

# STREET YOUTH RISE UP!

## Street Youth Bill of Rights



Created by Chicago Street Youth in Motion, a task force run by the Young Women's Empowerment Project as a part of our Street Youth Rise UP! Campaign

### Health Care

1. We have the right to receive fair treatment from all test counselors, nurses, Doctors and health care providers who work with youth.
2. We have the right to free healthcare services and or reasonable sliding scale fees when accessing treatment. We should not be denied any treatment needed based on our insurance plan, income, or lack of insurance.
3. We should not be judged by a test counselor, nurse, doctor or health care provider based on our age, gender identity or expression, health conditions, illness, sexuality and /or their involvement in the sex trade or street economy because we are homeless , home free or street based.

### Education

1. We have the right to a good education that is uplifting and respects each youth dignity and learning styles.
2. We have the right to not be turned away from education based on our sexuality, grades, gender identity or expression or economic class or because we are homeless, home free or street based.
3. We should be allowed to have other options for our education when school is not accessible such as online school and/or home schooling for those who don't have access to internet, schools with childcare for parenting teens and alternative schools
4. We have the right to free food programs and free uniforms and books when we are not able to afford it with or with out parental notification.
5. We have the right not to be subjected to unnecessary searches in school; discriminatory enforcements of rules, police and metal detectors in school, arrest or violent punishments for missing school, sexual harassment and discipline without a chance to be heard.

# Street YouthBill of Rights

## Police

1. We have the right to not be profiled or targeted by the police based on our age, race, gender identity or expression, sexuality, clothing or because we are homeless and/or home free.
2. We have the right to be protected and to not be denied help based on our gender identity or expression, age, sexuality, race or our involvement in the sex trade and street economy and /or because we are homeless or home free.
3. We have the right to not be criminalized by the police for being homeless or home free or for doing what we have to survive by being involved in the sex trade, street economy. The police should receive trainings by youth or youth competent services providers on how to work with homeless, home free or street based young people in a respectful way and help them connect to voluntary and nonjudgmental services instead of arresting us.
4. We have the right to not be sexually harassed by the police. Sexual harassment and extortion of a young person is not permitted by law. Any allegation of sexual harassment by a police officer should be investigated and the officer should immediately be disciplined

## Social Services

1. We have the right to be treated with respect and dignity and to not be judged based on our age, gender identity or expression or sexuality, and /or because we are homeless and or home free, or because we are involved in the sex trade and or street economy.
2. We have the right to receive services regardless if we have identification or not.
3. We have the right to receive as much resources and services from both state and non- profit service providers who offers to aid a youth living in a crisis situation. And they should not be judged based on their living situation or because they are homeless, home free and/or street based.