



CHICAGO YOUTH CENTERS'

# 21st AVE

ACADEMIC VIBES & ENRICHMENT



CHICAGO YOUTH CENTERS

WHERE POSSIBILITY LIVES

**Afterschool programs are vibrant, enriching experiences** where youth learn vital social and emotional skills, receive support for school-day learning, discover career aspirations and personal interests, interact with positive role models, and much more.

Yet, only **18%** of youth across Illinois participate in an afterschool program.<sup>1</sup>

**Why? One word: Access.**

The afterschool opportunity gap is real and critical, especially for communities that experience high rates of poverty and trauma.

**56%** of children in communities of concentrated poverty would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them.<sup>2</sup>

**CYC's 21st AVE is one way to close that gap.**

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**CYC's 21st AVE program is a strong incentive for our students' behaviors.**

Our parents depend on this program as a high quality option for their children's enrichment.

**-KARLA KEMP**  
Principal, Deneen School of Excellence

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<sup>1</sup> ACT Now Illinois. (2018). *The State of Afterschool in Illinois*.

<sup>2</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2014). *America after 3PM: Illinois*.

# What makes CYC's 21st Ave

## THE IDEAL AFTERSCHOOL PARTNER

### for your school?

## HISTORY.

### Chicago Youth Centers (CYC)

#### Who We Are

For 63 years, CYC has provided transformative programs to children and families in Chicago's most divested communities, giving them the opportunity to learn outside the school day, develop strong social-emotional skills, and discover their potential for the future. Through our community-based Centers and school-based partnerships, CYC brings exciting afterschool and summer enrichment to more than 1,400 youth annually.

Our youth workers combine intentional teaching of important 21st-century and social-emotional skills—like creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking—with innovative enrichment clubs focused on STEM, the arts, health, and recreation. Bolstered by the support of caring mentors, strong social emotional skills, and a love of learning, CYC youth are equipped to become tomorrow's leaders, thinkers, and innovators.

### CYC's 21st AVE

#### Our Approach to School-Based Afterschool Programming

CYC's 21st AVE program launched in 2007 and has served hundreds of children via partnerships with nearly a dozen Chicago schools over the past decade. By partnering with schools, CYC reaches children where they are and provides critical academic supports, exciting enrichment opportunities, and social-emotional development. CYC's 21st AVE is purposefully designed to complement schools' efforts to help students meet local and state performance standards, improve their academic outcomes, and ultimately provide them with the skills they need to thrive in the 21st century.

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I like CYC's 21st AVE because they listen to us.

The staff see our potential and make us want to chase our dreams.

-STUDENT  
at Young Women's  
Leadership Charter School

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# FLEXIBILITY.

## 1 Choose the schedule and grade levels that work best for you.

Using research-based curriculum, our youth workers can run programming for every grade level from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Partner schools can choose to offer clubs for a subset of grades or for all grade levels the school serves. The choice is yours.

The schedule is yours too. We are prepared to provide a menu of afterschool clubs five days per week, but can tailor the schedule to only offer programs on specific days if you decide. Our typical program is from 3-6 p.m. and lasts for 30-40 weeks – a 10-week session in fall, winter, and spring with an option to add summer programs.

Bottom line: we want the schedule to work for you AND for your students.

## 2 Choose the clubs that make sense for your students.

Variety, voice, and choice – these are the components of an effective afterschool program. Student interests and school needs should shape what becomes a diverse menu of afterschool clubs to join. We survey students and work closely with you to design a 10-week session with different offerings on different days.

CYC's 21st AVE covers all the bases! We offer exciting clubs in the following categories:

- Academic & Tutoring Supports
- STEM
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Sports & Recreation
- Visual & Performing Arts
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Family Engagement
- College & Career Readiness

## 3 Choose whether you want us to coordinate your full-suite afterschool programming.

For some school partners, CYC's 21st AVE is the one-stop shop. Our full-time site coordinator can work directly with you to design afterschool programming for the entire academic year, including summer. That means working with content-specific partner organizations as well. We don't have to be the direct provider of every club, but we can help you coordinate and communicate your full-suite afterschool options.

We want to be a value-add for you and your school—a real partner with principals and teachers, rather than another task to manage.

## 4 Choose a funding model that maximizes every dollar.

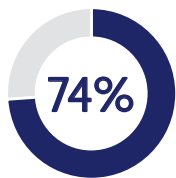
CYC's model is not only affordable, but it provides leveraged value for every dollar allocated. As an organization, CYC's combined model of Centers and school-based programming means we can invest smartly in professional development and administrative functions, allowing CYC's 21st AVE program to be fiscally maximized. And, as your partner, we want to help you access every dollar available to your school and create a tailored approach to funding—be it securing allocations or grants through CPS, Title I, or other state/federal sources; assisting with philanthropy; and, helping to determine a thoughtful fee-for-service supplement.

We never want cost to be the reason a child cannot access a quality afterschool program.

# QUALITY.

Quality afterschool enrichment is proven to have a positive effect on academic achievement. As partners with your school, with a shared goal of helping youth achieve their full potential, we see your students' academic achievement as a critical component of our program's success. Our results show that CYC's 21st AVE works.

## Students who enroll in CYC's 21st AVE stay.



of students who enroll in CYC's 21st AVE participate for 30 days or longer.



on average, of students are present in the program on a daily basis.

## Students who regularly attend CYC's 21st AVE demonstrate increased academic achievement and interest.



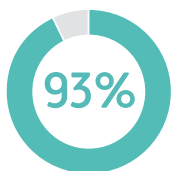
of regular attendees demonstrate improved scores in reading.



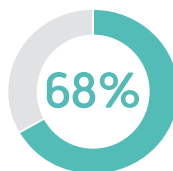
of regular attendees demonstrate improved scores in mathematics.

Teachers also report improvement in other key behaviors of CYC's 21st AVE participants including turning in homework, attending and participating in class, demonstrating motivation to learn, and getting along with others.

## Families of CYC's 21st AVE students are engaged and highly satisfied.



of parents believe that participation in CYC's 21st AVE has inspired their children to engage in other activities.



of parents report that their child experienced a positive behavior change as a result of participating.

Family engagement is an important part of CYC's 21st AVE model at every step. Parents are given multiple engagement avenues including attending key events with their child(ren), participating in parent-focused workshops, or volunteering in one of the many clubs. Parent surveys are also a key measure of effort and effect of our programming.



“CYC does an exemplary job for youth in so many communities.”

My organization has worked with CYC in the past, and I have witnessed the excitement of the students who come to the clubs they offer. These students have shown growth in many areas because of the fresh ideas and programs CYC exposes them to. They work hard to keep their participants engaged and strengthen family involvement. CYC is a great organization that I hope to see around for many years to come.

*-SHANDRIA HOLMES*

Director of Academic Support Services,  
Kennedy-King College



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To learn more about how your school can partner with CYC's 21<sup>st</sup> AVE to provide afterschool enrichment, please email [info@chicagoyouthcenters.org](mailto:info@chicagoyouthcenters.org) or call (312) 913-1700.



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