in trauma-informed care and positive youth development, the model prioritizes consistent engagement, relationship quality, and measurable growth.

The program aims to serve youth ages 12–24 citywide, offering at least 45 hours of trauma-informed programming annually, including summer sessions.

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION AT DFSS

SERVICE COORDINATION AND NAVIGATION (SCaN)

Youth at the highest risk of violence are likely to have unmet complex needs that lead to further involvement in violence. SCaN supports youth ages 14-21 to find stability and resolve unmet needs, increase their sense of safety, and strengthen their ability to mitigate future exposures to violence. Youth are paired with a full-time “Navigator” who supports the achievement of youth-identified goals, connects to supportive services, and assists in establishing a strong network of support. Together with the support from Navigators, youth at the highest risk for violence enhance their stability and help create safer communities.

In total, **761** youth have enrolled in the SCaN program across the 2024-2025 contract, and **3,891** connections have been made to critical support services.

SCaN BY THE NUMBERS

75% REPORTED GROWTH IN THEIR PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

70% REPORTED GROWTH IN THEIR SENSE OF SAFETY

68% REPORTED GROWTH IN THEIR NETWORK OF SUPPORTIVE ADULTS

62% REPORTED GROWTH IN THEIR PERSONAL AGENCY / SELF-EFFICACY

PEACEKEEPING PILOT

In partnership with GoodKidsMadCity, DFSS expanded on the youth Peacekeeping pilot in 2025, more than doubling the total number of opportunities offered from 2024. This program included:

- **210** youth Peacekeeping opportunities
- **60 hours** of classroom learning, where participants learned about restorative justice, collective healing, mindfulness, and non-carceral strategies for public safety
- **10 hours** of field training, where participants applied new skills alongside community-based organizations engaged in safety efforts





"GAMERS ONLY" ESPORTS CAMP

This summer, the Chicago Park District launched an innovative "Gamers Only" camp, a unique six-week program that seamlessly integrates gaming with enriching activities aimed at fostering physical wellness, essential life skills, and community engagement. Teens from West Pullman Park geared up for an immersive gaming experience by first participating in thoughtfully selected sports activities, which included both physical and educational components. This preparatory phase set the stage for an exciting engagement with gaming systems, enhancing the overall camp experience.

40 teens participated in the 6 week camp; With the success of the camp the Chicago Park District and the teen engagement department has expanded to provide "Gamers Only" Esports programming at more park locations





T.I.P. FEST 2025

The goal of Chicago Park District's T.I.P. (Teens in the Park) Fest is to provide teens an opportunity to showcase and develop their entertainment and performance skills through participation in auditions and the end-of-program culminating event. The event also allows participating teens to work with local industry professionals to network and develop connections to further their entrepreneurial and performance abilities.

The September 2025 edition of T.I.P. Fest brought out vendors, hundreds of youth, and headliners Young(in), Sean Dukes, Juby DaGod, and William Wims among others to celebrate at Northerly Island.



TEEN LIT NIGHT: UNBOUND

Teen Lit Night: Unbound, organized by teen interns at Chicago Public Library, celebrated the joy of reading through young adult literature, art, and culture. This was an after-hours event that provided a safe and creative space for youth to connect through book talks, author meet-and-greets, and hands-on creative activities.

This year, the event featured a pop-up library, screen printing, zine making, silent disco, DIY tote and sock designing, and bookmark making. Teen Lit Night served as a platform for the Teen Best Reads interns to showcase their skills by organizing the event, crafting promotional content, and speaking with authors.

Local youth-serving organizations also provided attendees with resources on literacy and education, youth arts programs, and youth advocacy. In its first year, Teen Lit Night was a huge success and will continue annually as an event dedicated to inspiring a love of reading and opening new doors for young people.



NATURE IS ART'S MUSE

In the summer of 2025, young adults (ages 18-24) had the unique opportunity to collaborate with renowned mural artist Dorian Sylvain in creating a large-scale mural on the exterior of the Hyde Park Art Center. This program focused on education and skill development, welcoming both artists and non-artists alike. Over the course of the project, a group of youth worked closely with Sylvain and Art Center staff, exploring their creative potential and contributing to a significant community art initiative. Sylvain's commitment to fostering creativity and providing hands-on educational experiences empowered participants to grow both personally and professionally, leaving a lasting impact on the Hyde Park Art Center and its surrounding community.

The Hyde Park Art Center's youth community art project served approximately 11 youth participants, creating a welcoming space where creativity, collaboration, and confidence could grow. While many participants entered the program without prior formal art training, the experience demonstrated that artistic expression is rooted in curiosity, openness, and shared learning. As participant Enya J. shared: "We didn't walk in with incredible talents, but working around each other, we learned new skills and we got to know each other personally. I think it speaks in the art itself—you can see the many different personalities by the different colors, different patterns."

Youth participants reported that, even if they had not yet completed the full program, they gained valuable insight into what it means to be an artist. 85% of youth who completed the survey reported they felt more hopeful about their future after participating. Many expressed a new understanding that creativity does not require formal training rather, it grows from a willingness to learn and the confidence to express oneself.





AREA 2 UNITED SUMMER CAPSTONE

The Area 2 United Summer Initiative brought together 35 youth from Districts 4, 5, 6, and 22 to co-design and lead community-centered projects that strengthened safety, wellness, and neighborhood pride across Chicago's South and Southeast sides. Working in collaboration with the Area 2 Youth District Advisory Councils (YDACs), City Colleges of Chicago interns, local businesses, and more than 10 community partners including neighborhood associations, violence-prevention organizations, and block clubs, youth addressed long-standing concerns through hands-on service and strategic engagement.

As one participant shared, "This was the first time I felt like my ideas mattered in making my neighborhood safer."

In the 4th District, youth transformed the corridor at 106th & Torrance, partnering with local beautification groups to restore a littered space through environmental design and community care. The 5th District team focused on 119th & Michigan, collaborating with area merchants and the Pullman community to reclaim a hotspot for disturbances.

A YDAC member reflected, "We didn't just clean up, we showed people that young leaders care about what happens on these blocks."

In the 6th District, youth worked with grassroots partners to distribute hygiene kits and lead positive-loitering engagements along 76th, 79th & Cottage Grove. One young leader noted, "Helping families with essentials made me realize how much simple acts can change someone's day."

Meanwhile, in the 22nd District, youth enhanced the Edna White Memorial Garden in partnership with local wellness advocates and domestic-violence awareness groups. As an intern shared, "Working in the garden helped me understand how healing spaces are needed for both police and the community." Through these partnerships, Area 2 United demonstrated how youth leadership, community collaboration, and police engagement can create sustainable, meaningful transformation—block by block.



CPS ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

During Summer 2025, the Academic Competitions team engaged nearly 270 CPS students through four high-quality academic enrichment camps across the city. Programs centered on chess, debate, literacy, leadership, and STEM enrichment created safe, culturally responsive learning environments that strengthened students' academic confidence, problem-solving skills, communication, and leadership development. Our signature camp experiences included: the Bizee Bee Spelling & Literacy Camp, which integrated spelling, robotics, cultural identity programming, creative arts, and a culminating spelling bee experience; the Chicago Debates Summer Institute, which provided intensive debate training across middle school and high school tracks; the Summer Knights Chess Camp, which paired expert instruction with enrichment trips and college pathway mentorship; and the Queens Summer Chess Camp, a student-led initiative emphasizing peer mentorship, teamwork, and inclusivity.



BACK TO OUR FUTURE 2.0

Back to Our Future 2.0 (B2OF 2.0) is a re-engagement initiative designed to support youth ages 14 to 21 who have been disconnected from school and are at heightened risk of exposure to community violence. Serving priority neighborhoods across the South and West Sides of Chicago, B2OF 2.0 helps young people reconnect to meaningful pathways—whether returning to school, pursuing a GED, or accessing workforce and trades opportunities. B2OF 2.0 strengthens Chicago's re-engagement ecosystem by building a coordinated, tiered, and integrated continuum of services. Through expanded wraparound supports, soft-skills development, mentoring, and community-building, the program ensures young people receive individualized support to stabilize, grow, and pursue long-term success.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME SUMMER 2025

In summer 2025, from June 30 to July 25, the district engaged 19,269 students across 322 schools in enrichment, academic, and mentoring programs designed to keep students safe and strengthen their connection to school communities. These efforts align with the CPS 5-Year Strategic Plan, which aims to expand our of school time (OST) access and reach 50% student participation by 2029, with a strong focus on students furthest from opportunity. To extend learning beyond the core summer program window, OST created additional opportunities for students to engage in safe, structured environments. In partnership with the Chicago Park District, two intersession programs were held during the week of August 4, which offered programming for middle school students in the Dunning and Austin communities. In addition, on Friday, August 8, CPS participated in the City's Teen Night Initiative, hosting two events held in Uptown and Avalon Park.



MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

In 2025, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities marked the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Our celebration at Malcolm X College began with a panel featuring young adult participants and graduates from One Summer Chicago, Project Wright Access, and After 22, three standout Chicago programs for youth and young adults. Along with these young adults, representatives of these programs spoke about how they are empowering young adults with disabilities to build their careers.



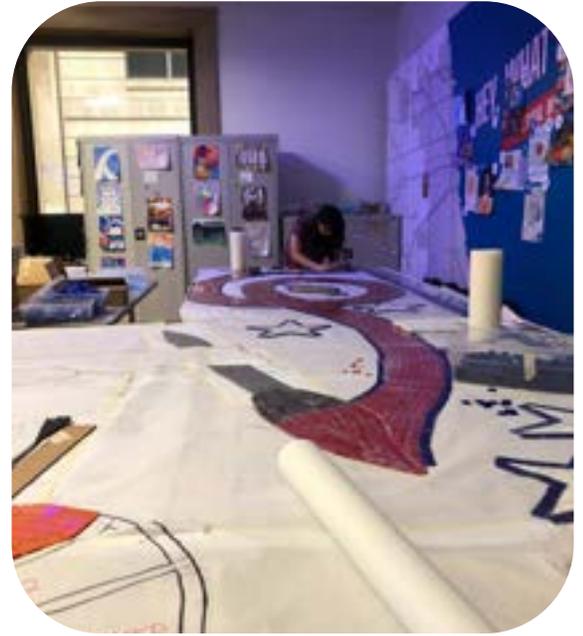
This panel represents an ongoing commitment from MOPD to promoting career opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities, including April's Inclusive Summer Job Fair in partnership with One Summer Chicago, where attendees and their families could complete their summer job applications and get vital information on transportation, education and other services.



DEPT. OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS

ASM TEEN MOSAICS AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER

Talented teen artists under the guidance of artist Mimi Thran created a mosaic of monumental scale to be installed on the exterior of After School Matters' new building in the spring of 2026. It will showcase the skills of these gifted apprentices for many years to come. Working in the Learning Lab as part of DCASE's Learning Hub program offered the unique opportunity for the teen artists to engage with visitors through DCASE's Meet an Artist public program. Teens also created a mini zine about the mosaics in the building.



DEPARTMENT OF STREETS AND SANITATION

DSS LABORER'S TRAINEES PROGRAM

In partnership with Hire360 and LiUNA Laborers' Local 1001, DSS provided hands-on training, experience, and mentorship for young adults interested in trades careers.

Participants acquire their union card and become eligible to apply for full time trades roles with the City upon completion. Building on last year's summer pilot, the program hired 107 CPS CTE graduates. 83 of these young people got hired into full-time roles with the City.



PLAYSTREETS



The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) PlayStreets continued this past year, integrating public health, safety, and community engagement through coordinated departmental action. PlayStreets prioritizes neighborhoods experiencing longstanding disinvestment and elevated indicators related to youth violence, chronic disease, and limited access to safe outdoor spaces. Playstreets delivered 195 hours of safe, active play, and averaged 443 participants per event in 2025.

By temporarily closing residential streets, the city transformed underutilized public space into safe, supervised environments where youth and families could gather, engage in physical activity, and connect to City services. PlayStreets advanced the City of Chicago priorities of operationalizing equity, increasing positive government presence, and supporting neighborhood-level violence prevention.

In 2025, PlayStreets aligned interagency resources around three core outcomes critical to youth well-being: **Youth Safety & Violence Prevention, Health & Wellness Access, and Trust-Building & Civic Presence**

PlayStreets demonstrates effective cross-department coordination across City agencies, working with Chicago Department of Transportation, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Park District, Department of Family & Support Services, the Office of Equity & Racial Justice, and Mayor's Office partners.



CHICAGO EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

The Chicago Roadmap is an unprecedented systems-level partnership between City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, and four-year universities that supports students along a path to and through college on the way to their chosen careers.

Since the launch of the Chicago Roadmap, CPS student enrollment in free early college courses through City Colleges of Chicago is up 62 percent, reaching more than 9,800 students per year.

In 2025, more than 800 graduating CPS seniors earned 15 or more college credits through City Colleges, nearly one and a half times the approximately 330 students who achieved this milestone in 2019. One hundred thirty-eight students earned an associate degree while in high school in 2025, a 47% increase from 2024.



CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

UNVEILING OF “PAPA BLU”



In 2025, the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) debuted its new, ADA-accessible community outreach bus, dubbed “Papa Blu,” during the summer’s Take Back the Block events with Mayor Johnson in the Chatham and Greater Grand Crossing communities. The centerpiece of the bus is a pair of flight simulators, designed with guidance from members of the CDA’s Workforce Development team to ensure youth can experience a fun, hands-on introduction to aviation. The bus also offers additional educational resources designed to inspire young people’s curiosity around future careers in the aviation industry.



Papa Blu also offers resources tailored to high school and college students as well as mid-career professionals, such as information about job openings at O’Hare and Midway, internship opportunities, and aviation training programs. Since its debut on August 29, Papa Blu has shown up at seven community engagement events in neighborhoods across Chicago.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

CHICAGO YOUTH BIZ EXPO 2025



Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP), in partnership with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), held its second Chicago Youth Biz Expo at Malcolm X College. The free expo brought together over 250 attendees and CPS students to celebrate entrepreneurship, leadership, and the future of Chicago. The expo began with a welcome address followed by a keynote panel featuring three young entrepreneurs titled, “Young Innovators: Igniting the Entrepreneurial Spirit.” The panel of youth entrepreneurs shared their stories and strategies for launching and growing successful businesses. Additionally, students evaluated and refined their digital presence to authentically showcase their strengths and values in a workshop titled “Positive Self Concept” led by The Gray Matter Experience. The expo provided students with expert guidance on how to launch or grow a business in Chicago.



AFTER SCHOOL MATTERS IMPACTFUL SUMMER PROGRAM SESSION

Over 10,500 Chicago teens participated in more than 650 diverse and engaging After School Matters (ASM) summer programs across the city in 2025. From astronomy to musical theater and so much more, these programs offer a safe and supportive environment where young people learned new skills, earned money, and built meaningful friendships.

Teens become more confident, expressed their creativity, and worked to create a path for their futures.

Learn more at afterschoolmatters.org



“ASM prepared me for college by reminding me that my dreams are attainable. ASM will always be a large part of the person I am and the person I am becoming.” – ASM Teen





Late Night Basketball
Lindblom Park | July 2025

YOUTH SAFETY

SAFE SPACES AND SAFE COMMUNITIES



Late Night Basketball
Malcom X College | June 2025

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

BACKGROUND

The **Mayor's Office of Community Safety (MOCS)** team, led by the Deputy Mayor for Community Safety Garien Gatewood, is committed to investing intentionally in people and communities through the full force of government and a community-driven approach, the People's Plan for Community Safety aims to:

- Systemically promote community safety by mitigating root causes
- Rapidly respond to specific community safety challenges through trauma-informed and community-based interventions

The MOCS team works to accomplish the following:

- Coordinate operations of the Chicago Police Department, Chicago Fire Department, Office of Emergency and Communications, Civilian Office of Police Accountability, Police Board, Office of Public Safety Administration, and the Community Commission for Public Safety Accountability.
- Oversee implementation of the consent decree and other public safety reform efforts.
- Support and advise the Mayor on safety-related concerns including but not limited to safety for new arrivals, returning citizens, and youth.



Video Game Night Englewood Edition
Kelly Branch Library | November 2025



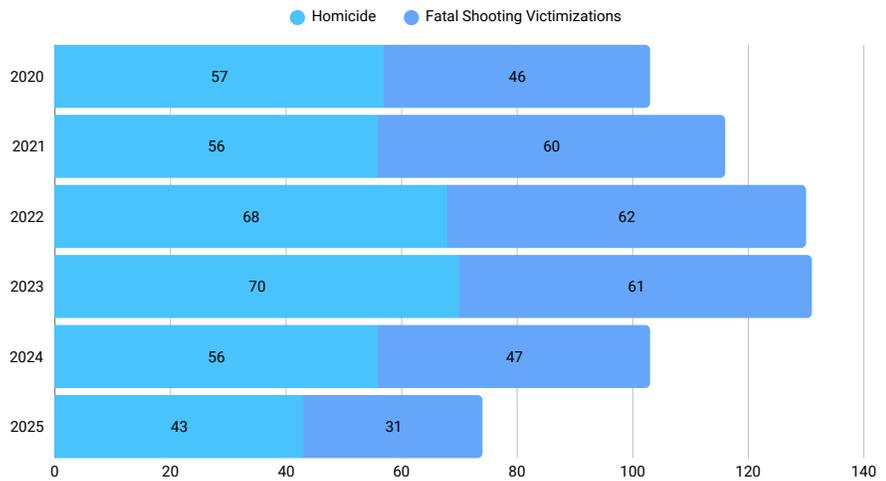
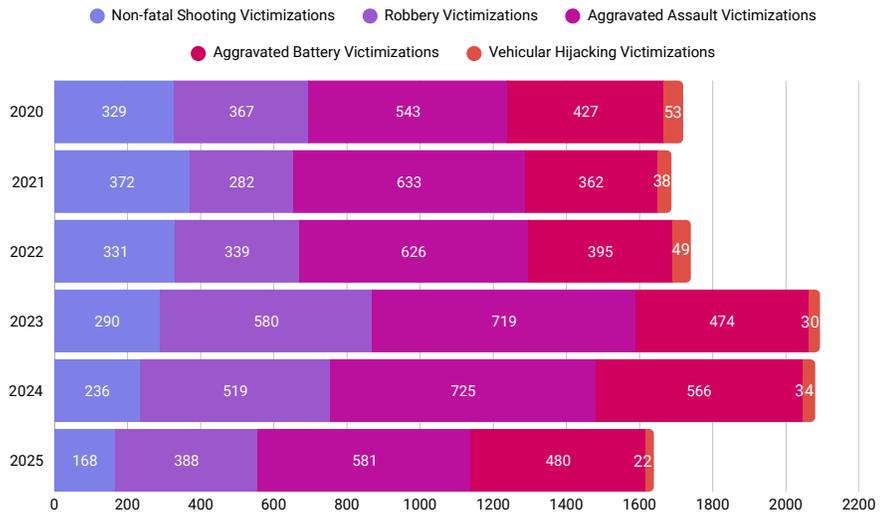
Video Game Night Austin Edition
Columbus Park | November 2025

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SAFETY

Chicago saw historic declines in violent crime categories throughout 2025, and those declines also extended to youth crime victimizations. These declines were the product of intentional investment in youth, collaboration across all City departments and agencies, and supporting community-led violence prevention and intervention ecosystems across historically disinvested community areas.

MOCS contributes to ongoing decreases in youth violence by engaging Youth of Highest Promise in community safety policy, building their skills in prevention and intervention, and ensuring wrap-around responses are available when youth are directly impacted by violence and destabilizing events.

YEAR BY YEAR INCIDENT COMPARISON (FOR JUVENILES <17)



Video Game Night Austin Edition
Columbus Park | November 2025

LATE NIGHT BASKETBALL (FOR 18+)

MOCS, in partnership with the Chicago Park District, City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago Police Department, and community partners launched Late Night Basketball, a citywide summer initiative designed to create safe, welcoming public spaces for Chicago residents in communities most impacted by violence.

The initiative began Memorial Day weekend and operated from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. in select locations on the North, West, South, and Southwest Sides of the city; continuing throughout summer 2025 holiday weekends. This initiative created a safe space for over 750 young people and reflects the City's commitment to creating safe alternatives during peak times for violence, while fostering collaboration between residents, community leaders, and public safety partners.



VIDEO GAME NIGHTS

MOCS, in partnership with the Chicago Park District, Chicago Public Library, Chicago Police Department, Department of Family and Support Services, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and our community partners, hosted a series of Late-Night Video Game Nights in 2025. These events offered young people a fun and welcoming place to spend their evenings, with plenty of opportunities to relax, play, and connect.

Each night featured free food, video gaming, giveaways, board games, arts and crafts, and access to helpful community resources on site. More than 900 young people and their families joined us across the series.





Late Night Basketball
Lindblom Park | July 2025



Video Game Night Little Village Edition
Piotrowski Park | November 2025



Late Night Basketball
Washington Park | June 2025



Video Game Night Austin Edition
Columbus Park | November 2025



Video Game Night Far South Edition
Woodson Regional Library | November 2025

ADDITIONAL 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

ENGAGEMENT ON LARGE YOUTH GATHERINGS

- MOCS convened the whole of government to collaborate with community-based partners, including youth, to discuss how to reduce the number of “teen trends” through intentional engagement and collaboration with youth.

VISITS TO INTERACT WITH INCARCERATED YOUTH

- MOCS Re-Entry and the Mayor’s Office Education and Youth Services (EDYS) team made multiple visits to the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) and Illinois Youth Center-Chicago, including a round table discussion between Mayor Johnson and incarcerated youth at JTDC. These visits and discussions yielded more insight from youth on their needs and expectations of their communities and themselves.

STOP THE BLEED TRAINING

- MOCS worked with the Office of Emergency Management and Communications, University of Chicago Trauma Center, Rush Medical Center, Northwestern Hospital, Ujima Medics, Draco Strategies and a number of other organizations to deliver life saving and life-affirming first aid training and skill building to over 500 high school youth. These trainings were a space for attending youth to share experiences with gun violence and feel encouraged to offer help to their communities if incidents occur.

IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING THE LOSS OF A CHILD TO GUN VIOLENCE

- Incident Response Protocol ensures a fast, coordinated, and trauma-informed citywide response to violent incidents through activating the full force of government. The protocol prioritizes victim and community support, produces After-Action Reports, and sustains recovery efforts to promote healing and resilience.



Video Game Night Austin Edition
Columbus Park | November 2025



Video Game Night Austin Edition
Columbus Park | November 2025



Video Game Night Englewood Edition
Kelly Branch Library | September 2025



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

PAID OPPORTUNITIES



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

BACKGROUND

Upon taking office in May 2023, Mayor Brandon Johnson signed Executive Order 2023-15, directing an increase in funding to expand employment opportunities for young Chicagoans. This initiative focuses on fostering collaboration across City departments, sister agencies, Aldermanic Offices, and community partners to enhance both summer and year-round job opportunities for individuals ages 14–24, including high school students, college students, young parents, heads of households, and individuals just starting their career journey.

By strengthening workforce development efforts, the initiative aims to provide young people with meaningful employment, skill-building opportunities, and pathways to long-term career success. The City also continues

to increase applications from youth with disabilities, youth who are homeless and unstably housed, youth who are justice-involved, and youth who need opportunities through intentional outreach and recruitment.

The goal is to expand youth employment Citywide to meet the growing demand for opportunities. By building a collaborative ecosystem that spans City government, the public sector, the private sector, and philanthropy, the initiative seeks to double youth employment opportunities by the end of Mayor Johnson’s first term. By connecting young people to a wide range of paid career exploration, workforce development programs, and career pathways, the effort ensures that Chicago’s youth are equipped with the skills and experiences necessary to connect them to employment and careers.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IS DEFINED AS A SPECTRUM OF PAID OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING:

Career Awareness
Learning about work

Career Exploration
Learning about work and deciding on a pathway

Career Readiness
Learning through work

Career Development Experience
Learning for work



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MISSION:

To create equitable and sustainable youth employment opportunities across Chicago by fostering a collaborative ecosystem that connects young people to meaningful career exploration, workforce development, and effective career pathways. Through partnerships with City government, the public and private sectors, and philanthropy, we aim to empower youth and young adults ages 14–24 to build skills, gain valuable work experience, and achieve long-term economic success.

IMPACT OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Youth employment has a transformative impact, providing Chicago’s young people with valuable skills, experience, and the confidence needed to succeed in the workforce. Engaging youth in employment at an early age fosters financial independence, enhances personal growth, and builds essential work-related skills such as teamwork, responsibility, and time management. Moreover, youth employment has been shown to improve educational outcomes and reduce involvement in risky behaviors. By providing diverse opportunities for youth, this initiative aims to unlock potential, fuel ambition, and empower the next generation of leaders.



One Summer Chicago Employment Program
Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council | Summer 2025

YOUTH JOBS AND SAFETY

Below is a table showing that in the five community areas with the highest number of **One Summer Chicago (OSC)** hires—Austin, Auburn Gresham, Roseland, South Shore, and North Lawndale—the City recorded double-digit declines in shootings and homicides from Summer 2024 to Summer 2025.

COMMUNITY AREAS WITH HIGHEST OSC HIRES:	YOUTH HIRED	SUMMER '24-'25	
		SHOOTINGS	HOMICIDES
Austin	1,829	-30.80%	-30.40%
Auburn-Gresham	976	-28.60%	-66.70%
Roseland	966	-39.30%	-100%
South Shore	892	-25.50%	-37.50%
North Lawndale	867	-50.60%	-66.70%

IMPACT OF YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

“My internships with Trellus' Technique Gems program gave me the chance to support my mom and family, stay in school, and gain valuable work experience. I've grown personally and professionally, developed confidence and leadership skills, and learned the value of kindness and hard work. I've seen how far I've come and I'm forever grateful for what I found through this program. This experience changed my life, and I'll carry its lessons with me forever.”

“I gained a deeper understanding of how public transportation works and why equity in transit matters. I saw how data, community needs, and policy shape the systems we use every day. This experience showed me the power of public service and the need for youth voices in shaping our city.”

“I'm deeply grateful for the profound impact St. Paul Community Development Ministry has had on my life. Before joining, I struggled to find direction and purpose. Through their trades program, I gained the skills, confidence, and support to build a career in carpentry. What once felt impossible is now my reality—thanks to their life-changing programs and unwavering belief in my potential.”

“Working for the City of Chicago has been life-changing. I've gained confidence, learned the importance of teamwork and communication and developed skills that go beyond the job. This program gave me purpose after my sports career ended and showed me the value of public service. I'm grateful for mentors who taught us to work together and overcome challenges. It's been an honor to serve with the Department of Streets and Sanitation.”



Chicago Youth Biz Expo
Malcolm X College | October 2025

INCREASING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

AUGUST 2022

20,000+ youth and young adults hired through One Summer Chicago

AUGUST 2023

24,000+ youth hired

AUGUST 2024

27,000+ youth hired

AUGUST 2025

31,000+ youth hired

MAY 2023

Johnson Administration begins and Executive Order 2023-15: Boost Youth Employment is signed

JUNE 2023

\$3.7M of American Recovery Plan funds reallocated to create over 4,000 additional One Summer Chicago opportunities

NOVEMBER 2023

City Council approved \$76M in 2024 budget for youth jobs and programming, including an additional \$2.4M for City department internships (an increase from \$1.2M in 2023)

DECEMBER 2024

City Council approved \$52M for youth jobs and programming.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

BY THE NUMBERS

JANUARY 1, 2025 –
DECEMBER 31, 2025

31K+

YOUTH HIRED THROUGH ONE SUMMER CHICAGO

210

YOUTH HIRED INTO PEACEKEEPING PILOT IN COLLABORATION WITH GOODKIDSMADCITY, A 110% INCREASE FROM 2024

10.6%

INCREASE IN ONE SUMMER JOBS FROM 2024 to 2025

69.8%

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS WHO IDENTIFIED AS JUSTICE-INVOLVED

55%

OVERALL INCREASE IN ONE SUMMER JOBS SINCE MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON TOOK OFFICE

11.5%

INCREASE OF YOUTH AGES 14-15 HIRED SINCE 2024

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025 YOUTH JOBS



CPS provided opportunities for students to connect classroom learning to real-world careers through internships with 260+ partners in 2025, building on a continuum of work-based experiences throughout high school. 375 rising juniors and seniors were hired through the High School Connection program, serving as peer mentors to incoming 9th graders.

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY 2025 YOUTH JOBS



Through a partnership with After School Matters, interns worked in collaboration with branch librarians to create and implemented community programs. 168 teen interns supported all 81 branches and had an opportunity to showcase their community programs at the end of the summer.

CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY YOUTH JOBS



CHA provided hands-on career exploration and skill development in 2025 for youth ages 13 to 24, empowering youth with real-world experience, entrepreneurial skills, and tech exposure. In partnership with DePaul's School of Computing and Digital Media, CHA hosted 15 young women (ages 15-24) in the "Become a Filmmaker" program, where participants produced short documentaries with mentorship from DePaul graduate students.

CHI WORKPLACE TOURS



Back for a second year, in February and July 2025, World Business Chicago, in partnership with the City of Chicago, hosted two career exposure opportunities for 70 youth ages 16–24, providing engagement with employers in healthcare and in transportation, distribution, and logistics.

CAREER LAUNCH CHICAGO



The Career Launch Chicago Program – a workforce development initiative creating diverse pathways for CPS students to explore and enter high-demand careers – had all 47 high school students complete its summer bridge program. Each student earned \$1,000 for education-related expenses and a minimum of 6 college credits towards their degrees.

NAVIGATING YOUR FUTURE WITH CTA



Through the Navigating Your Future Internship organized by the Chicago Transit Authority, 16-to-18-year-olds were provided with career exploration, work experience, professional development, community service, and mentorship opportunities. Building on last summer's pilot, 37 Southside Occupational Academy students gained real-world experience through this inclusive externship program in 2025.

YOUTH ON CHICAGO

Power, Purpose, & Public Service: Meet DFSS’s Angela J. Green and Kathy Cullick By Micaiah Issac, True Star Media Freelancer

True Star Media recently had the pleasure of interviewing Commissioner Angela Green and Deputy Commissioner Kathy Cullick of Chicago’s Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS). These two women had amazing stories to tell that offered a sense of empowerment and meaning.

The invitation to speak with these City leaders in social services was not only an honor but a responsibility. Before the interview, team members of True Star—a youth-powered digital media company—gathered information about each of their roles and responsibilities and prepared questions. We wanted to ensure our conversation reflected the voices and concerns of young people, particularly those from communities most impacted by DFSS programs. Our goal was not just to ask questions, but to create a conversation rooted in curiosity, respect, and accountability. And we did just that.

Commissioner Angela Green, a proud Black woman originally from South Bend, Indiana, carried herself with warmth, confidence, and clarity. Her office had an incredible view of the Chicago skyline. “I’ve always worked downtown, so now being at this office I finally get to enjoy the view,” said Green.

There is no such thing as a typical day for the Commissioner, but she shared that her role is to support and enhance the services for the most vulnerable families in this city and to ensure DFSS is providing optimal, equitable, and compassionate service.

The Commissioner, a self-proclaimed advocate for the people, spoke passionately about her commitment to Chicago, reducing injustice, and strengthening community resources. She also dropped a few gems for the young adults who currently find themselves navigating career opportunities. “Take your time. To me it’s important that you are able to explore different parts of the field that you want to go into.” Green added, “Don’t despise those small beginnings, but really look at those as opportunities to develop the skills that you are going to need and sharpen when you get into the leadership roles that I know you aspire to be in.”

Watch Micaiah’s full interview with DFSS
Commissioner Angela Green here: 



Watch Micaiah’s full interview with DFSS
Deputy Commissioner Kathy Cullick here: 



LEADERSHIP

Deputy Commissioner Kathy Cullick, also from northwest Indiana, complemented Green’s vision with a deep understanding of policy and program implementation. Cullick has been in her new role since August 2025. She was happy to talk about what she considered to be one of the biggest DFSS success stories of 2025: “We employed 31,000 youth last summer. Just giving those youth something to do when they’re outside of school that added dollars to their pocket.”

Something else that Cullick considered a success for her department were the My CHI. My Future. events that took place last year. DFSS took notes from youth about the type of events and opportunities they wanted and empowered youth to turn those ideas into safe space experiences that drew in thousands of young people over the course of 2025.

“The city had a win in 2025 with a reduction in homicides at 416, and DFSS was a huge contributor to that,” said Cullick.

Like Green, Cullick also had some advice to offer young people in the early stages of their career paths. “Stay true to yourself. Do what you love.” Before closing our interview, Cullick offered more words of encouragement. “The sky is the limit. The opportunities are endless, but you have to work for them. People are not going to just hand you positions or titles or success. You have to work relentlessly and consistently, so continue to show up for yourself.”

As a media assistant with True Star, this interview was more than a professional milestone—it was a reminder that Black women belong in conversations about leadership, policy, and change. Cullick is right: With the help of DFSS, which contributes to the funding of programs like True Star, the sky really is the limit for Chicago’s youth.





YOUTH ECOSYSTEM AND MY CHI. MY FUTURE.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

MY CHI. MY FUTURE.

My CHI
My Future

BACKGROUND

My CHI. My Future. (MCMF) is a **Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)** and **City of Chicago** youth-focused initiative designed to connect every young person in Chicago to engaging, safe, and youth-centered out-of-school time experiences. Through a network of more than 450 organizations, MCMF strengthens Chicago's youth opportunity ecosystem by galvanizing caring adults and youth stakeholders, supporting both city-wide and community-based strategies, and creating meaningful connections that allow young people to explore their passions, develop skills, and build positive futures for themselves.

MY CHI. MY FUTURE. MISSION

Every young person in Chicago connects to a variety of rich, engaging, safe, and youth-centered out-of-school experiences that empower them to discover and cultivate their talents, passions, skills, and identities; develops as physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy members of society; builds relationships and networks with peers and mentors; and explores multiple pathways to college, careers, trades, entrepreneurship, and life-long learning.

Access and participation in Chicago's diverse out-of-school opportunity ecosystem must be equitable (not equal) across race, gender identities, disability, age, immigration status, income, neighborhood, and other identities, resulting in all young people (as well as their families, mentors, and caring adults) leveraging community assets and the City's resources to build positive futures for themselves and their communities.



Block Connections Event
Chicago Lawn | August 2025



SAFE SPACES. REAL CONNECTIONS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

CITYWIDE STRATEGY

The citywide strategy includes our website, state-of-the-art mobile app, seasonal marketing campaigns, large scale events, and partner meetings to foster connection and collaboration.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The community strategy supports employment opportunities, youth-focused events, and networks of youth-serving stakeholders to engage youth and caring adults at a local level.

CITYWIDE STRATEGIES

- ★ The My CHI. My Future website and mobile app centralize thousands of out-of-school opportunities from community and City partners into one place, making them easy to search and connect to
- ★ Seasonal marketing campaigns and large scale events, such as Chicago Fall Fest and Teen Bash at Navy Pier, engage tens of thousands of youth collectively each year
- ★ Quarterly convenings are held for 200+ critical stakeholders in youth development including youth, City Departments, community organizations, and more



COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

- ★ The MCMF Safe Spaces for Youth program funds 224 year-round youth employment slots with community organizations. Youth are hired to plan safe events for their peers.
- ★ MCMF Community Anchor Organizations regularly convene local stakeholders to collaborate and develop strategies for supporting youth, collectively engaging over 15,000 stakeholders to date.
- ★ MCMF Micro-Grants provide funds to community organizations to support local youth programs.



North Lawndale Fall-4-All
November 2025

Ravenswood Diwali Celebration Fall-4-All Event
Ravenswood | October 2025



Future Ties Annual Haunted House Event
Parkway Gardens | October 2025



MY CHI. MY FUTURE. PARTNERS

This past year, My CHI. My Future. has been proud to partner with and promote the opportunities of the following organizations, departments, and agencies!

2-1-1 Metro Chicago
Absolutely Anything Essential
Adler Planetarium
After School Matters
After-School All-Stars
Agape Center
Ahead Academy
All Stars Project Chicago
The Alliance 98 (TA98)
Alternatives, Inc.
Apostolic Faith Church
Argonne National Laboratory
Art Institute of Chicago Family Programs
The Art Institute of Chicago
The Aspen Institute
Austin Coming Together
The Austin Experience
Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council
Bevon's Mentee Network
Beyond the Ball
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Chicago
Black Girls Code
The Bloc Chicago
Bollywood Groove & Culture Groove
Box United
Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago
Breakthrough
Bridges From School to Work
Bright Star Community Outreach
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Brilliance and Excellence
Bronzeville Fencing Academy
BUILD Inc.
Center for Childhood Resilience
Center For College Access & Success
Center On Halsted
Centers for New Horizons
Centro Romero
Champs Male Mentoring Program
CHI 311
Chicago Architecture Center
Chicago Austin Youth Travel Adventures, Inc. NFP
Chicago Center for Arts & Technology
Chicago Children's Museum

Chicago Children's Theatre
Chicago City Council
Chicago City Soccer Club
Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness
Chicago Commission on Human Relations
Chicago Community Arts Studio
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
Chicago Council on Science & Technology
Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Chicago Emerging Stars
Chicago Fire Department (CFD)
Chicago Fire Football Club
Chicago Housing Authority
Chicago Human Rhythm Project
Chicago Learning Exchange
Chicago Loop Alliance
Chicago Park District
Chicago Police Department
Chicago Pre-College Science and Engineering Program (ChiS&E)
Chicago Public Library
Chicago Public Schools (CPS)
Chicago Scholars
Chicago Shakespeare Theater
Chicago Teachers Union
Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
Chicago Transit Authority
Chicago Treasurer's Office
Chicago Urban League
Chicago Youth Boxing Club
Chicago Youth Centers
Chicago Youth Programs, Inc.
Chicago Youth Service Corps
Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras
Children's Place Association
Choose Chicago
CircEsteem Inc.
City Colleges of Chicago
City Motivators
City of Chicago Mayor's Office
City Year Chicago
Civilian Office of Police Accountability
Code Your Dreams
Communities in Schools of Chicago

Communities Partnering 4 Peace (CP4P)
The Community Builders
Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability
Community Counseling Centers of Chicago
Community Safety Coordination Center (CSCC)
Concordia Place
Cook County Board of Commissioners
CPS Family and Community Engagement (FACE)
The Office of Faith-Based Initiatives
Cradles to Crayons
Cycle Breakers
Department of Aviation
Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP)
Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)
Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)
Department of Fleet and Facility Management
Department of Housing
Department of Planning and Development
Department of Public Health
Department of Streets and Sanitation
Department of Transportation
Department of Water Management
DePaul University
Digital Youth Network
Discovery Partners Institute
Divine Purpose Youth Performing Arts Center
The DuSable Black History Museum and Erie Neighborhood House
Economic Awareness Council
Enlace Chicago
Eric Steen
EX3 Labs
Family Matters Chicago
Far South Community Development Corporation
fastweb
Female Strong
Fermilab
The Field Museum
The Firehouse Community Arts Center of Chicago
Forest Preserves of Cook County

Forward Momentum Chicago
Future Founders
Future Ties
futuregrow.ai
Gads Hill Center
Garfield Park Community Council
Garfield Park Conservatory
Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative
Garfield Ridge/Midway Chamber of Commerce
Gary Comer Youth Center
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana
Girls in the Game
Girls Inc. of Chicago
Girls Who Code
Giving Others Dreams
GoodKids MadCity
Grace Memorial Baptist Church
Grantmakers for Girls of Color (G4GC)
The Gray Matter Experience
Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Guitars Over Guns Organization
Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. Foundation
Habilitative Systems, Inc.
The Hidden Genius Project
Hip Hop Detoxx
Hispanic Center of Excellence at UIC
Holy Cross Immaculate Heart of Mary
The Honeycomb Project
I Am Man Inc.
I Am A Gentleman
i9 Sports Chicago
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)
Illinois Humanities
Illinois Job Link
#IncreaseThePeace
Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN)
International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago
Intonation Music
It Takes A Village Family of Schools
Joffrey Ballet



MY CHI. MY FUTURE. PARTNERS

John Walt Foundation
K.L.E.O. Community Center
Kam Cares Foundation
Kids STEM Studio
The Kindness Campaign Chicago
Kuumba Lynx
L.O.T.U.S.
La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón
Lawrence Hall
Let Our Kids Grow Inc.
Lewis University - St. Augustine College
Life Changing Community Outreach
The Life Development Center
Lifescore Foundation
Lincoln Park Zoo
Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce
Little Black Pearl Workshop
Live the Spirit Residency
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Lost Boyz Inc.
Loyola University of Chicago
Lucky Jefferson
Luma8
Lurie Children's Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine
Luv City
M.A.D.E. Foundation
MakerGirl
Male Mogul Initiative
Marillac St. Vincent Family Services
Mars Wrigley
Marwen
Math Circles of Chicago
Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)
Mayor's Office of Community Engagement
Mayor's Office of Community Safety (MOCs)
Mayor's Office of Education and Youth Services
Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice
Mayor's Office of Immigrant, Migrant and Refugee Rights (IMRR)
Mayor's Office of Policy
Mayor's Youth Commission
Mercy Home for Boys & Girls

Mentor Teacher Brother, Inc.
Merit School of Music
Metropolitan Family Services
Midtown-Metro Achievement Centers
Mikva Challenge
Mindfulness for Teens
Museums In the Park
Music House, Inc.
My Block, My Hood, My City
My Fearless Future
My State of Mind
NAMI Chicago
National Able Network
National Fluid Power Association
National Museum of Mexican Art
The Network
New Community Outreach
New Generation Fancy Drill Team
New Life Centers of Chicagoland, NFP
New Life Covenant Church Southeast Northwest Center
Northwestern University
The Obama Foundation
Office of 1st Ward Alderman Daniel La Spata
Office of 4th Ward Alderman Lamont Robinson
Office of 5th Ward Alderman Desmon Yancy
Office of 6th Ward Alderman William Hall
Office of 10th Ward Alderman Peter Chico
Office of 12th Ward Alderwoman Julia Ramirez
Office of 14th Ward Alderwoman Jeyli Gutiérrez
Office of 16th Ward Alderman Stephanie Coleman
Office of 18th Ward Alderman Derrick Curtis
Office of 20th Ward Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor
Office of 21st Ward Alderman Ronnie Mosley
Office of 22nd Ward Alderman Michael Rodriguez
Office of 24th Ward Alderwoman Monique Scott
Office of 25th Ward Ald. Byron Sigcho-Lopez
Office of 26th Ward Alderperson Jessie Fuentes
Office of 28th Ward Alderman Jason Ervin
Office of 29th Ward Alderman Chris Taliaferro
Office of 30th Ward Alderwoman Ruth Cruz
Office of 36th Ward Alderman Gilbert Villegas
Office of 48th Ward Ald. Leni Manaá-Hoppenworth
Office of Budget and Management

Office of Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García
Office of Congresswoman Delia Ramirez
Office of County Commissioner Alma Anaya
Office of County Commissioner Anthony Quezada
Office of County Commissioner Bill Lowry
Office of County Commissioner Tara Stamps
Office of Emergency Management and Communications
Office of Illinois State Rep. Eva-Dina Delgado
Office of Illinois State Rep. Kam Buckner
Office of Illinois State Senator Lakesia Collins
Office of Illinois State Senator Omar Aquino
Office of the City Clerk
Office of Vice Mayor Walter Burnett
One Summer Chicago
OneGoal
Open Books LTD
Operation Basketball
Organic Oneness
Party Per Purpose
Pearls Of Ubuntu
Peer Health Exchange
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
People for Community Recovery
Pep Rally Takeover
Phalanx Family Services
PNC Bank
Polished Pebbles
Polk Bros. Foundation
Project Exploration
Project Hood
Project Impact 180
Project SYNCERE
Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
The Puerto Rican Cultural Center
Ravenswood Elementary School
REACH Pathways
ReThink Citizens
Rise Above Foundation
Roadtrip Nation
Rush Education and Career Hub (REACH)
Rush University Medical Center
S.T.A.R.R. Community Services International, Inc.
Scholly

SGA Youth & Family Services
Shedd Aquarium
SkyArt
Snapology
Social Works
Soluna
Soul Children of Chicago
South Asia Institute Chicago
South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble
South Side Help Center
Southwest Organizing Project
St. Paul Lutheran School
STEAMBassadors
The Still Searching Project
Sylvester Broome Empowerment Village (SBEV Chicago)
Teamwork Englewood
Teen Line
That Harper Kid
Think Outside Da Block
ThinkChicago by World Business Chicago
This is Life
True Star Foundation
UCAN Chicago
UNICEF USA
Union League Boys & Girls Clubs
Universal Family Connection
University of Chicago
University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
Urban Growers Collective, Inc.
Urban Initiatives
Urban Male Network
Urban Warriors
Villapalooza!
Voices of Youth in Chicago Education (VOYCE)
Westside Rising
World Business Chicago
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago
Yollocalli Arts Reach
YOUmedia
Young Chicago Authors
Young Men's Educational Network
YourPassion1st
Youth Guidance
Youth Job Center



MY CHI. MY FUTURE. DIGITAL RESOURCES

WEBSITE AND MOBILE APP



The My CHI. My Future. website and app collectively provided access to 37,000+ opportunities to over 49,000 unique users in 2025. More than 200 organizations shared youth opportunities to the MCMF platforms.

BY THE NUMBERS

49,000+ UNIQUE USERS

MOST POPULAR CATEGORY: JOBS

The My CHI. My Future. mobile app offers youth the ability to find opportunities based on their age, interest areas, and location. In its third year, the app was updated to better organize opportunities in multiple categories for users.



BY THE NUMBERS

JANUARY 1, 2025 –
DECEMBER 31, 2025



49.1k+
VISITS TO THE WEBSITE

OPPORTUNITIES IN ALL
77 COMMUNITY
AREAS

37.1k+
UPLOADED OPPORTUNITIES

209
PARTNERS UPLOADED TO
THE WEBSITE AND APP

20.5k+
FREE OPPORTUNITIES

THE APP

Youth and caring adults can connect to thousands of opportunities throughout the year on the MCMF app, including youth jobs and One Summer Chicago, Teen Bash, Safe Spaces events, Chicago Fall Fest, Teen Night, Chicago Park District and Chicago Public Library events, After School Matters, and opportunities from over 200 partner organizations.

DOWNLOAD TODAY!





MY CHI. MY FUTURE. IN COMMUNITY

★ SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH

- Year-round programming and kickback events for youth and families
- Employment opportunities for teens and young adults ages 16-24



★ COMMUNITY ANCHORS

- Local anchor organizations convene community-level stakeholders, including local organizations, City departments, caring adults, and youth
- Strengthens local youth opportunity ecosystems



MY CHI. MY FUTURE. COMMUNITY STRATEGY REGIONS

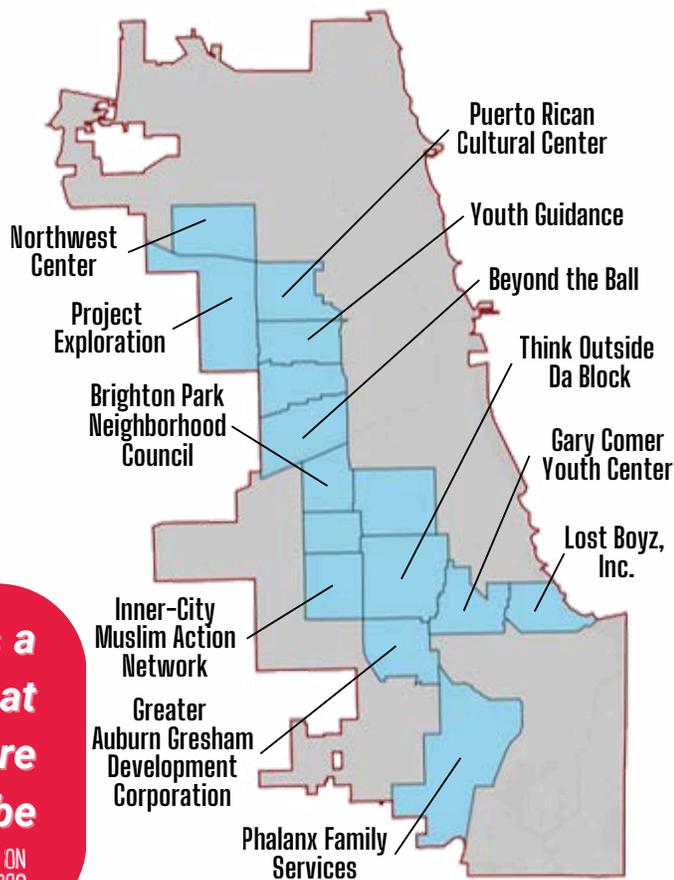




MY CHI. MY FUTURE. IN COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ANCHOR ORGANIZATIONS

In 2025, MCMF Community Anchor Organizations convened networks of local stakeholders committed to positive youth development in their home communities. In addition to quarterly meetings, Community Anchors organized events and trainings and oversaw youth councils, all with the goal of strengthening local youth opportunity ecosystems.



This work is so important because it gives us a chance to be heard and to build something that actually helps us grow. We need spaces where we can feel safe, learn skills, and just be ourselves. –Youth Stakeholder, Roseland



BY THE NUMBERS | **135+ MEETINGS AND EVENTS**
25,000+ STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED



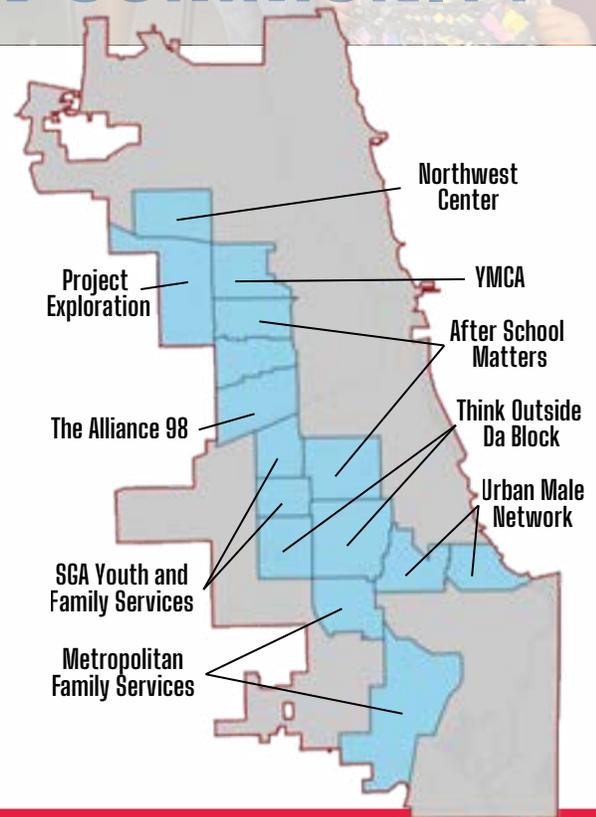
MY CHI. MY FUTURE. IN COMMUNITY

SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH

The Year-Round Safe Spaces for Youth initiative funds community-based organizations to employ youth (ages 16-24) who are tasked with planning and hosting fun and safe events for young people in their communities.

These events—called “Kickbacks”—provide safe spaces for youth to spend key out-of-school times that highlight their voice and choice. The youth employment component helps young people increase their self-efficacy and gain work experiences and life skills.

98% of youth employees felt that the work they did through the Safe Spaces program had a positive impact on their community.



“Being part of this work shows me that my voice matters. When we show up for our community, we’re building something bigger than us and we’re creating space, opportunities, and hope for people who look like us.” – Safe Spaces Youth Employee, Chicago Lawn

YOUTH ON CHICAGO

BY THE NUMBERS

296
YOUTH EMPLOYED

14,240+
EVENT ATTENDEES

135
KICKBACK EVENTS



SAFE SPACES SUMMER CELEBRATION



My CHI. My Future. Safe Spaces youth presented on the impact of their summer events for Mayor Brandon Johnson, DFSS Commissioner Angela J. Green, and their peers at the Cultural Center in August 2025. Youth were recognized for their accomplishments and received certificates for completing the program. Scan the QR code for a peek inside the event.





MCMF COMMUNITY DELEGATE CELEBRATION

In November 2025, MCMF delegates met at the Chicago Cultural Center to be recognized for the community work they implemented over the last 3 years. DFSS, the Mayor’s Office, and the City of Chicago are incredibly grateful to the following organizations for making My CHI. My Future. what it is today through their dedicated work in the Safe Spaces and Community Anchor Organizations programs.

Safe Spaces for Youth Delegates

- **The Alliance 98** (Little Village)
- **IncreasethePeace and After School Matters** (Back of the Yards)
- **Marillac and After School Matters** (Garfield Park)
- **Metropolitan Family Services** (Greater Roseland and Auburn Gresham)
- **Northwest Center** (Belmont Cragin)
- **Project Exploration** (Austin)
- **SGA Youth and Family Services** (Brighton Park and Gage Park)
- **Think Outside da Block** (Englewood and Chicago Lawn)
- **Urban Male Network** (Greater Grand Crossing and South Shore)
- **YMCA Kelly Hall** (Humboldt Park)

Community Anchor Organization Delegates

- **Beyond the Ball** (Little Village)
- **Brighton Park Neighborhood Council** (Brighton Park)
- **CircEsteem** (Gage Park)
- **Gary Comer Youth Center** (Greater Grand Crossing)
- **Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation** (Auburn Gresham)
- **Holy Cross** (Back of the Yards)
- **IMAN** (Chicago Lawn)
- **Lost Boyz** (South Shore)
- **Northwest Center** (Belmont Cragin)
- **Phalanx Family Services** (Greater Roseland)
- **Project Exploration** (Austin)
- **Puerto Rican Cultural Center** (Humboldt Park)
- **Think Outside da Block** (Englewood)
- **Youth Guidance** (Garfield Park)



MCMF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ACTION

Youth Yards Chillset - Lego Showdown
Back of the Yards | August 2025



Youth Meeting
Belmont Cragin | July 2025

“Serving Brighton Park is more than a job; it’s about building a stronger, more connected community, one project at a time.” – Youth Employee, SGA Brighton Park



Marrillac/After School Matters Kickback
Garfield Park | August 2025

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Little Village Kickback Event
Malinali Garden | June 2025

YOUTH ON CHICAGO

I've gone to several kickback events over the past few summers and it's been amazing to see people of all ages coming together. Having a safe space like this is so important because it gives youth a place to connect, collaborate and grow as leaders in their own neighborhoods. – Event Attendee, Little Village



Movies in the Park
Garfield Park | August 2025



Glowtopia
Belmont Cragin | August 2025



FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH: DIGITAL MARKETING

SOCIAL MEDIA

The My CHI. My Future. social media following grew significantly in 2025 thanks to engaging content that featured youth artists, interviews, and events. To view future content featuring community organizations, youth, event recaps, and influencers, check out the My CHI. My Future. Instagram @mychimyfuture



SUMMER MARKETING

My CHI. My Future. partnered for a second year with youth artist Clue? on a summer billboard campaign in 2025. Clue? put together vibrant designs featuring Chicago landmarks, summer activities, and youth.



“Collaborating with MCMF this past year has been great, both of us create with intent and to hopefully make an impact. I always wanted my art to reach as many people as possible to hopefully inspire and I’ve been able to do that with MCMF. I hope all we’ve created together has been able to reach youth that have been looking to get involved in something.” – Clue?

CONNECT TO YOUTH EVENTS ALL SUMMER!



DOWNLOAD THE
My CHI * My Future *
APP!

 * CHICAGO



2025 MY CHI. MY FUTURE. CITYWIDE HIGHLIGHTS



MY CHI. MY FUTURE. PRESENTS:

TEEN BASH 2025

Teen Bash 2025 was held at Navy Pier in the Aon Grand Ballroom to celebrate spring break. Over 1,200 teens attended, a record high for the event in its four years!

The event, emceed by DJ Hot Rod and DJ B-Man, featured a youth artist lineup with Zion Ali, DJ Tai Hunter, NewClearFusion, DJ Double-8, and the Golden Knights Drill Team. Activations included live screen-printed t-shirts by Clue?, skateboarding, video gaming, a graffiti wall, 360 cameras, multiple raffles, and free pizza.

Teen Bash 2025 also offered a resource and jobs fair that provided teens an opportunity to apply for One Summer Chicago jobs and connect to additional resources.





MCMF Citywide Meeting
Chicago Cultural Center | May 2025

2025 MY CHI. MY FUTURE. CITYWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

MCMF MONDAYS

My CHI. Mondays came back to the MCMF app in summer 2025 and ran for six weeks. Each Monday, teens entered a raffle to win a pair of four-day Lollapalooza passes exclusively on the MCMF app. In addition, Lollapalooza passes were raffled at the MCMF Spring Forward Teen Bash and Youth Budget Engagement Roundtable.

SUMMER KICKBACKS

Summer events planned for teens by teens took place in 14 communities across Chicago in 2025 through the My CHI. My Future. Safe Spaces for Youth program. In total, teens planned 67 summer events, including movie nights, parties, sports tournaments, and more.



MCMF Mondays Lolla Band Pick Up
City Hall | July 2025



MCMF Field Day
Belmont Cragin | July 2025

MY CHI. MY FUTURE presents:

TEEN NIGHT

On August 8th, My CHI. My Future. hosted its first Teen Night, an evening of free events specifically for teens ages 13-19 across the city. MCMF partners hosted 20 events across 14 Community Areas that engaged teens through a glow-in-the-dark dance party, a ramen bar, a basketball tournament, art making, and more. MCMF worked with artist CLUE? to create the Teen Night logo and ran a social media campaign to promote events. Stay tuned for more Teen Nights in 2026!



Block Connections Event
Chicago Lawn | August 2025



Youth Yards Chillset - Lego Showdown
Back of the Yards | August 2025

MY CHI. MY FUTURE. CITYWIDE HIGHLIGHTS

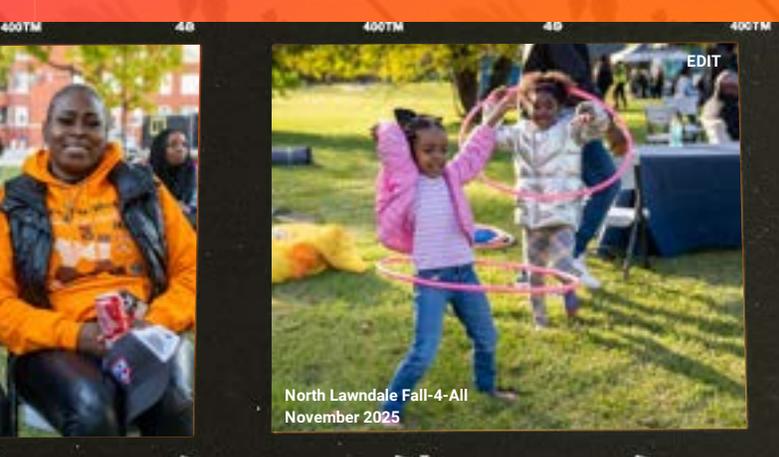
CHICAGO

FALL FEST

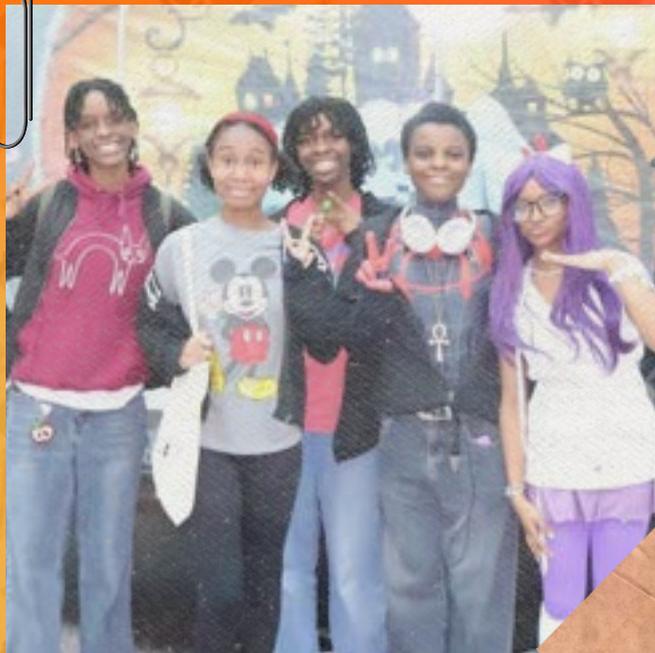
★★2025★★

Chicago Fall Fest 2025 brought City departments and community-based organizations together to plan over two weeks of activities and events celebrating fall, Halloween, Dia de los Muertos, Diwali, and more. From October 17th to November 7th, Chicago youth and families attended two massive parades, ten community Fall-4-All activations, 12 kickbacks, and over 250 events featured on the ChicagoFallFest.org website.





North Lawndale Fall-4-All
November 2025



FALL-4-ALL EVENTS

Community Fall-4-All events, an event model that began in 2024, are a collaboration between a community-based organization, the Mayor's Office Education and Youth team, and the Mayor's Office of Community Safety. In 2025, ten of these events were planned during Chicago Fall Fest, including the first Diwali themed Fall-4-All in partnership with Ravenswood Elementary. Additional partners were The Firehouse in North Lawndale; Beyond the Ball in Little Village; 20th and 26th ward offices in Belmont Cragin; Rite to Wellness in Garfield Park; Giving Others Dreams in East Side; Future Ties in Greater Grand Crossing; Branding Englewood in Englewood; and PCR CHI in Altgeld Gardens.

TEEN NIGHT CHI-TOBERFEST

Teen Night CHITOBERFEST kicked off Chicago Fall Fest 2025, and was planned by Austin-based organization Project Exploration with partnership from the city of Chicago. Designed for teens ages 14-19, this event took place at Harold Washington Library Center's Winter Garden and featured a mechanical pumpkin, video gaming, air hockey, an oxygen bar, a silent movie screening, crafts, music and dancing, food, and more. The event brought over 200 teens downtown for a safe and enjoyable evening.



Ravenswood's Diwali Celebration
Ravenswood Elementary | October 2025



UPSIDE DOWN PARADE

The Upside Down Parade, led by Luma8 and the City of Chicago, brought out over 5,000 residents to Washington Park. Attendees got to be the parade as they walked down Russel Drive with performances happening all around them!



Chicago, Illinois



YOUTH ON CHICAGO

Wendolyn Garcia, 18, Dayanara Gonzalez, 19, and Javier Lemer, 19, all worked with Northwest Center in the MCMF Safe Spaces program in Belmont Cragin in 2025. For this Youth Impact Report, they sat down with DFSS's Andrea Chatman in a quest to learn more about what leadership can represent.

My CHI. My Future. Safe Spaces interns at Northwest Center got the unique opportunity to interview Andrea Chatman, the Department of Family and Support Services' Managing Deputy Commissioner, a self-proclaimed "Englewood baby," and a current South Side resident. She has previous experience and involvement with shelter operations management and outreach.

Leadership can be nurtured from a community. Throughout the interview, Chatman was open about her life beyond her career. One of the most memorable and relatable moments she shared was about her experiences growing up homeless and how it continues to have an impact on her daily life. As a teen, she went through everyday life without knowing if she would have a place to sleep, food to eat, or a way to get to school. Yet she was able to see a bright path through her hardship with the kindness of her community, community who along the way became her "chosen family." With the kindness of others and her own strength, she was able to battle on and become successful and built a better path for her future self.

Leadership takes initiative. Chatman focused on school: graduating high school, then college with a degree in finance and accounting, then graduate school *twice*, receiving two masters degrees in management and social services. She believes college is what saved her life.

College might not be the answer for all youth. Chatman shared important advice for students who feel like college may not be for them or are struggling to continue. She encouraged young people to "take it one day at a time" and reminded us that education looks different for everyone. Chatman explained that there are other paths, such as trades or other undiscovered sources, that can lead to a sustainable future. She emphasized that college helped her not only academically, but personally. It gave her a place to grow and allowed her to connect with people from many different backgrounds. Those relationships and networking opportunities helped shape her perspective and growth. Overall, her message showed that whether through college or another path, learning and connecting with others can open doors and lead to more opportunities.

Leadership means remaining grounded. Chatman's honesty made her feel relatable and reminded us that even people in leadership roles don't have everything figured out. Through humor, humility, and direct engagement, Chatman demonstrated that even in a high level leadership role, she remains grounded, approachable, and committed to value the people and the city she works with.

LEADERSHIP

Chatman explained that being the mother of two adult children helps with this, and, beyond her family, she makes a conscious effort to stay hands-on in her work by visiting shelters and engaging with the youth. She also keeps her perspectives from childhood close: "I was you." She shared her love for reading and is always carrying a bag with books to every place she goes. She wants to remain connected to the people she serves and believes this is critical to her role.

Leadership is empowerment. Chatman finished off the interview by sharing how she believes that youth are the future. She envisions a future where she hopefully won't have a job since we are the "next generation to lead and be innovative and creative." She awaits with excitement and believes youth have what it takes to make changes for the better and take initiative in the future. She sees youth taking on crises that need improvement, including homelessness. Chatman encourages youth to push boundaries and dream big. "Y'all are fearless, you are relentless, you are innovative, and y'all have paved a way for yourselves that is outside of the norm. And that right there is exciting to me and I love it."

Ultimately Chatman's message is one of empowerment. She sees the potential in the youth, and how the younger generations could shape our world into a better place.

"Center your humanity and be compassionate; enhance your critical thinking skills, but also remain nimble, flexible, creative and innovative, you will be successful. You will go far in any space."

The youth interns at NWC would like to thank Andrea Chatman for taking time for us to get to know her and share how she plans to use her leadership role for the youth in Chicago.



Wendolyn, Dayanara, and Javier interviewing Andrea Chatman.





MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

YOUTH LEADERSHIP



MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Youth Commission (MYC) is a council of up to 40 youth, ages 14-19, who advise the Mayor and other City leaders on key policies and projects relevant to young people. Youth Commissioners are selected annually and represent communities throughout all regions of the city. A Youth Commissioner's term lasts for one year from September through the following August. If all requirements are met, Youth Commissioners have the option to serve a second term as well.

The Youth Commission is made up of four working groups: Community Safety, Education, Neighborhood Development, and Public Health. Commissioners select a working group to be a member of and collectively work on a new policy idea in that area throughout the term.

GOALS

The Youth Commission focuses on the following goals:



-  **Empowerment:** Elevate youth voice by equipping young Chicagoans with the skills and confidence needed to become leaders in their communities and providing opportunities for them to be heard.
-  **Civic Engagement:** Encourage active participation in City government, fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership over community and city issues.
-  **Policy Influence:** Provide a structured forum for youth to advise the Mayor and City leaders on policies and initiatives that impact young people.
-  **Community Development:** Promote youth-led projects and initiatives that address local challenges and contribute to the overall well-being of Chicago neighborhoods.
-  **Leadership Development:** Offer professional development training and mentorship opportunities to develop the next generation of civic leaders.

MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

2024-2025 COHORT OVERVIEW

The sixth cohort of the Mayor's Youth Commission published their New Ideas booklet in May of 2025. Four new ideas were created, one by each working group:

- Community Safety: Peers for Peace, a mentorship program designed to teach conflict resolution and emotional intelligence.
- Education: Chicago Career Compass, a digital tool to house post-secondary career pathways.
- Neighborhood Development: Youth S.P.R.I.N.G. Chicago, a pilot program to encourage youth to identify green spaces to revitalize in their communities
- Public Health: Trust Through Training, developing a youth-personalized version of QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training.

You can read more at tinyurl.com/MYCIdeas25



MYC Community Meeting
Garfield Park Conservatory | January 2025

2025 IGNITE YOUR FUTURE YOUTH SUMMIT

In August 2025, the Mayor's Youth Commission brought together over 100 youth ages 14-19 at the University of Illinois Chicago for the 2025 Ignite Your Future Summit.

This Youth Summit was designed to inspire youth to turn their passion into a career. The event included a youth keynote speaker, a panel of youth entrepreneurs, and a Shark Tank-style activity. The event was planned and led by Mayor's Youth Commissioners.



MYC BY THE NUMBERS IN 2025

(2024-2025 AND 2025-2026 COHORTS COMBINED)

53 TOTAL COMMISSIONERS

37 COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED

12 MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Shine On,
Chicago!*



For the last four years, **Shine On, Chicago!** teens have joined the Mayor's Youth Commission at their monthly meetings to document the ideas, efforts, and events developed by the Youth Commissioners on behalf of Chicago's youth!



MYC Community Meeting
Englewood STEM High School | March 2025



MYC Youth Summit
UIC | August 2025



MYC Community Meeting
Garfield Park Conservatory | January 2025



MYC Monthly Meeting
City Hall | June 2025

MYC Community Meeting
Garfield Park Conservatory | January 2025





MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION

2025-2026: LOOKING AHEAD

The seventh cohort of the Mayor's Youth Commission began in September 2025 and will continue working as a cohort through August of 2026. Youth commissioners are presently meeting to determine their new policy ideas, hear from guest speakers, and consult on important projects.



MYC New Ideas Presentation
City Hall | June 2025

MYC ALUMNI NETWORK

In December 2025, MYC Alum and Mayor's Office Intern Brooke Jenkins put together a plan to create a Mayor's Youth Commission Alumni Network. All 150+ previous youth commissioners were invited to join a LinkedIn group, and the Alumni network had their first official gathering after the MYC's December 2025 meeting.



MYC Youth Summit
UIC | August 2025



MYC Community Meeting
Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center of Wilbur Wright College | March 2025

MYC Community Meeting
Roseland Community Hospital | April 2025



MYC Community Service
Greater Chicago Food Depository | November 2025



MYC Alumni Social Event
City Hall | December 2025





One Summer Chicago Visit at Hope Center Foundation
Hope Center in Pullman | July 2025



Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council Employment Program
Summer 2025



Youth Jam Summer Kickback
Belmont Cragin | July 2025



Mayor's Youth Commission Community Meeting
Garfield Park Conservatory | January 2025



T.I.P. Fest
Northerly Island | September 2025



Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council Employment Program
Summer 2025



Fondation Archery Youth from France Visit Chicago
City Hall | July 2025

PARTNER WITH US

In 2025, My CHI. My Future. brought together community and City partners for two network convenings designed to facilitate connection, collaboration, and action in support of Chicago's young people. These meetings featured a panel on supporting youth in crisis, practical conversations on youth safety strategies, and opportunities to align around shared goals to strengthened the collective impact of the MCMF network.

Join the My CHI. My Future. email list to receive invitations to future convenings and more, including youth RFP announcements, information on youth employment opportunities, updates from the Mayor's Youth Commission, and announcements from the broader My CHI. My Future. network!

SEE YOU IN 2026!



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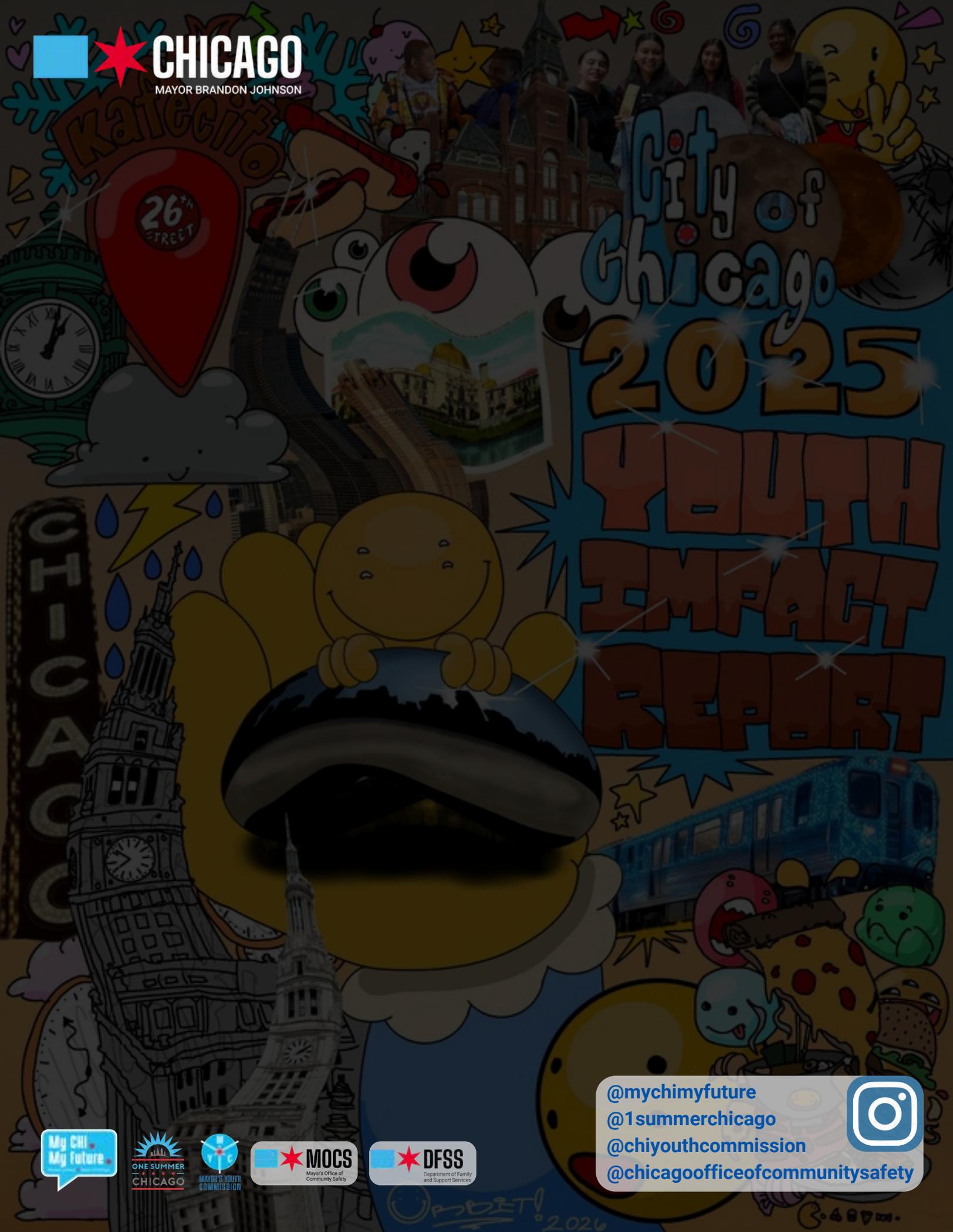
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City of Chicago 2025 YOUTH IMPACT REPORT



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UPDET! 2026