

LRNG : CHI
One Summer Chicago Pilot
June – August 2016



LRNG
CHI

LRNG: CHI is a new digital platform designed to help young people develop the skills to prepare for employment, build financial literacy, and explore their passions.

LRNG is powered by **Collective Shift**, a national nonprofit dedicated to redesigning social systems for the connected age. LRNG is funded in part by the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**. LRNG: CHI is an initiative managed by the **Hive Chicago Fund for Connected Learning**, a collaborative of **The Chicago Community Trust**.



In the Summer of 2016, LRNG: CHI was launched in Chicago and piloted with a subset of One Summer Chicago participants. Mayor Rahm Emanuel's One Summer Chicago initiative brings together government institutions, community-based organizations and companies to provide employment and internship opportunities to youth and young adults 14 to 24. This summer, more than 30,000 young people were employed through One Summer Chicago. LRNG: CHI was made available to One Summer Chicago participants, with a particular emphasis on youth employed through Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services and the Chicago Housing Authority.

Partner agencies included:



Supported by:



Together with **One Summer Chicago partner agencies**, LRNG: CHI supported young people with career readiness and financial literacy by offering interactive and exciting digital content to help youth prepare for the workplace and responsibly manage their hard-earned money.

LRNG: CHI CONTENT

1 Playlists:

Curated groups of learning experiences that connect young people in Chicago to learning opportunities. LRNG playlists promote practical 21st century skills, like financial literacy and job readiness.

2 XPs:

Experiences (or activities) that make up a playlist or stand alone, such as games, a DIY project, tutorial, or an online course. XPs can be digital (online) or local (in person).

3 Digital Badges:

Shareable, digital credentials that provide evidence of a meaningful learning achievement. When youth complete a playlist, their work is assessed by a team of educators who provide youth with personalized feedback on their submissions. The assessor may give the youth feedback. Once the youth has successfully completed the playlist, they will earn a digital badge that they can share on their social media channels and on their resumes.

One Summer Chicago participants used LRNG: CHI to learn about financial and workplace topics, including:

- The benefits of direct deposit
- How to handle taxes and maximize pay
- How to protect your identity
- Dressing for success
- Workplace norms

PARTICIPATION



7,000

One Summer Chicago youth who registered for LRNG: CHI.

40%

On average, youth who accessed LRNG: CHI outside of work time. LRNG can be accessed anytime, anywhere, on computers, mobile phones and tablets.

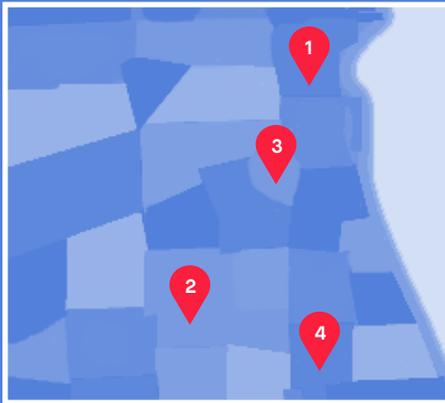
Youth earned more than
22,500

Digital badges for work readiness and financial responsibility.

USER TESTING

LRNG: CHI partnered with Chicago Public Library YOUmedia centers to host more than 30 user testing sessions with young people from across the City. As part of each session, young people tested the platform and provided valuable feedback that helped LRNG improve its content and navigation.

Sessions were conducted at library locations in:



- 1 the Loop
- 2 Back of the Yards
- 3 Chinatown
- 4 Washington Heights

WHAT YOUTH HAD TO SAY ABOUT LRNG: CHI PLAYLISTS:

“The skills in this specific playlist will help me become more mature financially. It’s best not to go on a spending spree. It’s not to say you shouldn’t buy things for yourself, but it’s best to shop intelligently. For youth, if you really want to buy something, I suggest doing price comparisons...”

“It is essential to conduct yourself in a manner appropriate for the office, community, and environments one is working in.

Communication is a key to this. If you are running late, communicate. If you have a problem, communicate. If you are unsure, reach out to your supervisor.”



COLLABORATION

LRNG: CHI staff facilitated more than **a dozen** trainings for One Summer Chicago staff and instructors responsible for helping youth navigate the platform and encouraging participation.



Jose, 18
One Summer Chicago Participant

What Jose loves most about interning at Back of the Yards Library is being part of a space where young people can learn new skills they aren’t learning in school. He is proud that the library is a safe space that keeps young people off the streets. This summer, Jose was also excited to use LRNG to make the most of his summer paychecks and save for his future.

“Learning about taxes and how to manage money was so helpful. It showed me how to start saving.”