Community & After School Programs (CAP) at Youth Guidance is a transformative initiative that revolves around neighborhood public schools, inviting youth, families, and communities into a culture of learning.

CAP aims to bring education to life for students by providing enriching experiences that allow them to explore their passions and potential career options. By strategically reaching out and making a significant impact in some of the most socioeconomically challenged neighborhoods in Chicago, it builds resilience not only within the students but also among the adult members of the communities.

Through collaborative efforts with community colleges, churches, and grassroots organizations, CAP seeks to create a lasting positive impact on the lives of the participants and the broader community.

YOUTH GUIDANCE COMMUNITY & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS:

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

The Community Schools Program offered by Youth Guidance provides comprehensive support to K-12 students, emphasizing the community school’s model around expanded learning time and opportunities, collaborative leadership and practice, integrated student supports, and active family and community engagement.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Parent & Family Engagement program is an initiative to empower Parent Leaders with skills and knowledge to support their child’s academic success. With a focus on building meaningful parent-child relationships, this program enhances school outcomes and creates a safe, child-centered school climate.

Parent Leaders are provided with comprehensive workshops, training designed to enhance their parenting skills. The program also provides strong peer support network, and collaborative partnerships with community partners to extend resources and support to Parent Leaders and their families.

EXTENDED DAY & ENRICHMENT

Youth Guidance’s Extended Day & Enrichment programs further enhance students’ growth and development through high-quality, effective, and unique afterschool activities at multiple convenient locations across Chicago. Meeting students on physical, social, and emotional levels, the programs ensure that every child’s afterschool experience is rewarding and enriching. The highly trained and passionate staff seamlessly collaborates with school administrations to provide well-rounded academic and extracurricular support, fostering a comfortable, safe, and encouraging environment for each child.
When I came here as principal, one of my main goals was to change the culture of the school. Because, for so many years, my school went through a different administration year after year, resulting in a lack of consistency, cohesiveness, and leadership. I knew I had to work really hard to change the cultural climate of our school. Youth Guidance had an important role in reaching this goal. I worked closely with them to give our students the right, positive learning environment for them to be successful and to have a great experience in school.

ALL MEMBERS THAT COME TO SCHOOL THROUGH YOUTH GUIDANCE KNOW THE VISION AND THEIR ROLE. EVERY ONE OF THEM WORKS TOWARDS THAT VISION, REACHING THAT GOAL.”

– GILBERTO PIEDRAHITA
FORMER PRINCIPAL, JORDAN ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

100% of survey respondents agreed the Parent Leadership Institute increased their knowledge about the importance of developing meaningful relationships.

88% of survey respondents agreed that the program helped them to identify ways to improve their performance in school.