



At Work

Urban 4-H: African American Male Leadership Program

The pilot project known as 4-H C.I.T.Y. involves two Pittsburgh neighborhoods, Larimer and Lincoln-Lemington, and a partnership with organizations already engaged in youth development efforts (the Kingsley Association in Larimer and Nahbi Christian Ministries in Lincoln-Lemington). The goal of the project is to actively engage in the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of projects and programs that support the redevelopment of neighborhoods. This is carried out through practice, participation, and mentorship activities where the participants assume leadership roles in their community.

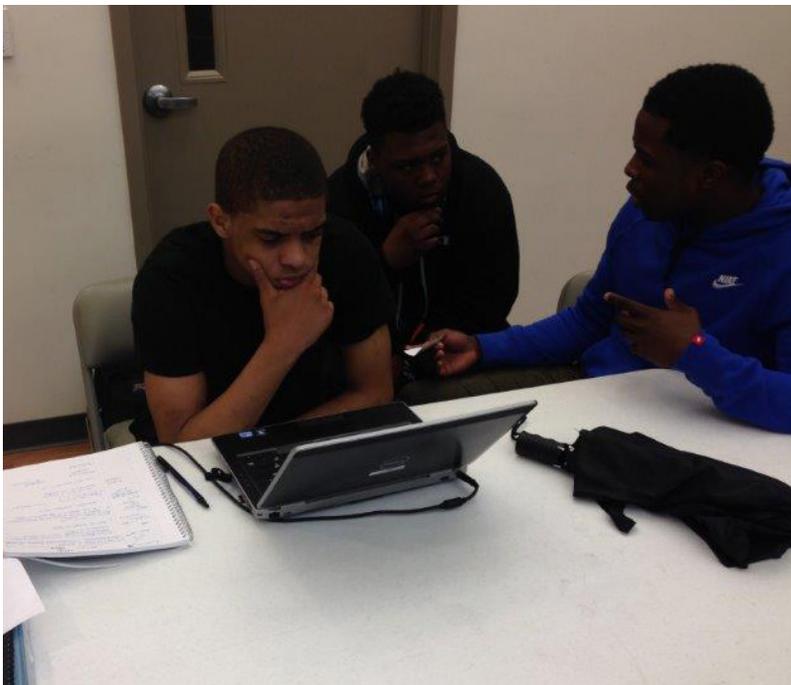
The participants met monthly (a total of ten sessions), and were facilitated jointly by the partner organizations and the 4-H educator. The ten leadership training sessions focused on advocacy, governance, personal accountability, mentorship, and career exploration.

Utilizing a grant from the Heinz Endowments, funding was available to establish two cohort groups of young men. Each partner organizations recruited a small (10-12) group of young men, aged 16-21. In Larimer, this



group was drawn from “graduates” of the East End Youth Advisory Council, which is composed of youth ages 14-17; in Lincoln-Lemington, some of the participant were drawn from the Brothers Overcoming Barriers (BOB) conflict resolution program.

The program continues today. Over the winter youth in the 4-H C.I.T.Y. program, in partnership with the Kingsley Association, will be focusing on robotics with the goal of competing in the Sea Perch and VEX IQ robotics competitions in April. Through 4-H C.I.T.Y., the youth will be immersed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) based experiential learning opportunities that will have a demonstrable impact on their personal and academic development and their communities.



For more information about this project, please contact:



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