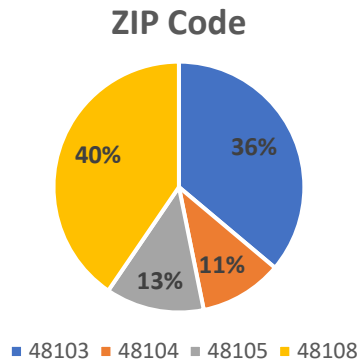


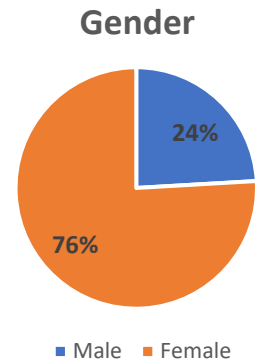
# City of Ann Arbor Eviction Prevention Requests & Approval Data – Administered by Ann Arbor Housing Commission \$566,419

352 total requests (299 approved) between March 7, 2023 and September 15, 2023

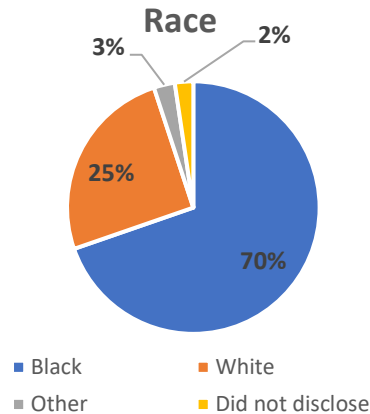
Approvals by ZIP	
48108	121 (40%)
48103	108 (36%)
48105	38 (13%)
48104	32 (11%)



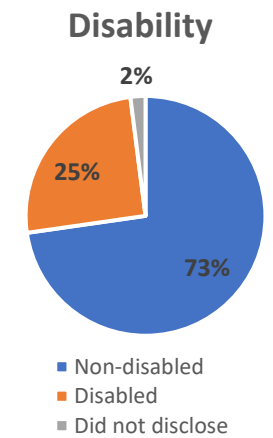
Approvals by Gender	
Female	227 (76%)
Male	72 (24%)



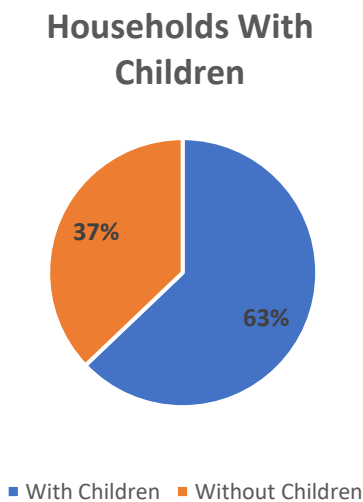
Approvals by Race	
Black	208 (70%)
White	76 (25%)
Other	8 (3%)
Did not disclose	7 (2%)



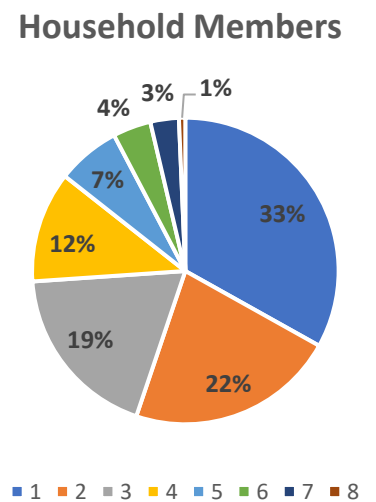
Approvals by Disability Status	
Non-Disabled	218 (73%)
Disabled	75 (25%)
Did not disclose	6 (2%)



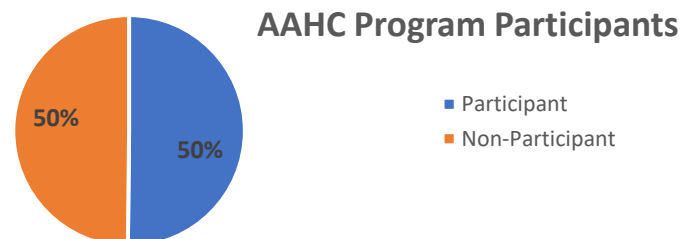
Households with Children	
With Children	188 (63%)
Without Children	111 (37%)



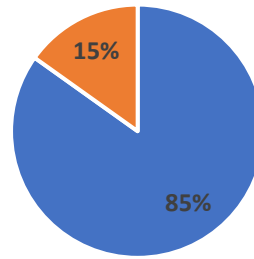
Number of Household Members	
1	99 (33%)
2	66 (22%)
3	56 (19%)
4	35 (12%)
5	20 (7%)
6	12 (4%)
7	9 (3%)
8	2 (1%)



Approvals for AAHC Program Participants	
Participant	150 (50%)
Non-Participant	149 (50%)



Total Eviction Prevention Requests	
Approved	299 (85%)
Denied	53 (15%)



### Total Requests

- Approved
- Denials

Number of Household Members (Among Approvals)	
Median	2
Mode	1
Minimum	1
Maximum	8

Annual Household Income (Among Approvals)	
Median	\$18,824
Minimum	\$0
Maximum	\$92,038

Rent Past Due (Among Approvals)	
Median	\$1,458
Minimum	\$50
Maximum	\$14,548
Total	\$620,076

Payments (Among Approvals)	
Median	\$1,456
Minimum	\$50
Maximum	\$5,000
Total	\$566,419

### Average Payment (among approvals): \$1,894

\*The most common reason for a funding request was a loss of wages or loss of employment.

\*Applications were denied because they were not living in Ann Arbor.

\*\*Disbursements covered 91% of total past due rent owed by all applicants (\$566,419/\$620,076).

\$555,000 City of Ann Arbor and \$11,419 Ann Arbor Housing Commission

\*\*94% of accepted applicants had all their past due rent covered by the City of Ann Arbor disbursement.

## Rising Hope for Housing Program

The City of Ann Arbor’s Trauma Informed Services for Voucher Households Involved in the Criminal Legal System Marijuana Rebate Funds has been renamed the **Rising Hope for Housing Program**. The agencies contracted by the City of Ann Arbor through the Ann Arbor Housing Commission to provide the direct services covered under this grant funding are A Brighter Way, Catholic Social Services Offender Success, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County, and SOS Community Services. The Washtenaw Housing Alliance, with support of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission, are facilitating the overall grant coordination and management.

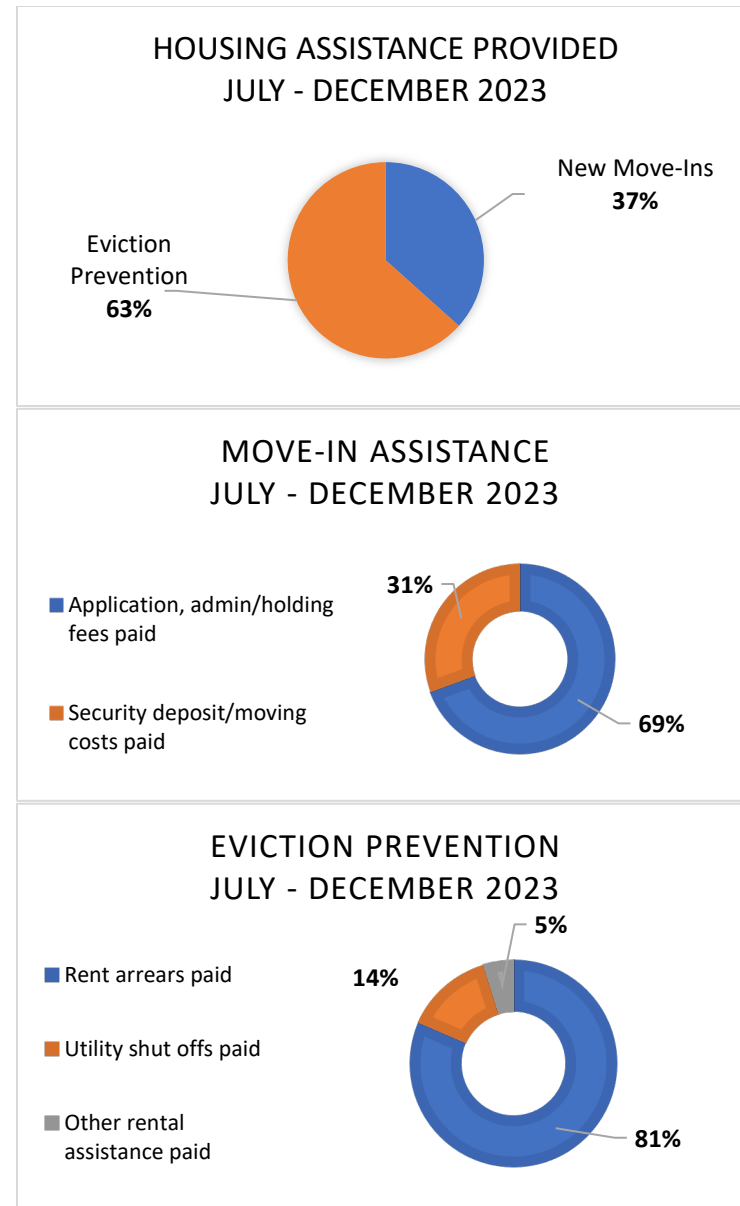
Between July 1 through December 31, 2023, the Rising Hope program assisted on average 15 households per month, with 8 new households referred each month.

About 80% of head of households applying identified as female and 20% as male. About 80% identified as Black, 10% as white, and 7% as bi-racial.

Average age was 45 years old with only 2 head of households applying over the age of 62 years.

The majority of households participating in the program were able to maintain their housing with their current vouchers while a total of 22 households were able to use their voucher to lease up with new housing in the county.

To the right are charts depicting the following housing assistance provided by grant partners to qualified program households in Washtenaw County.



## Progress Report: First 6-months (July 1 through Dec 31, 2023)

A notable success of the program has been that funding is relatively flexible in what it can pay for and quick in the time it takes to make the payment for the qualify household. Here are some success statements shared by Rising Hope partners:

*Catholic Social Services: "Right before the holidays we helped 2 families stay in their homes after an eviction notice and 2 families keep their electricity on after they received shut off notices. They were very grateful and couldn't thank us enough for 'seeing' them and offering to help." CSSW staff also shared that one of their clients in the program has not experienced a substance use relapse during his service time with them.*

*A Brighter Way: "We received a call from a tenant that we assisted as a team with both WHA and CSSW. She wanted to thank everyone for their help. Her arrears were paid, and she is continuing to do better."*

*SOS Community Services: "One of our clients that was able to lease up in October came to us after hearing about SOS's HCV Program at her voucher briefing [with RPI, a MSHDA contractor] in August. She had been living in a tent at one of the camps and was helped by the CMH PATH team to get the voucher. Together we were able to secure housing in a privately owned duplex. After a year of living outside she was able to be housed."*

*SOS Community Services: "We were able to work with the Ann Arbor Housing Commission and Legal Services to prevent an eviction in a case where the landlord was refusing to take payment from the client or SOS. Being able to quickly make the payment once the judge ordered them to receive it helped the client maintain housing and built trust with the landlord."*

Early in the roll-out for the Rising Hope program, the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and A Brighter Way connected to the re-entry services through the Washtenaw County Jail. A Brighter Way was already facilitating classes for their program services there and quickly could share announcements about our new program for potential referrals. The WHA meet with others in jail who were close to their release date to confirm if their housing vouchers were still active. Unfortunately, it was often discovered that a voucher was no longer active (or that someone did not have a voucher as first thought) and these meetings were too late in the process to assist someone in this program before release. Starting in early 2024, staff in the county re-entry services will integrate promotion of the Rising Hope program sooner for better results (e.g., at time of entering the jail).

Additionally, A Brighter Way found that when a client needed help for their 11-year old son and they did not yet have someone on their staff who could provide mentorship for youth. Grant partners will work together to better support this type of need in the future by reaching out to agencies who are already providing youth mentorship programming for low-income households.

# AVALON HOUSING YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

## OUR PARTNERS

Avalon Housing partnered with two community organizations to provide culturally responsive youth programming for children in families touched by chronic homelessness. **CLR Academy** provided mentorship, coaching, and guided activities for children in grades K-8 with focus areas of sports, nutrition, meditation, and restorative circles. **Youth Arts Alliance** engaged youth in grades 9-12 in healing centered, high quality arts instruction with a strengths-based approach rooted in trauma informed practices.



54

Hours of high quality programming were provided across 36 sessions with 2 community partners

44

Youth registered for programs, 64% of youth at the two program sites.

41

Youth attended at least one session during the contract year to date.

## OUTCOMES

In key informant interviews, program staff were asked to identify the most significant changes they observed for individual participants and at the community level at each site.

The program offered a **safe and accessible environment** for children to learn and grow, especially for younger participants who couldn't use public transit independently. Beyond this, high quality programming from partner organizations allowed youth to **explore new experiences** in sports and arts with **trusted and knowledgeable adults**. Avalon staff also recognized the **responsiveness of partner organization** instructors to the individual interests of participants as a key element of success across programming.

At the community level, staff observed **increased connection** among youth and increased **respect for community property** at program sites, such as playground equipment, after programming had ended. The programs created opportunities for youth to **reconnect with communities** of peers and trusted adults after the first years of the Pandemic, and the CLR Academy program created a **framework for youth to resolve disputes** independently or with staff assistance using a shared language for dispute resolution introduced through the programs.

## NEXT STEPS

Avalon and YAA will host an additional 8-session ceramics cycle at Carrot Way Apartments for youth in grades 3-8. Avalon and CLR Academy intend to expand activities to a third site in 2024.



# CITY OF ANN ARBOR:

## *January 2024 Report*



The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Michigan (BBBSSEM) is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth through Community and Site Based Mentoring programs.

We believe in the inherent gifts of every child, but recognize that for some, structural and environmental factors create barriers that make it difficult for those gifts to shine. Whether it be the lack of exposure and experiences that are symptoms of poverty, or the indignities and defense mechanisms that are created from racism, homophobia or sexism, or the developmental and physical delays that are the effects of trauma. For some young people, finding their way past the impact of those things and the noise around them, can be a real challenge. But we know that when they are surrounded by consistent, caring adults in safe, developmental relationships, we can help create sparks to tap into those dreams, break down walls and build up confidence to explore how to reach for those goals and provide the support and encouragement that helps to heal the trauma and learn and grow together.

BBBSSEM provides professional staff that recruit, enroll, match and support youth, volunteers and families to create and support these relationships. We believe that relationships are most meaningful when they are full of Empathy, Genuineness, and Unconditional Positive Regard. We utilize the Search Institute's Developmental Relationship Framework in creating and supporting the relationship life cycle through Expressing Care, Challenging Growth, Providing Support, Sharing Power and Expanding Possibilities. We give our matches the flexibility and autonomy to decide upon activities that will work well for their growing relationship. However, we encourage activities that fall under the concept of REACH (**R**ecreation, **E**ducation and Careers, **A**rts and Culture, **C**ivic Engagement, and **H**ealth and Wellness).

Last year BBBSSEM served 33 youth living in the City of Ann Arbor and 179 youth and families in Washtenaw County, many which attend school, work and frequent the City. Of those Ann Arbor families, 82% are living in single parent households, and 64% receive free/reduced lunch.

BBBSSEM tracks outcomes in two ways. First we know that kids don't care what you think, until they think that you care, so developing a strong relationship allows Bigs to have a more significant impact on the outcomes of the youth that we serve. We evaluate that relationship through the Strength of Relationship (SOR) survey, completed by Littles. The results of the SOR show that Littles feel safe, seen, and heard by their Bigs, scoring in the high 4's, out of 5 possible. We also evaluate using the Youth Outcome Survey (YOS). Last years' key impact areas include an increase in Educational Expectations and School Performance, as well as an Increase in Emotional Regulation and decrease in Depressive symptoms.

**Organization:** *Black Men Read* **Funding Level:** \$10,000.00 Mini Grant **Report Date:** January 15, 2024

**Organization Background.** BMR's *mission is to uplift Black men, all children and stories that celebrate the multiplicity of Blackness and the African diaspora. We envision a beloved community where all children feel loved, seen and valued.* BMR builds upon the legacies of Black people fighting for the liberation of other Black people. We acknowledge those who fought for school desegregation and access to quality education including, (but not limited to) the Plessy v Ferguson case, the Freedman's Bureau, the Black Panthers, the Brown Family (v Board of Education), the NAACP and Black grandmothers, mothers and fathers still fighting today. We honor the ongoing efforts from then to now to give Black children, all children, access to quality education and learning that acknowledges this nation's full history and future, and not the limited perspectives offered in public education presently.

**Issue Identification.** We address the historical lack of Black male teachers, stemming from post-Brown v Board of Education biases. Over 70,000 Black educators left public education in the decade after the decision, contributing to the persistent opportunity gap. Today, 80% of US teachers are white women. Our equity approach involves partnering with Black-owned establishments, hiring Black individuals, raising funds, and donating inclusive books. We celebrate diverse Black identities, pushing back against stereotypical narratives and promoting a comprehensive understanding of Blackness across various dimensions.

**Funded Program Background/Outcomes.** This funding supported a new partnership combining BMR's afrocentric curriculum with the existing structure and theme-based, learner-centered approach of the already established Community Action Network's (CAN) Educational Summer Camp programming. BMR offered:

- Weekly, hour-long literacy-focused engagement sessions throughout the 2023 summer camp program at 5 sites; Connecting with 100 children who were primarily Black and from areas of lower socioeconomic levels; Black Men Read hired sixteen year old Yasien Tahir of Ypsilanti, as our camp facilitator and Reader In Residence. Yasien administered BMR's unique curriculum that supports anti-racism by exposing youth to culturally affirming content.

**Funding Plan and Allocation.** We proposed using the funds to cover staff time for BMR & staff/contractors who helped plan the camp (all wages meet livable wage + equity standards) as well as stipends for BMR readers and interns (and ensures pay equity) once camp begins. In addition, we will use future funding for CAN's 2024 camp and to aid in covering the honorarium of a national Black book author in summer 2024.



## Youth Services Mid-Year Report 2024

Community Action Network (CAN) partners with children, youth, and families from under-resourced Washtenaw County neighborhoods to create better futures for themselves and improve the communities in which they live. CAN operates under the pillars of Education, Stabilization, and Community Building, facilitating free, wraparound supportive services for families living in six of Washtenaw County's most under-resourced communities (three of which are Ann Arbor Housing Commission properties). The City's funds have been supporting CAN's Education Programs for 2023/2024, which are year-round and include educational summer camps and after school programs. These programs support youth K-12 who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally and live in the six neighborhoods with which CAN partners. CAN's approach to these programs is addressing the whole child—that is why ensuring students' basic and foundational needs are met is at the core of this work. CAN hosts six-week summer camps to provide children and youth with a fun, engaging, and safe space to prevent summer learning loss, and during the school year operates after school program. Through rotations and theme exploration, CAN youth develop academic skills while building community with their peers and adults. Rotations offer structure and balance to help students succeed: academic skill development, social-emotional development, nutritious snacks/meals, free play, enrichment activities, and CAN Art & Design (where students explore a new thematic curriculum each year; this year's theme is The Kids' Table: Reheated!). Volunteer groups regularly visit CAN's sites to provide additional enrichment for youth.

So far, these programs are serving more than 150 youth across Washtenaw County. At the three Ann Arbor Housing Commission sites that are supported by this funding, there are about 80 youth impacted. Of these youth, about half are male and half are female, and the demographic breakdown is as follows: approximately 90% of these youth are Black, about 8% White, and 2% more than one race. It is worth noting that all students who participate in CAN's programs are eligible for Free/Reduced Lunches, many have IEPs or 504 plans at school, and many live with families who experience complex challenges like high unemployment rates or chronic illness.

CAN was established in 1987 by a resident of the Hikone public housing community in partnership with an administrator of the property. Their idea was to enrich the lives of neighborhood youth through afterschool educational and enrichment activities. Today, the goal remains the same: to provide youth with the wraparound support they need to reach their highest potential. Programs like these are vital in an area like Ann Arbor, where poverty and inequity are often hidden despite the fact that 43% of households fall under the ALICE threshold (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed). CAN's education programs are working to close the achievement gap between under-resourced and more affluent youth by increasing access to high-quality out-of-school programming where they can sharpen their academic skills, explore their passions, receive mental health support and get access to resources that they may not otherwise have access to. These programs go beyond after school or summer camp, though; CAN staff have close relationships with students' schools/teachers and their families to support students in all aspects of their lives. CAN meets students and families where they're at in order to create the biggest impact.



## Girls Group Programs

According to data for the 2021 Michigan school year, 30% of students of color and economically disadvantaged students did not graduate high school. **Yet, since the beginning of Girls Group, 100% of Girls Group high school seniors who are actively involved in programs have graduated from high school.**

Girls Group facilitates weekly programming within the public schools, works closely with families, and creates a network of positive peer and adult relationships. We build long-term, lasting relationships with the girls and young women we serve and equip them with the beliefs, attitudes, and skills to accomplish their goals. We ideally meet participants in 6th grade, and guide them through middle school, high school, college, and career.

Our programs focus on 4 core themes: Academic Readiness, Social Emotional Readiness, Financial Empowerment, and Community Service Learning.

In 2023, we served 850 participants: 300 middle school students, 240 high school students, 310 high school graduates/college & career participants. In 2024, we will serve nearly 1000 participants!

- 74% of participants are Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC)
- 61% of participants live in poverty or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed households<sup>1</sup>

## Outcomes for the grant period are as follows:

### 1. Participants will increase their internal and external developmental assets

Girls Group programming provides opportunities for participants to develop a belief in their own abilities, strong guiding values, and the skills to interact effectively with others, to make difficult decisions, and to cope with new situations.

- 77% of participants demonstrated social- emotional skills (advocacy, self-management, teamwork, social awareness, and healthy relationships).

In their words:

- “Girls Group has taught me how to embrace who I am and not allow people to make me feel bad about my true self” -7th grade participant
- “[Girls group] gives important lessons by making them fun” -High School participant
- “After this activity, I know what signs to look out for in my own relationships” -8th grade participant

### 2. Participants will begin building a college mindset

Girls Group facilitated college tours, career exploration events, college readiness workshops, and goal setting activities to support participants in building a college mindset.

- 80% of participants believe they can succeed & are planning for their future.
- 76% of participants demonstrated academic readiness.

In their words:

- “Girls Group made my plans for college much more of a reality. I knew I wanted to attend college but Girls Group gave me specific recommendations of where to apply based on my interests and strengths and that made the process less overwhelming.”
- “Girls Group has influenced my plans to continue college by introducing me to many successful college women like myself.”

### 3. Participants will develop positive developmental relationships with mentors and peers

Girls Group programming creates a continuous supportive community for participants to rely on and share successes and challenges to increase their self esteem and self awareness. 83% of participants developed positive mentoring relationships. In their words:

- “Girls Group makes me feel like I am at home with my family.” -8th grade participant
- “Being a part of Girls Group, upperclassmen always felt like big sisters and I want to be like that as well.” -High School participant
- “This activity showed me that the people around me are dealing with the same things I’m going through” -High School participant
- “Girls Group allows me to open up to people my age and feel comfortable” -High School participant

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<sup>1</sup> ALICE earns just above the Federal Poverty Level but less than what it costs to make ends meet ([United Way 2023](#))



## **Community Leadership Revolution (CLR) Academy Washtenaw My Brother's Keeper (WMBK)**

CLR is a free, weekly pop-up program supporting young kids in underserved neighborhoods' right to dream, believe, explore and create through sport, nutrition, reading, and writing.

During the pandemic, a resident of Sycamore Meadows noticed how much time Washtenaw My Brother's Keeper (WMBK) was spending trying to uplift that community by distributing masks, cleaning products and food. She approached WMBK Project Specialist, Jamall Bufford about doing something for the kids to get them active and having some fun. Bufford and fellow WMBK steering committee member Justin Harper started visiting the property regularly, hosting activities and spending time with the kids. After the winter had passed, WMBK reached out to AFC Ann Arbor about partnering up on the program moving forward and the work began.

- Over 300 youth participated in CLR this year past across four sites, South Pointe Scholars, Parkridge, Carrot Way, and Pauline. 70 participated at least three times.
- 4 paid teen assistants
- Every participant received a soccer ball, football, basketball, books and CLR jersey.
- Distributed 300 turkeys and 300 gallons of milk to Sycamore Meadows and South Side residents in partnership with Blake Corum.
- CLR Seattle launched this summer

## Ozone House: Low-Income Youth Services

### Program Description

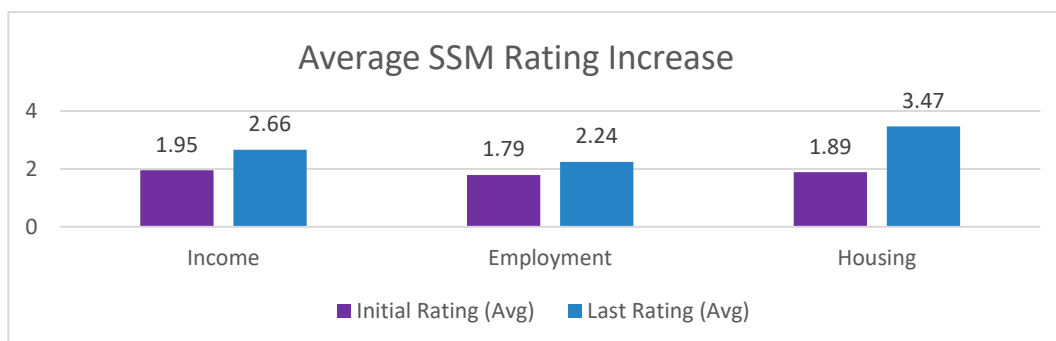
For over 50 years Ozone House Youth and Family Services has been the only youth-serving agency in Washtenaw County that provides housing and supportive services along a continuum of care for youth, their families, and young adults experiencing homelessness, at-risk of homelessness, or running away. Services include the minor youth (10-17) short-term emergency shelter, street/community outreach and drop-in center services, case management and rental assistance, transitional living program for youth and young adults (16-24), prevention services for youth and families, education and employment support services, life skills and support groups, 24/7 crisis line, and basic needs pantry.

The funding received from the Ann Arbor Housing Commission from the Marijuana Rebate Funds supports our non-residential case management services for homeless young adults. The primary objective for case management services is to help youth and young adults build skills and capacities that contribute to healthy, positive, and productive functioning and transition to adulthood. Services begin with staff completing an initial assessment upon entry, comprised of various screening tools, including human trafficking, substance use, mental health, and the Self-Sufficiency Matrix. Using a trauma-informed and client-centered approach, an individualized service plan is created to identify housing and other goals with related action steps. Subsequent case management meetings typically occur weekly and encompass navigation of public systems including obtaining vital documents (i.e. birth certificates, IDs, social security card, etc.) and applying for benefits, life skills education, physical and mental health support, assistance with basic needs, education and/or employment support, and referrals and linkages to internal and external programs and resources.

### Outcomes

Since July 1, 2023, Ozone House has provided **610 hours** of case management services to **45 young people**. **79%** of the young people participating in case management services identified as Black/African American or multi-racial; **56%** identified as female, **26%** as male, and **18%** as transgender.

Income, employment, and housing are measured on a 5-point scale, at regular intervals using the Self-Sufficiency Matrix (SSM). For case management clients, there has been a 1 point or greater increase from initial SSM to the most recent SSM completed, since July.





Peace  
Neighborhood  
Center

Peace Neighborhood Center

Six Month Report

July-December 2023

Peace Neighborhood Center Middle School Programs

Leadership Development Camp (July-August 2023)

Alternatives For Youth (September-December 2023)

During this period Peace Middle School Programs have served 48 young people grades 6-8 who reside in Washtenaw County. Youth participated in our summer Leadership Development Camp and our after school Alternatives For Youth program. Over 90% identify as people of color. Over 35% have learning challenges which are documented in Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs) and 505 plans. Primarily, most youth reside in six affordable and public housing communities that reflect hidden pockets of poverty on Ann Arbor's West side – Main Street west to Jackson Road, North Maple Road south to Scio Church Road.

These programs (LDC and AFY) provide individualized academic support, educational workshops, skills inventories, special interest clubs and creative experiences, community service, and special leadership opportunities. Peace's AFY program helps teens develop the skill and confidence to succeed. Our middle school youth have the opportunity to develop self-awareness, self-esteem, and accountability within a safe environment with trusted adults. Peace gives teens the space to explore who they are, gain confidence in themselves and abilities, and explore creative pathways toward future success.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
1/26/24

## Ann Arbor Housing Commission City Youth Service Grant Check and Connect Mid-Year Report - January 2024

Program Overview: Check and Connect (C&C) is an intensive evidence-based academic intervention program for students who are disconnected from school and learning. C&C provides a minimum of two years of support and includes weekly checks of school data, weekly connects, and frequent communication with schools, parents/guardians. Every week, the mentor provides feedback on school progress. Connects can involve goal-setting, problem-solving, homework help, support at school meetings, transportation to a therapist appointment, etc. Other services may include connection to leadership and after-school opportunities, advocacy for needed services in school, direct assistance for items such as school supplies etc. SAC uses the C&C model as a **partnership program**, meaning that collaboration from all parties involved is key for whole child success. The students served in the program are typically those who are impacted by the school-to-prison pipeline, which systemically and disproportionately impacts students of color. These students are often unable to access other services within the formal school system, for various reasons, often most related to why the student is struggling to begin with. C&C mentors are trained in and utilize comprehensive trauma-informed approaches, with an emphasis on mental health, self-care, and community care.

Focus Areas: Research indicates that this program has been shown to decrease behavioral referrals, truancy, and tardiness while increasing high school graduation rates, student attendance, school enrollment, student persistence and motivation towards school, and overall credit accrual. Dropping out of school is one of the most serious challenges to our public schools and communities, impacting health outcomes and life changes for particularly vulnerable youth. On average, individuals who dropout of high school are more likely than their graduated peers to be unemployed, incarcerated, living in poverty, on public assistance, single parents, and in poor health (e.g., Bridgeland, 2006; Levin, Belfield, 2007; Sum, 2009). Youth who are struggling and disengaged from school are at an increased risk for depression and suicide. COVID and subsequent school shut-downs continue to impact students, presenting an increase in mental health needs and concerns. It was reported in the 2021-22 school year that 70% of 7th graders in Washtenaw County earning grades of D's and F's reported feeling so sad or hopeless in the last two weeks they stopped doing activities, which is nearly double from 10 years ago (MIPHY). These same youth are increasingly more likely to have considered suicide, made a plan, and made an attempt. The benefit and need for one-on-one mentors is widely recognized. In research, University of Minnesota has found that relationships are essential for students' behavior change, commitment to learning, and academic progress. For these reasons, C&C is a long-term, relationship-based intervention. Research from Mentor National shows that 73% of youth who had a mentor in adolescent years reported an increase in confidence, while 79% of youth in mentoring programs showed an improvement in mental health.

Updates: In the first 6 months SAC, in partnership with Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) had identified priority schools based on the need. SAC and AAPS formalized a MOU to provide C&C in Tappan and Scarlett Middle Schools. AAPS district level & school level liaisons were identified and trained and SAC began receiving referrals. To date, 5 C&C cases have been officially opened, with 12 additional case openings scheduled or in process for a total of 17 cases identified thus far. Of the 5 open cases: 2 are Female, 3 are Male; 3 are Black, 1 is biracial & Hispanic, 1 is white; 2 receive special education services, and all 5 qualify for free or reduced lunch. "The C&C Program enables AAPS to provide crucial wraparound support for students who are facing significant challenges to their academic success. Our ability to collaborate with SAC means we can do more for students who need it the most. Both Tappan and Scarlett are grateful for this new partnership and SAC's evidenced-based approach to supporting families and students." - Nancy Shore, Director, Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement.



Since [Youth Arts Alliance's](#) (YAA) founding in 2013, over 10,000 young people and families from across Michigan have engaged in our healing-centered, high quality arts programming. These opportunities are made possible by master-level, experienced teaching artists. YAA intensively trains and supports teaching artists to build curriculums in their areas of artistic focus. Our programming model is built on strengths-based, trauma-informed (healing-centered) practices and research in the landscape of mental health and developmental needs of children and adolescents. YAA prioritizes youth and families impacted by the justice system; youth who currently reside in carceral detention and treatment settings, and community spaces where youth have limited access to high quality arts experiences. We firmly believe that access to high-quality arts experiences and education is a human right.

YAA programming invites connection, dialogue, and empathy, bringing us towards healthier, more just, collaborative communities. Our ethos puts arts and supportive relationships with skilled arts practitioners at the center of individual healing, social and emotional growth, and community connectedness. Children and adolescents are exploring their complex and shifting identities, interests, and relationships. Continued engagement in YAA programming highlights their expanding identities as artists, writers and performers. Well-vetted and emerging research indicates the far reaching benefits of arts engagement across the lifespan.

In 2023, Ann Arbor Housing Commission galvanized our efforts in serving youth and families with nearly 600 direct programming hours, during our 3 programming cycles; averaging 17 hours per week during 8 week workshops, and 23 hours per week during 12 intensive week long arts residencies. Last year, YAA served approximately 825 folks with healing centered arts experiences. Programming was inclusive of a wide variety of artistic mediums, including: music, 2D visual art, 3D art, movement, theater, ceramics, video production, comics, art book making, poetry and more!

YAA has proven impact. Our knowledge of impact is reflected in our robust evaluation of our programming. YAA captures pre- and post-surveys focusing on emotional self-efficacy and resilience, as well as surveys evaluating social emotional learning outcomes. Folks who participate in programming experience an impact in their ability to recognize and cope with their own emotions and those of others. If all circumstances and conditions remain the same outside of programming, folks participating have increased resilience to those conditions.

Local youth artists wish to share [their artwork](#) from a YAA residency this summer with you. On behalf of the YAA team and youth and families served: [THANK YOU](#).

