

# The Chicago Freedom School 2010 Leadership In Action Alumni Application July 2010 – December 2010

## THE FREEDOM FELLOWSHIP FOR ALUMNI

The **Freedom Fellowship** is our main youth leadership initiative. The **Leadership in Action (LIA)** is our new intensive activism initiative of CFS. It is a six-month program that features two summer leadership weeks, monthly activism trainings and support for the development of an action goal plan. This year, 30 youth ages 14-18 will be selected as 2010 LIA Fellows. The LIA program is held in at our location on 719 S. State Street, Suite 3N. Each Fellow will need to commit to participate in one or more of in the following:

### **A Lease on Life: Connecting Personal Health and Community Wellness: July 5-July 9, 2010**

This LIA will provide an opportunity for CFS alumni to participate in advanced health and healing workshops in order to increase their understanding of healthcare issues that impact their personal lives and the world. This week will build upon their current knowledge by delving deeper into previously discussed healthcare issues such as socio-economic disparities and food justice. New issues will be introduced such as global health concerns, and stress management. Alumni will connect their knowledge of a health issue in their community and develop an action plan that is implement as a team.

### **Killing Us Softly: Gender Roles, Sexism, and the Media: July 12 – July 16, 2010**

This LIA week is designed to build community among participants through a transformative anti-oppression training for all of the youth participants. Youth will explore, question, and investigate how sexism and gender role definitions are institutionalized through media and culture, and affect our everyday interactions. Youth will focus on deep analysis of media in regards to the portrayal of oppressive gender roles and the reinforcement of sexist stereotypes through print advertisements, television and film. Youth will develop an action plan for creating new media that focused on what they have learned and how they might challenge oppressive gender roles and sexism in our society.

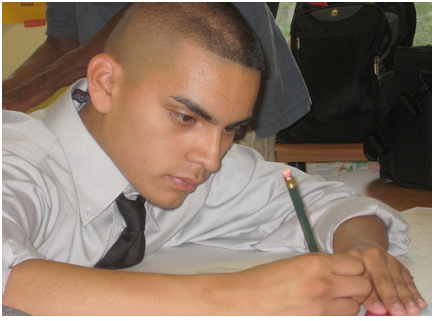
### **Cradle to the Prison Pipeline: Criminalization of Youth in Society: July 26-July 30, 2010**

This LIA week is designed to build community among participants through a transformative anti-oppression training for all of the youth participants. This week will explore aspects of the education, social service and law enforcement systems that criminalize youth and contribute to the disproportionate number of youth of color who are incarcerated, on probation and on parole. It will not only examine what is known as the Prison Industrial Complex, but also discuss alternative practices. Participants will be exposed to campaigns and initiatives that challenge unfair practices and promote alternative approaches to criminal justice. At the end of the week, youth will create a group mission statement that connects what they have learned to plans for creating change as a collective.

## DETAILS

The followings are regulations for applying to Freedom Fellow Alumni summer programming.

- Every Alum who have completed an action is eligible to participate in, “A lease on life: Connecting Personal Health and Community Wellness”. The youth who complete an action in December will be paid a \$200 stipend.
- Only 2-3 alums will be selected to participate in “Killing Us Softly: Gender Roles, Sexism, and the Media” and “Cradle to the Prison Pipeline: Criminalization of Youth in Society”. Participants will be paid a total of \$400. The stipend will be divided into two installments, \$200 after the week, and \$200 in December.
- One Summer Coordinator will be chosen for each “Killing Us Softly: Gender Roles, Sexism, and the Media” and “Cradle to the Prison Pipeline: Criminalization of Youth in Society”. A Summer Coordinator cannot be a participant in the other LIA they are not coordinating, however, they can participate in the wellness week, “A lease on life: Connecting Personal Health and Community Wellness”.
- The youth with the highest number of points will have priority of their first choice LIA. Every Alumni can select in order of preference 1-3 LIA choices. However, after the interviews every eligible Alumni who has been selected for one LIA will be called and given the choice to also participate in another LIA



## **BI-MONTHLY ACTIVISM MEETINGS – August – December 2010**

The institute will be followed by six months of structured mentoring and training during which Fellows create and implement an Activism Goal Plan aimed at promoting justice in their communities. To help youth develop their plans, CFS will hold two monthly activism meetings to increase their skills and knowledge in leadership development, current issues and movement-building strategy.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Youth applicants must be ages 14 – 18 as of June 1, 2010. Students must be entering the 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2010. However, youth are *not* required to be currently enrolled in school. You must be able to commit to all the summer components, which means if you are in summer school you cannot attend the required commitment.

### **COMMITMENT**

Fellows must commit to **six months** of participation with the Chicago Freedom School. During this time, youth will be required to complete the following components:

1. **Team Mission Statement** – the group mission statement connects what the youth have learned about his/her own identity, passions and interest and how the group may use these to make a change in a community
2. **Team Action Goal** – the group must set a single goal to address the injustice related to their issue
3. **Set of Strategies** – the group creates a set of at least three strategies that can be used to address their action goal.
4. **Action and Reflection** – the group must try one of the strategies for reaching their action goal and reflect on the experience in writing



## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Youth interested in applying to be Freedom Fellows should submit:

- Completed application form.
- Completed responses to the essay questions.
- The name and contact information of one adult (ages 21 or over) who is not a member of the applicant's family

### MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:

Chicago Freedom School, 719 S. State St., Ste. 3N, Chicago, IL 60605, ATTN: Hilda Franco

**\*\*DEADLINE: Monday, May 17, 2010\*\***

**Please keep the first two pages of this application for your reference.**

**QUESTIONS?** Please call 312.435.1201 or email [hilda@chicagofreeschool.org](mailto:hilda@chicagofreeschool.org)

## APPLICATION FORM

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

School (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood/Area of Chicago in which you live: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (or other) \_\_\_\_\_

Which year did you attend CFS? \_\_\_\_\_ Did you complete an action? \* Yes No

*\*Please note that if you attended in 2008 or 2009 you have to have completed your fellowship with an action or you are not eligible for the alumni program.*

The **Leadership In Action** (LIA) weeks are between July 5-9, July 12-16 and July 26-30, 2010. The institute will be in session from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants are expected to attend the full week institute and all of the monthly activism meetings from August 2010 – December 2010 if possible. Please check below what applies to you.

\_\_\_ I can commit to attending all 5 consecutive days of each LIA that I am applying for.

\_\_\_ I can commit to attending 8 hours a month of activism meetings from August - December.

\_\_\_ I can commit to developing and initiating an action by December (if I am in Chicago).

Please choose which LIA week you wish to attend. You can apply for one, two or all three. “A Lease on Life” is open to all alumni. However, the other two institutes are competitive and have limited alumni positions.

\_\_\_ **A Lease on Life: Connecting Personal Health and Community Wellness – July 5-9, 2010**

\_\_\_ **Killing Us Softly: Gender Roles, Sexism, and the Media – July 12-16, 2010**

\_\_\_ **Cradle to the Prison Pipeline: Criminalization of Youth in Society-July 26-30, 2010**

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

The Chicago Freedom School seeks a diverse group of people—people who represent different ethnicities, abilities, sexual orientations, language skills, and socio-economic backgrounds. We ask for (but do not require) your demographic information to get a better understanding of who will be participating in the CFS. We seek the participation of those traditionally marginalized, including women, people of color, people who are LBGTQ (lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and questioning), and people with disabilities.

Race/Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) Spoken \_\_\_\_\_ Learning or Physical Disability \_\_\_\_\_

Sexual Orientation \_\_\_\_\_ Family income less than \$30, 000: Yes or No

Other Qualities \_\_\_\_\_

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

*Please type or print your responses on a separate sheet of paper and attach to the application form. We ask that you try to write at least 1 – 2 paragraphs in response to EACH question. Everyone must answer questions 1, 3, and 4. If you are applying to **A Lease on Life** respond to 2A, **Killing Us Softly** respond to question 2B. If you are applying to **Cradle to the Prison Pipeline** respond to question 2C. If you are applying for all three, you must respond to all 2ABC.*

1. What have you learned about the intersections of oppression during and/or after the Freedom Fellowship? How does oppression affect your life? Give an example of how you fight against oppression everyday.
- 2A. Explain why wellness is important in social justice work. Describe a wellness issue you continue to struggle with and how you believe this summer will contribute to your understanding and actions on tackling the issue.
- 2B. Describe how sexism and/or gender roles affect you and your community. What have you done OR could you do to contribute to the solution?
- 2C. Describe how the criminalization of youth affects you and/or your community. How is oppression connected to the criminalization of youth? What have you done OR could you do to contribute to the solution.
3. What do you wish to gain by December 2010 after 6 months with the Chicago Freedom School?
4. How will your participation at CFS this summer contribute to your continual leadership development and activism work?