

Christopher House Charter School ED Abstract

Christopher House, a social service agency with more than 100 years experience impacting low-income community, currently operates accredited early learning and after school programs grounded in research-based curriculum and high-quality instruction. These educational services are funded by City, State and Federal programs and individual, corporate and foundation support. These programs have positively and quantitatively impacted the academic achievement of thousands of children. For instance, through data-driven assessment, we know that 93% of our students are cognitively, socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten based on the Creative Curriculum ® assessment. Last year, our college and career preparation program also ensured that 100% of our graduating seniors were accepted into a four year college. At our five separate campuses, we provide early childhood education to 600 students between the ages of birth and four annually. Through our after school programs, we serve another 300 students ranging in age from five to 18. Finally, our service web also incorporates parents to provide educational and support services for more than 5,000 children and adults.

We are seeking to operate a charter school in Belmont Cragin, a west side Chicago neighborhood, to extend our educational model through eighth grade. This will exponentially increase our ability to positively influence student outcomes in a community struggling to meet the educational demands of a growing child and youth population.

Mission: Christopher House Charter School will integrate our successful early childhood education and after school services into an elementary school that prepares students for admission into Chicago’s most competitive high schools and college completion. The school will strengthen and empower economically disadvantaged children and their families by providing a continuum of educational and human services. These services will ensure our students develop cognitively, socially, physically and emotionally to help them and their families become self-sufficient and resilient.

We will fulfill our mission through:

- A continuum of high-quality educational services that responds to children’s development stages with increasing academic rigor;
- Intensive parent education, social/emotional support for student and family support;
- An extended school-day and school year as well as after school academic enrichment services;
- Arts integration that celebrates cultural traditions and promotes academic achievement;
- Commitment to physical fitness and wellness education to promote discipline and healthy lifestyles;
- Comprehensive, measurable assessment of students’ educational, social and emotional development.

At Christopher House Charter School, students and families will be able to access all the services they need under one roof: high quality early and elementary education; social and emotional support; after school services that are open full-day when school is closed; counseling services; adult education; food pantry and other services to ensure the meeting of basic human needs; and a community in which to learn, grow and become empowered.

CSP Start-up funds will ensure Christopher House Charter School is able to fulfill its objective of providing high quality education to all students that prepares them to meet state standards and be successful in high school and college completion.

<p>CSP Project Director Ms. Lori A. Baas, CEO, Christopher House Phone: 773-472-1083 Email: lbaas@christopherhouse.org</p>	<p>LEA Chicago Public Schools 125 S. Clark Street Chicago, IL 60603</p>	<p>SEA Illinois State Board of Education 100 N. First Street Springfield, IL 62777</p>
--	---	--