



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Chicago Department of Family
and Support Services

Mary Ellen Caron, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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April 20, 2009

Dear Community Partners:

During the summer months, the Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) provides funding for youth programming through its Summer Mini Grants. Like last year, the 2009 Mini Grants will encourage young people and the organizations that engage them to "Open the Door for a Brighter Future Connect Chicago Youth to Summer Possibilities". This year, we are especially interested in programs that raise awareness about the environment or have a peace component.

Once again, funding is available in three categories:

- **Enhancements, ages 10-12** to provide supplemental support to full-day, full week summer programs. For example, starting a community garden.
- **Apprenticeships, ages 13-15** to encourage meaningful summer activities that expose youth to a variety of career or vocational choices. For example; developing a set of informational interview questions and then inviting a series of guest speakers to come and talk about their career choices.
- **Internships, ages 16-18** to allow youth a paid opportunity to create and implement their ideas through independent study, community activity and career exploration. For example, serving as a youth health ambassador by holding workshops at neighborhood summer camps and talking about how to create a culture of wellness.

These program types are designed to strengthen leadership skills, build better community relationships and help young people use the summer months to explore career options and possibilities. Award amounts for each type will range from \$250 to a maximum of \$2,000.

This year, the Summer Mini-Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) is rolling out its on-line application process. A link to the on-line application and supplemental application forms will be available April 20, 2009 on the DFSS website: www.cityofchicago.org/fss or <http://cysmis.cyscopa.com/Minigrants/Main/>. If you have any problems accessing the application, any of the supplemental forms or information, or have any questions about the application, you may call the Mini Grant Hotline at 312-743-6313. Applications and supplemental materials are due on May 4, 2009 by 4:00 pm.

CYS will also host two informational sessions to answer any questions you may have about the program. These sessions will be held on Wednesday, April 22nd 5:00pm – 7:00pm at 1615 W. Chicago Ave. and on Tuesday, April 28th 10:00am – 12:00 noon at the Martin Luther King Center, 4313 S. Cottage Grove Ave. 1st fl. Auditorium.

Thank you for your continued interest in this exciting program.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Caron
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