



## ONE SUMMER CHICAGO 2013 AFTER ACTION SUMMARY REPORT

As another summer in Chicago comes to a close, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle are announcing that for the second year under their leadership One Summer Chicago 2013 exceeded expectations, serving more youth than anticipated and providing ongoing employment opportunities. The Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS), which is responsible for coordinating One Summer Chicago on behalf of the City of Chicago, is pleased to report:

- Nearly **20,000** youth were hired through One Summer Chicago 2013, exceeding the initial projection of 18,000
- More than **280 youth** received offers for **ongoing employment**
- Youth worked at over **1,800 worksites, including 260 private sector worksites**
- As rated by employers, **more than half the youth out-performed** other employees in comparable positions

This after-action summary provides an overview of One Summer Chicago 2013, describes accomplishments, highlights and features of the *summer jobs* portion of One Summer Chicago 2013, and summarizes all DFSS-administered programs that were part of One Summer Chicago this year.

### **OVERVIEW**

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One Summer Chicago is a City-County initiative to provide children and youth between the ages of 6 and 24 with meaningful summer engagement opportunities. The opportunities include summer employment for youth ages 14 to 24, as well as educational and recreational opportunities (e.g., day camps, arts programs, and sports programs) for youth of all ages.

The goal of One Summer Chicago is to maximize the availability of and access to summer programs for Chicago's young people to keep them learning and surrounded by positive experiences throughout the summer. To achieve this goal, public agency partners come together to leverage their resources to provide the maximum number of high-quality opportunities for children and youth.

The following City and County departments and sister agencies partnered to deliver summer employment and internships for youth through One Summer Chicago 2013:

- ❖ Chicago Department of Family & Support Services (Coordinator)
- ❖ After School Matters
- ❖ Chicago Housing Authority
- ❖ Chicago Park District
- ❖ Chicago Public Libraries
- ❖ Chicago Public Schools
- ❖ City Colleges of Chicago
- ❖ Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
- ❖ City Colleges of Chicago
- ❖ Cook County Forest Preserve

### **HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW FEATURES**

Now in its third year, the One Summer Chicago youth employment program continued to improve registration processes, inter-agency coordination, and data collection. We expanded our private partnerships, leveraged greater resources, increased program offerings, and launched new evidence-based violence prevention programs through an unprecedented collaboration with five County and State criminal justice agencies.

### **NEW FEATURES**

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**New Online Application.** The online summer employment application process was redesigned and enhanced to provide youth with greater opportunities to connect with employers this summer and for many more summers to come. One Summer Chicago and “Workforce.io” partnered to provide a web-based platform for Chicago youth to build their resumes, create profiles, including video profiles, and communicate directly with local businesses. Each youth’s One Summer Chicago job application populated their profile. Youth have the opportunity to continue to build upon that profile, including adding their earned badges, recommendations and commendations, and even creating video resumes. The new website may be viewed at [www.onesummerchicago.org](http://www.onesummerchicago.org).

**Teaching Financial Literacy.** EverFi, with support from Chase Bank, offered an online financial curriculum for all youth employed through One Summer Chicago. The curriculum compliments Chicago’s Bank On initiative and existing City financial literacy resources. Youth earned a badge for completion of the program and also for completion of their One Summer Chicago job. This summer 2,826 youth completed the EverFi curriculum.

**Standardized Mentor Training.** Urban Alliance provided high quality training for our employment program mentors and employees to help them build youth job readiness skills for youth to succeed from their first day on the job.

**More Private Sector Worksites.** Business partners throughout the City agreed to serve as worksites for Chicago’s youth. Youth worked at 260 private sector worksites. For example, the

Rotary Club expanded its partnership with Chicago Public Schools to place 25 youth in private sector jobs such as law firms, retail stores and fast food establishments.

**Engaging Volunteers.** Through its volunteer network, Chicago Cares provided intensive service learning projects to 250 summer jobs participants. They created meaningful opportunities for youth to make a difference in their communities while learning skills that will help them be successful in school, work, and life.

**De-Escalation Teams.** Eight de-escalation teams were created in a partnership with DFSS and Chicago Public Schools. These teams were on call throughout the city to respond to conflicts at DFSS-funded summer employment programs. Teams were called into escalated but non-emergency situations. The team assessed the situation and made determinations about the appropriate next steps to ensure the safety of all youth.

### MENTOR REFLECTIONS

"If we want our youth to exceed the expectations we set for them, we should do the same as adults in whatever capacity we find ourselves moving forward, as we all work together to improve the quality of life for families across the City of Chicago." --Pete Kalenick, Chief of Staff, Leave No Veteran Behind

One mentor reported that a young woman from the program had excellent attendance and was doing very well. One day she told her mentor she had to go to court and would most likely go to jail. When he talked to her further about the court date she disclosed a recent heroin addiction. The mentor was surprised because the young lady was young and despite her addiction had been very punctual and had great attendance. He went with her to court that morning and spoke to the judge about the work she had been doing all summer and about her heroin addiction. They were able to get her into drug abuse counseling and she is in a residential facility now.

"Through the empowerment of youth, the landscaped peace circle (developed by the youth) helped young people to establish a platform to address issues affecting community health in the Roseland area. I am *amazed* at how youth incorporated what they learned that ultimately resulted in promotion of social interaction and organizational collaboration of the Greater Roseland Community." --Saleem Abdul-Musawwir, Executive Director, Roseland Community Development Corporation

### EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

In a post-summer survey, employers provided feedback on their One Summer Chicago experience. The table below reflects the % Employers rating Agree or Strongly Agree to the following statements:

74%	Employee performed as well or better than expected.
58%	Employee out-performed compared to other employees in this position.
83%	I enjoyed supervising this employee.
67%	If employee was an intern, I would consider hiring the intern part-time or full-time if there was an open position.

**Powerful Messages from Employers about Youth Employees: *These are a Representative Sample not the Exceptions***

- Stood out as a leader in my group. He came to work prepared, on time, and professional. Every day he strove for success and challenged himself. He took advantage of every opportunity. His level of maturity and ability to express himself impressed me. He always took initiative and did things without being asked to.
- Comes to work prepared, energetic, and on time, always early. She is understanding and approachable to others. She goes above what is expected of her, without having to ask. She shows a real interest in environmental studies and her future. She works well with others and is a leader among our group. She brings out the best in everyone.

**YOUTH REFLECTIONS ON THEIR WORKFORCE EXPERIENCES**

- “I got to experience how a real job looks and feels.”
- “It was challenging at times due to the nature of the job, but an experience worth having.”
- “Before I came to this program I was fighting every day, hanging with gang related crowds after school and getting locked up. This program changed me. I have not been in that much trouble since I joined this program, so you can say it really helped me. The program is like a family to me. I feel safe here in this program.”