My CHI. My Future.
Lori E. Lightfoot ✶ Mayor of Chicago

DATA WORKING GROUP
2021–2022 REPORT
JULY 2022

PROJECT: One Summer Chicago CPS Dashboards

GOAL: Equip CPS principals and admin with One Summer Chicago application data at the school level to inform future communications and marketing and increase intake of the application.

What is My CHI. My Future. and the Data Working Group?

My CHI. My Future. is Mayor Lightfoot and the City of Chicago's signature youth initiative aimed to connect all of Chicago's youth to out-of-school opportunities—including events, programs, jobs, and resources. The My CHI. My Future. platforms (website and mobile app) compile youth program data in one place for the public to easily access and search through. My CHI. My Future. works with over 250 youth-focused community-based organizations to collect this information and promote it to Chicago's youth and families. Visit MyCHIMyFuture.org to learn more.

In addition to curating these resources and collaborating with community leaders, the initiative has curated a data working group. This working group brings together city department stakeholders who work with youth data to strategize ways to connect more youth to opportunities while leveraging data. The working group meets monthly, and the meetings offer a space for these city partners to discuss data projects, data sharing challenges, and goals for the future. This report covers the first completed project of this group, a process which lasted from August 2021-July 2022.

In August 2021, the My CHI. My Future. Data Working Group reconvened with a new goal: to create and implement a tangible project during the upcoming year.

The group first reset its mission and vision:

The My CHI. My Future. Data Working Group brings city and community representatives together to share and leverage youth and program data, break down data barriers with increased collaboration, plan and deliver data-driven projects to connect all youth in Chicago to out-of-school programs, and provide greater access, participation, and equity in the youth program search and connection process to empower youth to build their futures.

The working group engaged in collaborative, human-centered ideation workshops in Fall 2021.

The group began brainstorming sessions over a period of three months to determine the best project focus for the group. For the first few brainstorming sessions, working group members discussed opportunities without yet focusing on barriers (though they always came up). The "blue sky" approach was important to ensure that the group's approach was aimed at transformational change. The group planned to use these goals as north stars to determine what near-term work could look like.

As conversations continued, the constant barrier for the group to achieve a project that aligned with the new mission was the lack of direct data sharing agreements between the different city departments and City affiliates at the table: Mayor's Office, DFSS, CPS, Park District, Chicago Public Library, City Colleges, CHA, and After School Matters. Without data sharing agreements, departments could not share student level data, a key factor in many of the group's "blue sky" project visions.

The group members noted that data sharing agreements between government agencies typically take years to execute. They require an agreed, specific vision from agency executives on both sides. And without specific details regarding what kinds of data will be shared, how it will be used, and how the sharing will affect the goals of the agencies, contract negotiations are hard to motivate.

Instead of cease work, the data group read through a 2016 report from Chapin Hall[1], which detailed how various cities around the United States coordinated around youth program data. A key insight taken from this report was the tendency for each city to start with smaller-scale youth data projects, which would in turn lead to greater outcomes and projects down the line. With this new mentality, the Data Working Group began to strategize around projects that could maneuver around the barrier of data sharing agreements while still addressing an effective use-case for youth program stakeholders.

---

[1] Julie Spielberger, "Connecting the Dots: Data Use in Afterschool Systems," Chapin Hall, 2016. <https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Wallace_report_connecting_dots-1.pdf>

The group's theory of change was that future data sharing agreement could be motivated by accomplishing a small-scale, achievable project with a tangible outcome that clearly impacted youth for the better.

In Winter of 2021-2022, the group then led collaborative workshops that used product design methodologies to document the users, outcomes, data and technology systems that would be part of a deliverable product.

Group members were engaged and in agreement with the vision and implementation. Because the group discussed both big goals and real impediments, there was alignment on a practical, deliverable product that had an actual impact on youth in Chicago the following summer.

The group chose to focus on equipping CPS principals with additional data that could help them connect more of their students to resources. One Summer Chicago was the preferred resource to focus on because DFSS, a member of the working group, could access the data and share in the aggregate without a data sharing agreement. DFSS volunteered to explore data dashboards for One Summer Chicago data that could detail aggregate application numbers without exposing any personally identifiable information of students. This would in turn be provided to CPS to help inform their school principals about applications and whether they needed additional communication sent out.
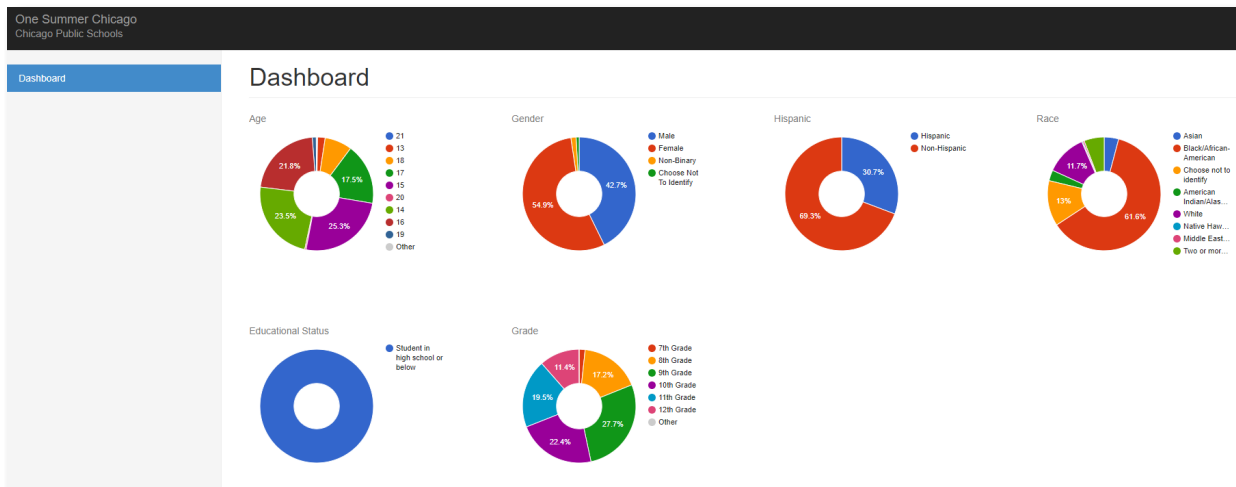
Implementation

DFSS began drafting dashboards in February and March of 2022. From DFSS's perspective:

"DFSS wanted to ensure that, first and foremost, any dashboard created for this purpose protected sensitive and personally identifiable information provided by the One Summer applicants. It was also important that the data provided would be actionable by DFSS's partners at CPS.

DFSS's Youth Employment team and Dan Yao created a draft dashboard which was presented and discussed with departmental leadership. Additionally, the idea for this data dashboard was discussed with DFSS's data governance working group, which is currently developing processes to receive and respond to internal and external requests for departmental data.

Ultimately, it was agreed that the draft dashboard maintained appropriate confidentiality of the One Summer applicants, while empowering both dialogue and action by CPS colleagues to help fulfill the goal that at least 50% of One Summer applicants identify with one or more of the established target population groups.
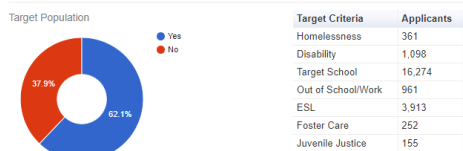
Once complete and approved by DFSS leadership, login information for the dashboard was provided to CPS."
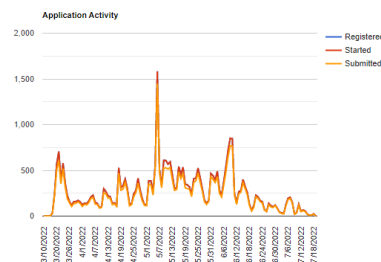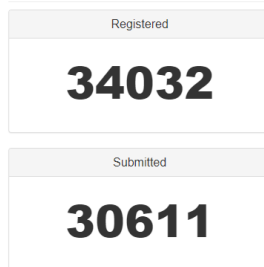
- Jon Weber, DFSS

These dashboards included aggregate demographic information of CPS applicants, aggregate target population information (self-reported), a counter of registered and submitted applications, number of applications by school, community area, and ward. Data for school, community and ward could be sorted, but none of these data points could be filtered.

All of this data was unidentifiable.

Targets

Target Population

Target Criteria	Applicants
Homelessness	361
Disability	1,098
Target School	16,274
Out of School/Work	961
ESL	3,913
Foster Care	252
Juvenile Justice	155

Activity

Registered

34032

Submitted

30611

CPS began the process of implementing these dashboards in May and June of 2022, with the following methods, in their words:

"We shared the data with Network chiefs (including Options), their teams, and principals. We used the school level data to aggregate by Network. We also added the percentage of the school population that had applied. This was important to motivate and celebrate the smaller schools. The Network teams liked this metric to show their progress too!

Schools used the data to ensure they were broadly supporting all students to apply. The data was instrumental to us supporting networks and principals!

The smaller schools (Fenger and Raby are good examples) really got behind the percentage of school applicants metric. Grouping by network also allowed us to look by regions of the City and the 15 focus neighborhoods.

-Chief Megan Hougard, CPS

CPS School	Applicants
Kenwood Academy High School	1,012
Albert G Lane Technical High School	772
Whitney M Young Magnet High School	606
Neal F Simeon Career Academy High School	586
Robert Lindblom Math & Science Academy HS	583
Marie Sklodowska Curie Metropolitan High School	577
Morgan Park High School	518
Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy HS	484
Englewood STEM High School	468
William Jones College Preparatory High School	449
Lincoln Park High School	411
Lake View High School	409
Thomas Kelly College Preparatory	398
Chicago Vocational Career Academy High School	391
George Westinghouse College Prep	361
Dr Martin Luther King Jr College Prep HS	337
Hyde Park Academy High School	330
Nicholas Senn High School	326
William Howard Taft High School	314
Walter Payton College Preparatory High School	306
Gurdon S Hubbard High School	302
Benito Juarez Community Academy High School	288
William J Bogan High School	278
Paul Laurence Dunbar Career Academy High School	271
Walter Henri Dyett High School for the Arts	270
Eric Solorio Academy High School	267
Friedrich W von Steuben Metropolitan Science HS	263
Percy L Julian High School	261
Northside College Preparatory High School	257
South Shore Intl College Prep High School	257
Michele Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School	249

The result was not just an impact on the schools and students who applied to One Summer, but also a positive step forward in the data sharing collaboration between DFSS and CPS.

We hope to continue to achieve these types of projects in the near future with the My CHI. My Future. data working group. In the interim period with a lack of data sharing agreements, aggregate and non-identifiable data can still be useful for addressing program outreach and participation. While this group hopes to share more specific data in the future, this project showed there is plenty of collaboration and work that can completed before we accomplish new data sharing agreements.

*Special thanks to Dan Yao for developing this dashboard,
and to DFSS and CPS for leading implementation.*