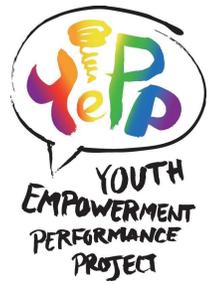


# Chicago Youth Mutual Aid (CYMA)

## *Donation Drive Guide*



### **Chicago Youth Mutual Aid (CYMA):**

The Chicago Youth Mutual Aid, best known as CYMA, is an effort born from the collaboration of five Black and Brown grassroots organizations in Chicago serving youth and their families: Assata's Daughters, Chicago Freedom School, Circles & Ciphers, Street Youth Rise Up, and Youth Empowerment Performance Project. Even though this effort was created as a response to COVID-19, these organizations are invested in continuing this project in the long-term.

### **YEPP's Mission:**

Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) strives to create a brave environment for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex (LGBTQI+) youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and to celebrate their strengths through personal, leadership and community development programming that incorporate different art-expression forms.

### **How to coordinate a Donation Drive:**

- 1. Set a date:** Decide when you'd like to hold the drive. Your drive could last 1 day, 3 days, a week, a month—it's up to you!
- 2. Create a list:** Check out our Master List of Needs at [bit.ly/CYMANeedsList](https://bit.ly/CYMANeedsList) to see what CYMA is currently collecting. Decide which items you will ask people to donate, based on the CYMA List of Needs.
- 3. Plan your space:** Choose the location(s) where you want to receive items. Also think about where you will store the items before they're delivered, and who will help transport the items between locations.

→ Items are best stored in plastic containers, sturdy cardboard boxes can also work. The more accessible your item drop-off locations are, the more people can participate in your drive!

**4. Get the word out:** Let people know you're having a drive! Send an email, post on Facebook/Instagram/Twitter, make a Facebook event & invite your community, print & distribute fliers, etc.

→ If you need sample posts or want support in developing a flyer, or let us know! We have resources to help you with that.

**5. Collect the items:** Now the fun begins. Let people know your drive is starting. Maybe keep the excitement going with virtual updates. Make sure your collection sites have people available to receive the items as they're donated (depending on the length of your drive, you might consider creating volunteer shifts, providing food/drinks for volunteers, having accessible bathrooms at drop-off locations, etc.).

→ During these COVID times, make sure you're keeping yourself and others safe! Masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc. can help you, volunteers, and anyone donating to feel safer participating in your drive.

**6. Deliver the items:** When you've completed your drive, please email [Bonsai@WeSayYEPP.com](mailto:Bonsai@WeSayYEPP.com) with the subject line: CYMA Donation. In the content of the email, please provide the following:

- Your Name
- Your Pronoun(s)
- Contact Email
- Contact Phone Number
- Best way to connect with you (email, phone call, text, etc.)
- Items you are donating—including the amount, if applicable

→ Once we receive your email, a team member will be in contact with you to coordinate a plan for getting the items to the CYMA Distribution Center (i.e. picking up/dropping off supplies).

**Thank you for supporting CYMA!**