

The Chicago Freedom School 2010 Leadership In Action July 2010 – December 2010

Thank you for your interest in the Chicago Freedom School 2010 Leadership in Action! The following is an overview of what we do at the Chicago Freedom School and what the Leadership in Action is all about!

THE CHICAGO FREEDOM SCHOOL

The **Chicago Freedom School (CFS)** provides a space where young people and adult allies can exchange ideas, build new coalitions, study the work of past movements and deepen their understanding of current social problems. We support new generations of critical and independent thinking young people who use their unique experiences and power to create a just world. Our vision is that, in the spirit of the original freedom schools in Mississippi in the 1960s, CFS will become a place where young people from communities across Chicago can discover their own power to make change – not only for themselves, but also for their communities and the world.

At CFS we seek to:

- Develop and support leadership among youth across Chicago.
- Create a space where youth from across the city can gather to share ideas about social change and justice.
- Educate youth and adults about the history of social justice movements and apply lessons to today.
- Build the capacity of adult allies to understand and support youth-led social change.
- Develop spaces in local communities and schools where intergenerational dialogue about social justice and opportunities for organizing can occur.



THE FREEDOM FELLOWSHIP

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 14-17 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 of in the following:

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

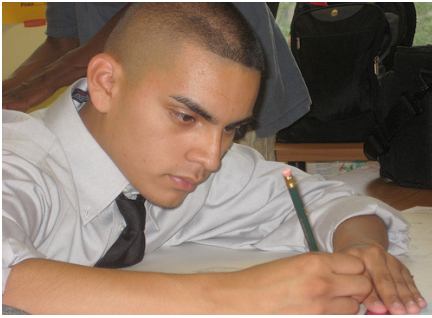
This LIA week is designed to build community among participants through a transformative anti-oppression training for all of the youth participants. Youth will explore, question, and investigate how sexism and gender role definitions are institutionalized through media and culture, and affect our everyday 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.

The Civil Rights Institute: Pioneers in Justice

The *Civil Rights Institute* helps Fellows understand how social movements happen and how individual action and historical forces combine to create change. The Civil Rights Institute not only features workshops about youth involvement in the Modern Civil Rights Movement, but also includes the study of various people who have led social campaigns of the 20th century such as the Chicano movement and the fight for rights for those with disabilities.



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 9th, 10th, or 11th 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

STIPEND

Youth participating in the 2010 **LIA** will receive a stipend of **\$400** for their participation. They will receive \$200 over the summer after their **LIA** week. Upon completion of their action, youth will receive the second stipend of \$200 in December 2010.



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 10, 2010****

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

QUESTIONS? Please call 312.435.1201 or email hilda@chicagofreeschool.org

APPLICATION FORM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Full Name _____

School (if applicable) _____

Date of Birth _____

(The 2010 Freedom Fellowship Program is open to youth ages 14 – 18 as of June 1, 2010)

Email Address _____

Neighborhood/Area of Chicago in which you live: _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone number _____ Cell (or other) _____

How did you hear about the Chicago Freedom School?

Have you attended any Chicago Freedom School events? If so, which one(s)?

The **Leadership In Action** weeks are between 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. Please check below what you can commit to.

___ I can commit to attending 5 consecutive days of the Summer Leadership Institute.

___ I can commit to developing and initiating an action.

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

Please choose which LIA week you wish to attend. You can apply for both, but it is not required. However, you can only be accepted to one of the LIA weeks.

___ **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 LGBTQ (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. If you are applying to **Killing Me Softly** respond to question 2A. If you are applying to **Cradle to the Prison Pipeline** respond to question 2B. If you are applying for both, you must respond to both 2A and 2B.*

1. Why do you want to be involved in the Chicago Freedom School?
- 2A. Describe how sexism and/or gender roles affect your community. What have you done OR could you do to contribute to the solution? (Community can mean family, neighborhood, school, race/ethnic group, sexual orientation, etc.)
- 2B. Describe how the criminalization of youth affects you and/or your community. 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. Please feel free to add any other information you would like for us to know.

REFERENCES

Please list the contact information of at least **one** person. Your reference should be an adult ages 21 or over who are **not** members of your family.

Name _____ Phone number _____

Email Address _____ Relationship _____

