



"Democracy Is A Verb!"

## 2011 City Youth Council Applications For Chicago Youth Ages 15-23

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### Why should you apply for a City Youth Council?

- ✪ Get the chance to **meet powerful decision-makers** in local, state, and national politics!
- ✪ **Meet other passionate, powerful students** from across Chicago and **work on issues you care about!**
- ✪ **Earn \$\$\$** for doing something interesting, worthwhile, and fun!

### What are the City Youth Councils?

**We are...**

- ✪ Three separate councils that address issues facing Chicago youth.
- ✪ Councils will meet quarterly with Chicago officials (like the Commissioner of Public Health, the CEO of Chicago Public Schools and advisors to the Mayor) to advise and make recommendations on the top issues and concerns of Chicago youth.
- ✪ Councils will take action each year on issues facing Chicago youth. In the past, councils have rallied for more youth jobs, met with CPS officials on improving school lunches, and advocated for technology policies and digital abuse prevention.

### When does the program start and when will you work?

- ✪ **Orientation is Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm**
- ✪ **The City Youth Council SUMMER Program begins Monday, June 27, and ends Friday, August 19, 2011.**
- ✪ **Work about 150 hours over the course of the summer:**
  - 3-5 days per week** working with fellow council members researching and developing recommendations on your council's issue (Education, Teen Health, and a city-wide Youth Commission Taskforce)
  - Research retreat** during July.
- ✪ **During the school year** councils will meet at least twice per month, but sometimes more frequently depending on our work.

\*\*\*All dates and times are subject to change\*\*\*

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If you are **currently between the ages of 15 and 23**, please fill out an application and return it to your teacher or the Mikva Challenge by **Friday, April 15, 2011.**

**25 East Washington, Suite 820**

**Chicago, IL 60602**

**Fax: 312-863-6341**

**E-mail: [Mikvayouthaction@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:Mikvayouthaction@mikvachallenge.org)**

If you have any questions call Jessica Gingold at 312-863-6340 or email at [jessica@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:jessica@mikvachallenge.org)



## 2011 City Youth Council Application

- ✪ **Due Date: Please return this application to Mikva Challenge no later than Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**
- ✪ **You will be notified about your application status no later than Friday, May 13, 2011**
- ✪ **Return the application by Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> in 1 of 4 ways:**
  - 1) Fax it to Jessica at 312-863-6341
  - 2) Email it to [Mikvayouthaction@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:Mikvayouthaction@mikvachallenge.org)
  - 3) Mail it to Jessica Gingold, 25 E Washington, Suite 820, Chicago, IL 60602
  - 4) Have your teacher send it to Jessica in one of the above 3 ways

### Application Completion Checklist:

Your application is completed when you have done the following...

- Filled in all the information on the next page
- Completed and attached answers to the **THREE** essay questions
- Put in your calendar the day and time you will be going to Mikva for an interview
- Completed the **Proof of Income** form and attached the appropriate documents
- Attached a letter of recommendation from a teacher explaining why you would be a strong candidate for this position (**Strongly recommended, not required!**)

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Gingold at the address or phone number below.

**Mikva Challenge**  
**25 East Washington, Suite 820**  
**Chicago, IL 60602**  
**Telephone: 312-863-6340 Fax: 312-863-6341**  
**Email: [Jessica@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:Jessica@mikvachallenge.org)**



**SECTION 3:**

**There are three separate City Youth Councils. We are looking for students that are passionate about multiple issues, but if there is one council you DO NOT want to work on, please put an X next to it below. The more councils you are willing to work on, the more likely you will be hired this summer.**

**High School Students ONLY:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Education**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Teen Health**

**High School AND College Students**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Youth Commission Taskforce** – the Youth Safety and Out-of-School Time Councils will be working together to create a Youth Commission whose main goal is to report to the Mayor the issues that youth across Chicago face as well as provide solutions to those issues. This summer, the Youth Commission Taskforce will create the Chicago Youth Commission model by researching current youth commissions in other cities, to better understand how youth commissions work, their purpose, and structure within city governments.

**SECTION 4:**

**Please respond to these questions on an attached sheet. Be sure to put your name on it!**

1. Select an issue or problem within your school or community that pertains to education, teen health, safety and violence, or youth in general (such as high drop out rates, teen pregnancy, or gangs). Propose a possible solution to it. Please be specific and thorough in your answer!
2. What motivates you to become involved and take action in your school and/or community?
3. What skills, experiences, or talents do you possess that would be helpful in your work on a City Youth Council? What makes you stand out?

**SECTION 5:**

**How to help your chances of being accepted into a City Youth Council:**

1. You can attach a letter of recommendation from a teacher or another adult who knows you well (not related). It is not required, but it can only help your application!
2. You can attend an open interview session for all City Youth Council applicants on either Wednesday, April 27 or Wednesday, May 4. The interviews will be held from 4:30-7:30 pm, and will be at 25 E Washington, Suite 820. If you cannot make either interview time, please note that below and we can try to set up a time to do a phone interview. **It is on you to remember the date that you have signed up for to interview. You will not be reminded with a phone call.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will come to an interview on April 27 between 4:30 and 7:30 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will come to an interview on May 4 between 4:30 and 7:30 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot make either interview time and would like to set up a phone interview.



## Proof of Income Information

**NOTE: Please ask a parent, guardian or teacher to help you with this form!**

**WHY do we ask for your household income information?**

Mikva Challenge is a non-profit organization whose funding comes from different sources. Some of our funding for our summer internship program comes from the Economic Recovery Act, or “Stimulus Money.” This funding requires us by federal law to prove the income level of the individuals we hire. **YOUR INCOME STATUS WILL NOT EFFECT WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL BE HIRED!** However, in the event that you do get hired, we need to prove your income in order for us to be able to receive funds to pay you. All information you provide is confidential.

If you have any questions or concerns about documenting your household income, please call Jessica at 312-863-6340.

**PART I: Income Information (please type or write clearly)**

How many individuals live in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of these individuals are **NOT** your blood relatives, are not your legal guardians, **AND** are not related to you by marriage to a sibling or parent? \_\_\_\_\_

In the last **SIX MONTHS**, have any of your **family members** received public assistance in the form of food stamps, cash welfare, TANF payments, or any other forms of public assistance? **Circle: Yes/No**

If yes, what type?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an IDHS Medical Card? Circle: Yes/No If yes, what are first two digits of your “Case ID Number”:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you adopted? Circle: Yes/No

Please list each **WORKING family member** and about much money they make in one year:

Name	Relationship	Yearly Gross Income (before taxes)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

\*\*\*If you need more space please attach another piece of paper\*\*\*

**Part II: Documentation Information—PLEASE BE AWARE of the documents you MAY need to submit if hired.**

If you get hired, you may be required to submit the following items for identification purposes: 1) Driver’s License, State ID, or School ID with photo; 2) birth certificate; 3) Social security card or US Citizen ID card and a Tax ID Number.

You may also need to submit documentation related to your income, including but not limited to: Proof of public assistance such as food stamps/medical card and pay stubs for each working member of your family.