

AT A GLANCE

2,956 youth, ages 13-24,
engaged in **12** paid
career-building
opportunities at **340+**
unique work sites across
the city.

Youth accomplished over
200k hours worked and
70k hours trained in 21st
century skills.

1,950 youth, ages **6 -18**,
participated in health
and wellness
opportunities.

\$2.9 million in wages
paid

“

This is my second year
working for the summer.
Every year, I learn
something new and I am
able to put money away for
the things that I need.

K.H. - SYEP Youth

Before I do something, I
think about how I would
feel if they did it to me.”

R.A. - Peace Ambassador
Youth

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2016 SUMMER YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES RECAP

Summer opportunities, including jobs, learning and meals, matter for our young people. They not only keep them safe, healthy and engaged while school is out, but studies have shown that summer opportunities can prevent academic skills slide and may reduce violence.

With the announcement of 2016 as Year of the Youth, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) proudly expanded its summer opportunities to engage more young people in meaningful paid employment and rich, non-paid learning opportunities to move summer from a time of risk to resiliency and opportunity.

Through a collective impact approach involving employers, education institutions and FamilyWorks providers, CHA exceeded its goal, by 14%, to employ 2,400 youth in career building summer opportunities. With programs designed to build competencies necessary to succeed in life, such as academic achievement, earning power and stability, youth were able to develop self-confidence, earn a paycheck and explore a future career path.

In total, nearly 5,000 Public Housing residents and Housing Choice Voucher holders, ages 6 – 24, engaged in intense academic immersion, learned teamwork and civic leadership, and were payday ready through financial education. In addition, they enjoyed a rich experience of experiential learning that included activities ranging from elevating their voice through the documentary film production process to opening up the code of Minecraft, creating community murals alongside working artists and using improvisation to improve critical thinking and collaboration.

PAID PROGRAMS

Each summer, the Chicago Housing Authority offers paid academic and career exploration opportunities to meet the career aspirations of youth and young adults ages 13 - 24. This summer, nearly 3k youth engaged in career-building experiences across the city. Those experiences include:

1 CHA SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The CHA internship program gave college and graduate students a unique opportunity to learn about the Chicago Housing Authority, by working side by side with staff and getting involved in real projects at partners organizations. **Number Enrolled: 85**

2 COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING

CITs developed strong leadership skills through training, discussion, observation, and practice guided by experienced counselors at Chicago Park District locations near CHA developments. **Number Enrolled: 32**

3 CPD NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CORPS

The Chicago Police Department Neighborhood Youth Corps program provided teens with productive, meaningful alternatives during the summer that reinforced their connections to their communities and increased positive interactions with police officers. **Number Enrolled: 45**

4 DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING FOR GIRLS

Held at DePaul University, in collaboration with the School of Cinematic Arts, the program, also known as BLENZ, taught high school girls how to create a documentary film production that illustrated social issues impacting their lives. **Number Enrolled: 16**

5 EXTERNAL INTERNSHIPS

CHA's Corporate and External Partnerships division placed college students in internships with companies, including Dimeo Schneider, RSM, Now Pow, MAPSCorps Chicago Community Trust, and First Defense Legal Aid **Number Enrolled: 6**



6 FINANCIAL LITERACY & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Financial Literacy & Leadership Institute program, in collaboration with DePaul University's Driehaus College of Business, prepared CHA teens to lead in the global economy through experiential learning in business and finance. **Number Enrolled: 26**

7 LEARN AND EARN

Learn and Earn offered scholars academic enrichment and career exploration aimed at preventing summer learning loss and exposing youth to future career options. The program took place at six City Colleges of Chicago, as well as Loyola University Chicago in Rogers Park. **Number Enrolled: 790**

8 MAKER MOVEMENT

Maker Movement, held at DePaul University's College of Computing & Digital Media, taught youth 3D printing through interactive installations, electrical concepts, and computer programming skills. Participants also learned how to use breadboards to build circuits, and interact with design to illustrate their projects in action. **Number Enrolled: 20**

9

NUTRITION AIDE

Nutrition Aides served meals to youth at CHA sites across the city through the Summer Food Service Program. **Number Enrolled: 8**

10

SAFE SUMMER PEACE AMBASSADOR

Teens trained as Peace Ambassadors, by the University of Illinois at Chicago's Center for Literacy, facilitated the Safe Summer Curriculum with youth, ages 9 - 12, at Head Start and school-age sites throughout the city. **Number Enrolled: 35**

11

STEM CAMP

STEM Camp, in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago's CHANCE Program, prepared participants for possible future study and career options in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields. **Number Enrolled: 17**

12

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

SYEP offered paid work experience for youth, along with financial literacy and 21st century skills development. SYEP placements included opportunities at local private business and non-profit organizations, the Altgeld Urban Farm and in property management firms working with resident services coordinators. **Number Enrolled: 1867**

NOTE: Number enrolled for paid programs reflect youth, ages 13 -24.

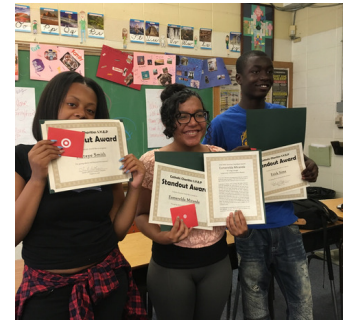
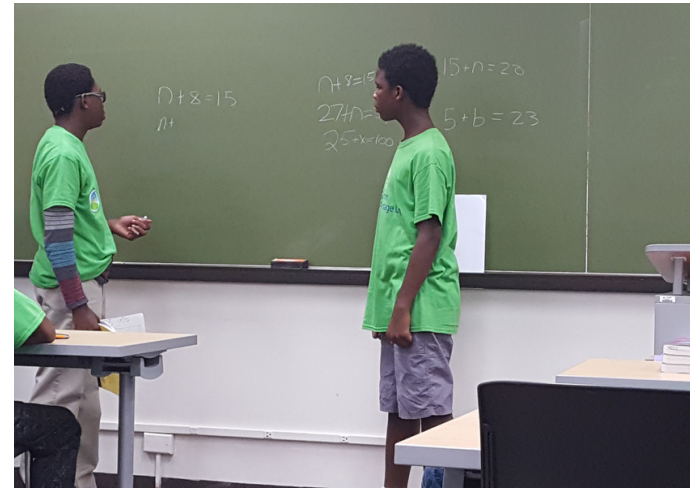
NON-PAID PROGRAMS

In addition to paid programming, CHA ensures that children and youth, 6 - 18, are provided with recreation and wellness opportunities, a safe and supportive space, healthy snacks and meals, and a rich learning environment in the summer. This summer, over 2k youth participated in the following non-paid programs:

1

PARK DISTRICT SUMMER DAY CAMP

Youth, ages 6 - 12, accessed Park District programs at a deeply subsidized rate with a voucher from CHA. **Enrollment Number: 1,841**



2

MOBILE LEARNING LABS

CHA partnered with the Chicago City of Learning to expand its Mobile Learning Lab program to visit over a dozen communities across Chicago. The Learning Labs targeted under-resourced "learning deserts," and provided both extended learning camps and pop-up introductions to enhance youth coding, design and making skills.

3

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

Youth, up to age 18, received nutritious breakfast and lunch at CHA sites across the city. **Meals Served: 83,382**

4

WINDY CITY HOOPS

Windy City Hoops is a year-round basketball league hosted by the Park District on Friday and Saturday nights in targeted communities across the city, including Carver Park in Altgeld Garden. **Number Enrolled: 30**

5

YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

YSAPP taught youth to develop positive knowledge and characteristics that have been proven to decrease youth substance abuse behaviors. **Number Enrolled: 79**

HIGHLIGHTS



91%

9 out of 10 youth engaged in paid opportunities successfully completed the program

2,956

youth were enrolled in 12 paid, career building opportunities for up to seven weeks this summer, at worksites representing a variety of industries including agriculture & environmental sciences, real estate, government & public administration, education and healthcare.

21

empowered and engaged CHA youth were selected for the new Youth Council, in collaboration with Mikva Challenge. This summer, the Council developed six recommendations for creating more year round educational opportunities to improve the quality of life for CHA youth.

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summer learning loss for Learn and Earn scholars, based on STARS pre- and post-test results across all seven sites. In fact, scholars showed robust skills gains - 2 months gain in Reading and 5 months gain in Math.

54
PERCENT

of those who were offered the option, chose to receive wages via a prepaid debit card allowing them to safeguard their earnings and avoid expensive check cashing fees. 252 participants signed up for direct deposit to put their earnings into a personal bank account.

64
PERCENT

of youth signed into the LRNG:CHI digital platform and completed over 12,000 XP's (individual activities) on being payday ready. LRNG:CHI connects youth with learning experiences that focus on how to be successful in the workplace and how to manage money.

1,083

youth earned workforce readiness and financial literacy badges for attendance and completion of the LRNG:CHI playlists.



To view the Vimeo album with all four documentaries from the Blenz program, visit <https://vimeo.com/album/4113637>