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University of Illinois at Chicago
Parental Consent for Participation in Research
Positive youth development and critical service learning

Why am I being asked?

Your youth is being asked to be a participant in a project about positive youth development and critical service learning because he or she is enrolled in a Capstone course through the UIC College Prep high school. Dr. Cassandra McKay- Jackson at the University of Illinois at Chicago is conducting this project. A final project for the course is a service-learning project. Your youth's testimonials may suggest that this intervention enhances school connection, leadership, and interpersonal skills. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before giving parental consent for your youth's participation in this research study.

Your youth's participation in this research is voluntary. The decision whether or not to participate will not affect his or her current or future relations with the University or their current school setting. If your youth decides to participate, he or she is free to withdraw at any time without affecting that relationship. Also if you object to your youth participating in this study your youth will not be excluded from the Capstone course. Data collection pertaining to this study will simply **not** be collected for your youth.

Why is this project being done?

Positive Youth Development (PYD) foci is on building healthy communities, and the belief that if youth are welcomed to participate in civic and public affairs as participants, not solely as recipients, they tend to experience optimal development (Camino, 2000). The PYD approach promotes the use of coordinated and progressive series of activities and experiences to assist youth in developing social, moral, emotional, physical, and cognitive competence within their community (Barton, Watkins, & Jarjoura, 1997). Critical service learning projects may be a mechanism by which these competencies are developed.

What is the purpose of this project?

A final project for the Capstone course is service-learning project. Pre and post questionnaires, and your youth's testimonials may suggest that this intervention enhances youth's school connection, leadership, and interpersonal skills.

What procedures are involved?

Youth who participate will complete a pre and post questionnaires regarding positive youth development components: confidence, connection, character, caring, and contribution. They will also participate in a focus group regarding the service learning experience.

What are the potential risks and discomforts?

Discussing the issues for which they are advocating for or against within their service learning projects may emotionally upset youth. However it is expected that these emotional reactions will be reversible and not impair youth's normal daily activities. There is also a risk of a breach of privacy (others may find that your child is participating in research).

Are there benefits to taking part in the research?

A service-learning supplement may be an efficient means for youth to develop social, moral, emotional, physical, and cognitive competence within their community. Further your youth's participation in this study will allow this principal investigator and the research team to examine the impact that service learning has on the degree of student's school connection; leadership and interpersonal skills.

What about privacy and confidentiality?

The only people who will know that your youth is a research participant are select UICCP personnel, this investigator and key research personnel. No information about your youth will be disclosed to others without your written permission, except:

- if necessary to protect your youth's rights or welfare; or
- if required by law.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified as your youth will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

- Hard data (e.g. consent and assent forms) will be stored in a locked file cabinet. Soft data (e.g. questionnaire, and focus group transcripts) will be stored on a password-protected computer.

- Products generated from this project will result in manuscripts, presentation materials to appropriate and relevant professional meetings and conferences. Coded data will be destroyed after all data analysis opportunities have been exhausted.

What are the costs for participating in this research?

There are no costs to your youth for participating in this research study.

Will I be reimbursed for any of my expenses or paid for my participation in this research?

There will be no reimbursement provided to your youth for participating in this project.

Can I withdraw or be removed from the study?

Your youth can choose whether to be in this study or not. If you grant permission for your youth to volunteer to be in this study, you may withdraw your youth at any time without consequences of any kind. Your youth may also refuse to answer any questions he or she does not wish to answer and still remain in the study. The investigator may withdraw your youth from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

- Participants will be excluded from this study if they are not enrolled in school or withdraw from the capstone course that offers the service learning component.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

The researcher conducting this study is Dr. Cassandra McKay Jackson. You may ask any questions you have now. If you have questions later, you may contact the researcher at: Phone: (312) 355-2280 or cmckay@uic.edu

What are my rights as a research participant?

If your youth feels that have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or he or she has any questions about his or her our rights as a research participant, you or your youth may call the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects (OPRS) at 312-996-1711 (local) or 1-866-789-6215 (toll-free) or e-mail OPRS at uicirb@uic.edu.

Remember: Your youth's participation in this research is voluntary. The decision whether or not to participate will not affect his or her current or future relations with the University or their current school. If you decide to give parental consent for your youth to participate, you or your youth are free to withdraw at any time without affecting that relationship.

You will be given a copy of this form for your information and to keep for your records.

Summary of what youth will be asked to do

If you grant parental consent for your youth to participate in this research study, your youth will be invited to respond to a pre/post questionnaire, which may take up to, 20-25 minutes to complete each time, as well as a focus group regarding the service learning experience. Both the

questionnaire and focus groups will be conducted at the University of Illinois at Chicago- Jane Addams College of Social Work (UIC-JACSW).

Signature of Subject or Legally Authorized Representative

I have read (or someone has read to me) the above information. I have been given an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I agree to participate in this project. I have been given a copy of this form.

Parental Signature

Date

Printed Name

Signature of Researcher

Date (must be same as participant's)