



HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE (H2C)

Providing advocacy, leadership and growth opportunities for youth in care

According to the Midwest Study, young adults who age out of foster care are more than twice as likely not to have a high school diploma or a GED as their peers.*



H2C (High School to College) is an innovative program designed to help 8th-12th grade Chicago Public School students who are under the supervision of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS). H2C identifies and supports students' educational goals and connects them to DCFS and community resources.

H2C GOALS

The High School to College Program (H2C) mentors and advocates on behalf of students in care. H2C strives to enhance students' leadership skills and promote growth opportunities so that they may realize academic, personal and professional success leading to self-sufficiency.

HOW H2C WORKS

Students in the care of DCFS often face many educational obstacles. Frequent changes in the student's living situation can result in many changes in schools. These changes can result in a loss of skills that can be very discouraging and difficult to overcome for the student.

H2C confronts these problems directly through relationship building with students, caretakers, school officials and their case manager. H2C provides students with support in dealing with daily life stressors and helps the student achieve

the goals of their Individual Education Plans. Behavior modification interventions and mentorship is also integrated into H2C programming.

Accountability is of great importance for both the H2C program and participating students. Students are held accountable for following through on the commitment they make within their Individual Educational Plans. To help students understand the correlation between success at school and success at work, H2C provides youth with stipends for the direct hours they participate in the program.

THE H2C PROGRAM

Using a variety of approaches with students, including training, coaching and mentoring helps address the individual needs of each student in the program. H2C is available as a year long program. The program has two sessions, the academic school year and the summer enrichment session. During the course of the academic school year students participate in six required trainings and two elective trainings as they develop and maintain their goals. During the summer enrichment session, students participate in a series of life skills classes and have opportunities to attend college tours.



UCAN is accredited through the Council on Accreditation.

JOINING H2C

H2C works within specific certified schools. To find out if your youth student is eligible, contact:

April Curtis

Youth Leadership Specialist III

1340 S. Damen, Suite 205

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: (312) 738.5918

Email: curtisa@ucanchicago.org

Onie Riley

Youth Leadership Specialist II

1340 S. Damen, Suite 205

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: (312) 738.5925

Email: rileyo@ucanchicago.org

Margarita Cordon

Associate Director

Transitional Teen Services

13700 S. Indiana

Riverdale, IL 60827

Phone: (708) 301.3003

Email: cordonm@ucanchicago.org

Bi-weekly goal meetings address the ongoing goals of the students focusing on goal achievement and helping support the student with the current goals they are working towards.

Group meetings are held monthly and allow the students the opportunity to get together, network and discuss everyday situations in a supportive and safe environment.

Individual Development Plan Meetings are held quarterly with each student to address and rate the progress of the student's personal and program goals.

E-Learning Sessions are online sessions focused on academic improvement and life skills development.

Educational Outings provide additional educational experiences outside of the school setting by introducing students to learn about their community resources, cultural competency and employment opportunities. These outings offer students the opportunity to broaden their post secondary experience through college campus visits, learning firsthand what they need to succeed.

ABOUT UCAN

For over a century, UCAN has served as a safe harbor for traumatized youth and families at-risk. UCAN serves over 10,000 youth each year through a variety of programs aimed at healing trauma, educating youth and families and preventing violence.

HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE (H2C)

Providing advocacy, leadership and growth opportunities for youth in care

1340 S. Damen Ave, Ste. 205 Chicago, IL 60608
P. (312) 738.5918 F. (312) 666.6906

www.ucanchicago.org