Dear CoC Youth Serving Agency:

All Chicago has a Youth Advisory Board and we need your help in nominating youth to serve on the Board. Please consider nominating a young person who you believe would be an asset to the Board. The only criteria is that the young person be between the ages of 16 and 24; is either currently experiencing homelessness or has some history of experiencing homelessness; and be nominated by a qualifying youth serving agency. Any agency that currently serves youth in Chicago qualifies.

To nominate a youth, you just need to inform the young person and ask that they fill out a short application. Attached please find a job description, FAQ and the short application for youth to complete. Please send completed applications to Elizabeth Perez, All Chicago Senior Program Manager, at eperez@allchicago.org. If you have any questions regarding the Youth Advisory Board you may also call 312-379-0301.

I hope you will consider nominating a youth for this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Perez
Senior Program Manager
eperez@allchicago.org
Youth Advisory Board
Job Description

A Youth Advisory Board member serves on a Board of 10-12 youth who use what they learned from their life experiences and come up with solutions to end youth homelessness in Chicago. They inform agencies, policy makers, and legislators on ways to work with youth experiencing homelessness and provide them with guidance on how to do it better. They also meet with adults who experienced homelessness and share ideas together.

Qualifications
- Be between the ages of 16 and 24
- Experience homelessness or being unstably housed currently or in the past
- Receive a recommendation from a qualified youth serving organization

Responsibilities
- Attend a team building retreat in June
- Attend monthly meetings on Saturdays in the evening
- Participate in 2 annual intergenerational events and trainings with the Lived Experience Commission, a coalition of adult individuals who are receiving or have received services from Chicago’s homeless system, people who were formerly homeless or people at risk of becoming homeless.

Expectations
- Communicate with adult ally staff when unable to attend a meeting, event or activity
- Participate in Board meetings by sharing ideas, solutions and perspective
- Make a 1 year commitment to serve on Board

Compensation and Support
- $25 for each board meeting or other meetings attended on behalf of the Youth Advisory Board
- Transportation support
- Food will be provided at each Board meeting
- Childcare support will be provided for youth with children
- An adult ally support person will be available during all Board meetings

Additional Benefits
Board members will get to meet young people from all over the city – some who share the same experiences and others who had different experiences. They will be trained on skills that they can use to put on their resume, get a job, and that will help them develop skills as a leader. Board members will also be making Chicago a better place for youth who experience homelessness and helping the city prevent them from becoming the next generation of adults experiencing homelessness.
Youth Advisory Board
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Youth Advisory Board?
It is a group of young people who want to improve the way Chicago responds to the needs of youth experiencing homelessness AND they are youth who have all experienced some type of unstable housing at some point in their life. This could mean living on the streets, staying at shelters, couch surfing, being moved to different foster homes a lot, and many other ways. They are considered the “subject matter experts” when it comes to youth who experience homelessness and unstable housing.

What does the Youth Advisory Board do?
They use what they learned from their life experiences and come up with solutions to end youth homelessness in Chicago. They inform agencies, policy makers, and legislators on ways to work with youth experiencing homelessness and provide them with guidance on how to do it better. They also meet with adults who experienced homelessness and share ideas together.

How often do they meet?
The Youth Advisory Board may meet up to two days a month (may be the first and third Saturday of each month) from 6:00PM to 8:30PM. Youth are asked to make a 1 year commitment.

How do I know if I qualify?
You must be between 16 and 24 years old and currently or formally unstably housing. This could mean living on the streets, staying at shelters, couch surfing, being moved to different foster homes a lot, or surviving on your own without an adult support person. Your application must also be recommended by a qualifying youth serving agency.

Would I get paid to be on the Youth Advisory Board?
Yes. You will get paid $25 for each board meeting, provided with transportation support, and a meal during the meeting. If you have children, you will be provided support with child care during the meeting.

Are there any other benefits to being on the Youth Advisory Board?
Yes—lots of them! You will meet young people from all over the city – some who share the same experiences as you and others who had different experiences. You will be trained on skills that you can use to put on your resume, get a job and that will help you improve on your skills as a leader. You will also be making Chicago a better place for youth who experience homelessness and helping the city prevent them from becoming adults experiencing homelessness.

How do I apply?
Just follow these 2 easy steps:
1. Complete the attached application
2. Give the completed application to the adult ally that nominated you and they will give it to All Chicago by sending it to eperez@allchicago.org. The completed application must be submitted by November 21st to qualify

When will I know if I got selected?
All applicants and their adult allies will be notified by email and phone regarding the process. Qualified candidates will be asked to attend 2 meeting as guests on December 1st and December 15th. The current members of the Youth Advisory Board will vote on candidates and they will be notified by December 29th of the final decision.
Youth Advisory Board
Application

Congratulations! You have been nominated to serve on the Youth Advisory Board. We are so excited that you are interested. Please complete the application by ASAP and give it to your adult ally who will get it to All Chicago by emailing it to eperez@allchicago.org.

THE BASICS
First Name: ____________________ Last Name ____________________________
I Prefer to Be Called: __________________________ Date of Birth: ________________ Age: ______
Primary Phone Number: ____________________ Alternate Phone Number: ____________________
Email Address: __________________________ Best Way to Contact You: __________________________
Gender Identity: __________________________ What is the highest level of education you completed? __________________________
Are you currently in school? If yes, what level and where? __________________________
Do you have any children that are currently in your care? If yes, child care will be provided __________________________

YOUR GIFTS, TALENTS AND INTERESTS
What made you interested in joining the Youth Advisory Board?

What do you hope to get from being a Youth Advisory Board member? Check as many as you want.

____ Meet other young people
____ Learn skills I can use in the future
____ Advocate for improved services for youth
____ Other __________________________

What makes you passionate about advocating for youth who have experienced homelessness?

Since the Youth Advisory Board will be advising on ways to better serve youth experiencing homelessness and youth that are unstably housed, it is important for us to understand a little bit about your experiences. Please circle Yes or No after each question. These answers will only be shared with a small group of people reviewing the application.

Have you ever lived on the streets? Yes No
Have you ever stayed at a shelter? Yes No
Have you couch surfed? Yes No
Have you ever had no safe place to live? Yes No
Have you changed foster homes several times? Yes No
Have you experienced a failed adoption? Yes No
Have you ever ran away from an unsafe home? Yes No
Have you aged out of the child welfare system with no place to live? Yes No

WORK AND LEADERSHIP HISTORY
You do not need to have any experience to be accepted. Just want to learn more about you. Please share any work and leadership history including volunteer work, school programs, and recreational activities.

If selected for the Youth Advisory Board, can you commit to the following?

Attend a half day retreat in June? Yes No
Attend meetings once a month on the 1st Saturday of the month in the evening? Yes No
Contact someone if you are unable to attend a meeting Yes No

By signing this form, I commit to serving on the Youth Advisory Board to the best of my ability.

Applicant Signature

ADULT ALLY
First Name: __________________________ Last Name __________________________
Title: ___________________________________________________________________
Organization Name: ___________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________ City: __________________________ State: ______ Zip: ______
Office Phone Number: __________________________ Cell Phone Number: __________________________
Email Address: __________________________ Best Way to Contact: __________________________
Relationship to youth: ___________________________________________________________________

By signing this form, I recommend __________________________ for the Youth Advisory Board.

Adult Ally Signature

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION
The adult ally should scan and email the completed application to All Chicago at eperez@allchicago.org. Any questions please feel free to call us at – 312-379-0301.

Thanks!