

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

YOUTH GUIDANCE

Community Connections is a program that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic to address the various challenges faced by families, including grief, loss, economic hardships, isolation, and mental health concerns.

Recognizing the urgent need to support youth and their families, the program swiftly mobilized resources and implemented enhanced crisis intervention measures.

With the overarching goal of assisting families in all 162 Chicagoland partner schools, the program expanded its workforce by hiring two dedicated community resource specialists. These specialists work tirelessly to support those in need, ensuring they receive the essential resources required to navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic. In FY23, 240+ students and families were connected to various resources and students were referred from 60+ YG schools and 8 different YG programs.

By providing immediate access to resources and personalized support, **Community Connections** plays a crucial role in helping families cope with the pandemic's ramifications, fostering resilience, and promoting well-being within the community.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:

Offer families the means to access critical resources to meet their emergency needs.

RESOURCES SUPPORTED BY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

- ▶ FOOD, CLOTHING, AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS
- ▶ HEALTHCARE
- ▶ HOUSING
- ▶ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- ▶ LEGAL SUPPORT
- ▶ RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT
- ▶ MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT
- ▶ JOBS, CAREERS AND TRAINING
- ▶ AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

By conducting ongoing needs assessments, the program's staff at Youth Guidance can accurately identify the specific requirements of families and effectively connect them with the relevant resources.



"I AM REALLY GRATEFUL FOR MY SON'S COUNSELOR. HE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED US TO SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP US WITH OUR HOUSING NEEDS. IT WAS EXACTLY WHAT WE NEEDED."

-PARENT OF CPS STUDENT

YOUTH GUIDANCE
GUIDING KIDS TO BRIGHT FUTURES

STAY IN TOUCH

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