



2025 Impact Report



**OPTIONS
FOR YOUTH**

Changing Young Lives for Over 20 Years!

Our Work

Options for Youth's mission is to expand opportunities for vulnerable adolescents through programs that build upon the strengths and maximize the potential of each young person.

We expand opportunities for two of Chicago's most vulnerable groups of adolescents: teenage mothers struggling to stay in school while parenting a child and teen boys facing violence in their daily lives. Our programs help to break the cycle of poverty that disproportionately affects Black and Latine youth in under-resourced communities on Chicago's South and West Sides.



How We Do It

- Individualized support for each participant through a home visitor or mentor
- Intensive training a group setting that builds a peer support group
- Close partnerships with school faculty and community resources
- Comprehensive curriculum that includes reproductive and contraceptive education, strategies for managing mental and physical health, and training on gender equity, conflict resolution, and violence prevention

The Subsequent Pregnancy Program

For over 20 years, Subsequent Pregnancy Program Home Visitors have been supporting teenage mothers who have a baby while still in high school.

In the 2024–2025 program year, SPP Home Visitors began an ongoing expansion bringing the program beyond North Lawndale—where it has produced remarkable results for the past nine years—to seven key communities on Chicago’s South and West Sides where teenage pregnancy rates remain two-to-three times higher than the overall rate in Chicago.

This year, SPP Home Visitors worked with 56 young mothers to help ensure they delayed a second pregnancy, stayed in school, and graduated with their high school diploma.



223

support visits were made to young mothers working toward their high school diploma



98%

of senior participants graduated from high school with their diploma



100%

of teenage mothers in the program delayed a second pregnancy

SPP Expanding to the South Side

OFY has identified seven key neighborhoods where the teenage pregnancy rate is double to nearly triple the rate in Chicago. SPP Home Visitors are working hard to expand the program to serve vulnerable young moms in these communities across Chicago's South and West Sides.



What's Up with Manhood?

Created in 2017, What's Up with Manhood is an innovative approach to reducing violence in the lives of teenage boys by helping them to examine social norms surrounding masculinity.



152

teenage boys built personal relationships with What's Up with Manhood Mentors

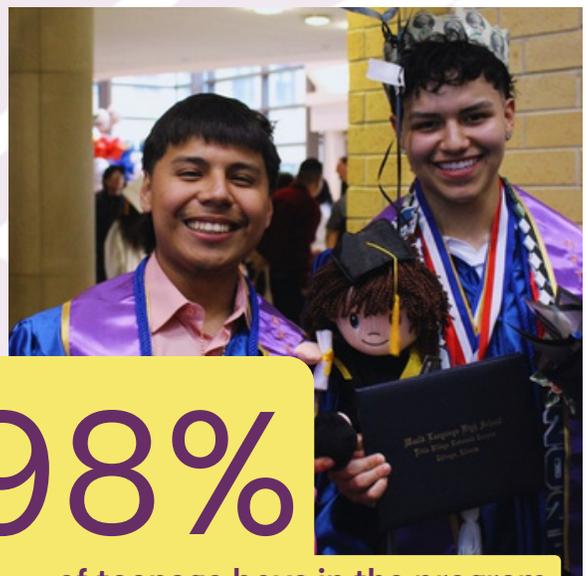
Based in the West Side neighborhood of South Lawndale—43% of the young men in the What's Up with Manhood program lived on the blocks with the most incidents of gun violence in Chicago last year, according to data from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Through a rigorous curriculum and individual mentoring relationships, What's Up Mentors help participants to think critically about how "being a man" is defined in their community and develop an understanding of healthy masculinity, gender equity, and peaceful conflict resolution.



898

individual mentoring sessions helped young men examine their definition of masculinity



98%

of teenage boys in the program stayed in school and on-track to graduate with their high school diploma

The Shirley and Walter Massey Scholarship Fund



In 2025, Options for Youth established The Shirley and Walter Massey Scholarship Fund to honor Shirley and Walter's many years of dedicated support for Options for Youth and the What's Up with Manhood program in particular. Each year, two graduating seniors who have enrolled in one of the City Colleges of Chicago will receive a scholarship to support books, supplies, housing, meals, and other costs associated with attending college.



Voices of Impact

"When I became pregnant at 16, nobody wanted me around. Options for Youth was my lifeline. Now I have my bachelor's degree and am working on my master's in Psychology, all because my home visitor never gave up on me."

-Subsequent Pregnancy Program Graduate

"What's Up with Manhood helped me be more open and know I can share my feelings with people I can rely on. I learned I can trust my girlfriend and my family and that they can help me with things I am going through, and I don't have to act macho."

-What's Up with Manhood Graduating Senior

Our Partners

THE
REVA & DAVID LOGAN
FOUNDATION

The Elizabeth Morse
Charitable Trust

PAUL M. ANGELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION



Office on Violence
Against Women (OVW)
U.S. Department of Justice

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Options for Youth is also supported by The Elizabeth Morse Operating Reserve Fund

This vital work would not be possible without the support of partners like you.

Thank you!

The need for Options for Youth's programs continues to grow.

Next year, we will be working in more schools and more communities, serving even more vulnerable adolescents.

To support this growing work, scan the QR code below or visit options4youth.org/donate



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Options for Youth expands opportunities for underserved youth through programs that build upon the strengths and maximize the potential of each young person. A 501(c)(3) organization.

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Options for Youth
President

November 20, 2025

Dear Friends of Options for Youth,

2025 has been an enormously challenging year for Chicago, especially the communities that Options for Youth serves. On top of systemic barriers still faced by predominantly Black and Latine communities, Chicagoans on the South and West Sides now contend with **dwindling community resources** like food banks and health clinics, as federal funding is withdrawn, and are the primary target of ICE raids that have **detrained US citizens** and legal residents as they go to the store or pick up their children from school.

In this difficult time, Options for Youth is expanding to help meet the growing need in our city. This year, the Subsequent Pregnancy Program extended its reach to include six communities on the South Side where the teenage pregnancy rates are double to nearly triple the overall rate in Chicago. This school year, the What's Up with Manhood program will serve 200 teenage boys across four high schools in Little Village. All OFY participants will receive wraparound support to help them meet the challenges they face, break the cycles of poverty, and build a successful future—one that enables them to **become a resource to uplift their communities**.

As the year comes to a close, Options for Youth's generous partners have issued a **\$15,000 matching challenge** to support this vital work. This giving season, I am asking you to take a few minutes to read through the enclosed materials, consider the impact your gift will have, and then **double your donation by making a gift by December 31**.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat W. Mosena".

Pat W. Mosena
President and CEO
Options for Youth



IT'S BEEN A TOUGH YEAR IN LITTLE VILLAGE

OPTIONS FOR YOUTH IS THERE TO HELP

Little Village, known for its vibrant Mexican-American community, has faced many challenges in 2025...

Residents saw **dwindling access to community resources** like food assistance and health clinics as federal funding has pulled back.

On top of these hardships, Little Village was a main target of Operation Midway Blitz. **Every one of OFY's staff and participants** witnessed or encountered federal agents or **knows someone who has been detained**—including legal residents and U.S. citizens.

At this critical moment, **mentors from OFY's What's Up with Manhood program are a vital presence in the community**—helping young boys in our program to process anger and trauma, develop tactics to de-escalate and peacefully resolve conflict, and connect with resources like legal assistance, mental healthcare, and other support services.

Options for Youth needs your support to grow this important work on Chicago's South and West Sides.





STAND WITH OPTIONS FOR YOUTH AND CHICAGO COMMUNITIES BY GIVING TODAY.

Your gift will support OFY participants like Jaiden—a 2025 graduate of World Language High School and the What’s Up with Manhood program, **who has decided to give back to his community by joining OFY’s staff as a new What’s Up with Manhood mentor.** Jaiden now works alongside the Options for Youth staff who helped him graduate, “paying it forward” by mentoring the next generation of young men in Little Village.

Donate by December 31 to **DOUBLE** your gift through a matching challenge issued by our generous partners—**up to \$15,000!**

HOW TO DONATE:

Scan the QR code

Visit options4youth.org/donate

Use the included return envelope



...and **THANK YOU!**