

mmunity Education and YMCA work together to better youth in our community.

On April 19, 2015 Cook County Youth Agency Coalition (CCYAC) was born. This model is borrowed from a successful model in Duluth called DYAC (Duluth Youth Agency Coalition). Over the past year Cook County Community Education and the YMCA have worked together to provide enriching programs for the youth in the county. They will continue to partner in 2015 as one agency, CCYAC, to provide a safe environment and quality programming for school age youth.

Programs that CCYAC will oversee and support include: Early Childhood programs like family open gym and childcare, all out-of-school time programs for grades K-5 such as After School Allstars, programming on days that school is not in session due to holidays or other breaks, and Summer Kids Camp. Programs for t(w)een-age youth like Teen L.E.A.D., Youth in Government, lock-ins and new mentoring programs. We are dedicated to contributing to the community's well being by building skills, confidence and social responsibility in our youth as they explore new interests, passions and engage in educational enrichment programs.

CCYAC is not its own fiscal agent, but two agencies (Community Ed and the Y) work together to develop a budget and plan to be able to financially sustain the programs and use resources wisely. Each has their own budgets and determines which funds can be allocated to the programming and what other resources they could provide. For example, the Y has online registration capabilities, more availability of customer service staff to answer questions and take program registrations, and program space. Community Education/School District contributes food, staff, transportation, funding, and marketing support.

As two not-for-profit organizations, the goal is at the end of the fiscal year both agencies share the profit or deficit that was created by the programming. We budget for break-even and work together to meet that goal. By doing this, we both own the successes or failures of the program and are both committed to the most quality experiences for youth. Attached is a budget to show what each organization contributes.

As you can see in 2016, we are responsible for raising $16,000 through grants and fundraising efforts to ensure CCYAC programs can run smoothly. This funding used to come from Cook County Extension and Kids Plus and funding has already been cut from those organizations, so CCYAC is already taking a loss and has to get creative about how to make up for that loss in funding. Losing another chunk of that funding would be detrimental and major adjustments to the structure and the program offerings would need to occur in order to sustain the programming. For example, a little over $10,000 was given out this summer in camp scholarships to kids that are on free and reduced lunch. If funding is cut, we may not be able to serve as many kids and wouldn't be able to positively impact families that need the services but cannot afford them. Likewise, we would possibly need to start charging for the afterschool program or cutting back on the number of days we offer the after school program. This has always been a free program for school-age youth and we are currently serving on average 18 kids per day through that program.