



# LEAP ESSENTIALS

September 2018 – August 2019

CELEBRATING OUR 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*LEAP's mission is to develop the strengths and talents of young leaders who create and implement year-round, community- and school-based programming designed to achieve positive academic and social outcomes for children living in high poverty urban neighborhoods.*

*LEAP serves over 1,000 youth each year.*

**5** LEAP serves children who live in **five neighborhoods** in New Haven: Dixwell, Dwight-Kensington, Fair Haven, the Hill, and Newhallville. These neighborhoods have child poverty rates ranging from **35% to 58%**, significantly higher than the statewide average of 15%. They are also severely racially segregated. **95%** of all children in our program are Black and/or Latinx, and virtually all come from families with scarce opportunities for economic mobility. LEAP runs most of our after-school and summer programming in five New Haven Public Schools located in these neighborhoods, **all free of charge**, making us highly accessible to children and families.

**4** Youth are organized into **four age groups**: Children (ages 7-12), Leaders-in-Training (ages 13-15), Junior Counselors (high school students), and Senior Counselors (college students). The counselors are trained and paid a fair wage to be strong role models for children and young teens, as well as guide them through a rich variety of activities. LEAP programming is tailored toward each child's stage in development. For example, Leaders-in-Training start to take on new responsibilities by interning under counselors. Junior Counselors participate in extensive college prep and career advising to prepare them for high school graduation.

**3** LEAP runs year-round and is split into **three components**: fall after-school, spring after-school, and summer camp. Our after-school program is three hours a day, Monday-Thursday. Our summer camp is eight hours a day, Monday-Friday. Many children stay with us for multiple components. Some stay for several years, moving up through our age groups.

**2** Counselor salaries make up the largest percentage of LEAP's **over \$2 million operating budget**. LEAP is the largest employer of youth in New Haven: we train and hire over **200** young adults each year. Employing youth after school and over the summer is proven by research to be highly effective in reducing youth crime and mortality rates.

**1** LEAP has **one community center** on Jefferson Street. It's home to the LEAP Children's Library, swimming pool, computer lab, teaching kitchen, gym, dance studio, and community garden. These are all incredibly valuable resources that our children rarely have access to outside of LEAP.



**DONATE or CONTACT US at:** (203) 773-0770 31 Jefferson St, New Haven, CT 06511

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