

The AAI focuses on positive development of African American male youth through building positive relationships with their families, peers and communities. It offers leadership skills, self-esteem development and an understanding the for importance of education. Now in its third year of programming, AAI does this by partnering with Teamwork Englewood, Centers for New Horizons, Metropolitan Family Services, YMEN, and ONE in Rogers Park.

The African American Initiative (AAI)

UNITED WAY OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

OUR GOAL

Help African American males ages 10-16 grow into responsible adults who can become positive leaders in their communities.

OUR CHALLENGE

Research shows that young African American men are among the most at-risk groups in Chicago and throughout the nation. 62% of Chicago's African American males drop out of high school, and 50% of African American males between the ages of 16 and 22 are out of work and not attending school. 87% of juvenile parolees are African American males.¹

OUR STRATEGY

- Improve school attendance for African American male youth
- Increase the number of youth who improved grades and test scores
- Increase the number of youth on track to graduate from high school
- Improve community engagement for African American youth and their families

REAL PEOPLE. REAL RESULTS.

73% of AAI participants have improved their school attendance

66% of AAI participants have increased their GPA and meet or exceed Illinois standard test scores

95% of AAI participants are on track to graduate high school

63% of AAI participants are engaged with parents in the community at least 3 times a year

1. Chicago Urban League, 2005

The African American Initiative Challenge Grant (up to \$100,000)



Illinois Tool Works Inc. encourages support of the *African American Initiative*. All new and increased gifts will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. Your gift will be leveraged in programs that focus on strengthening African American youth through their families and communities. For more information on the *African American Initiative* visit LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/AAI

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