

REPORT CARD FY13

*Community!
Youth Concepts*



Dear Friends,

This year, as our work continues to expand throughout central Iowa and the state, I have been contemplating our roots. Not our roots as a small, community-based organization, but our roots as a society. As we have seen the sprouting of local efforts to decrease the food deserts, it reminds me of how grounded we are in the ways and traditions of an agricultural society. In times of our forefathers, life revolved around the fields. The crops determined the priorities and everyone was encouraged to learn by doing. If you were old enough to contribute to the livelihood of the family, this was the expectation. There was no resources nor time for modern-day distractions. Conversations were about homework and farm work, not about screen time and extra-curricular practices.

In many ways, we have advanced as a society. But, in our haste to grow, it seems as if we left some of the basics behind. As we removed ourselves and our children from the day-to-day work expectations, we also lost the sense of pride that comes when you contribute to a goal that is larger than yourself. We also moved away from the positive natural consequences that happen when you work with others. While the work is hard, you build camaraderie, decision-making skills, problem-solving, the ability to communicate, and teamwork. Of course, as an Iowan, I would be remiss if I did not mention the basic value of hard work.

It seems to me that the pendulum is beginning to swing the other way. Employers remark on the missing 21st Century skills of the next generation of employees. Schools are changing their curriculum to align with the development of much needed critical thinking skills and slowly, we are understanding the power of creative thinking when it comes to real-world problem-solving. Parents are recognizing it, too. They remark how their children are disconnected from others in their community and they are lacking perspective. Perhaps this is no different than generations before them, but they genuinely seem more concerned about changing that reality.

Programs like those offered through CYC continue to help lead these changes in perspectives. Thank you for continuing to believe in us.

All my best,



Amy Ostrander Croll LMSW, CPS
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

We ensure all youth have access to high quality opportunities that prepare them for success in school, work and life.

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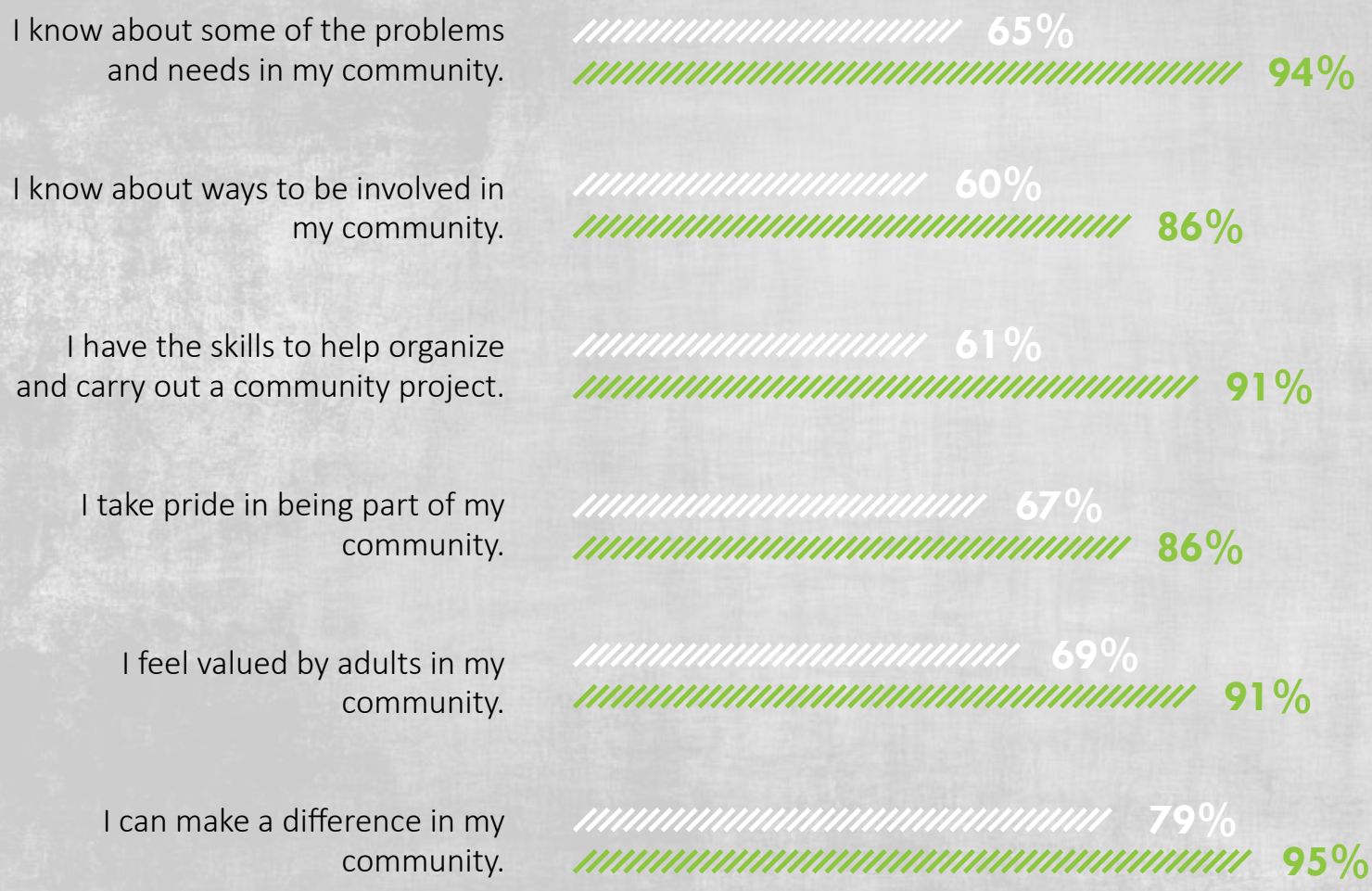
IN ACTION RESULTS

COMMUNITY IN ACTION (CIA)

CIA programming represents opportunities for youth to get engage in their community through classroom or out-of-school time. In FY2013, CYC intentionally began to shift its focus from direct service to building the capacity of other organizations to engage youth in service-learning. Even with this shift, CYC still worked with 444 elementary, middle, and high school youth, getting them involved in their community through short-term projects. Of those students, 14% report another language besides English being their primary language, 29% identify with a race other than caucasian, and 16% report having a modification in their school environment.

Projects can be one of three types of service, direct, indirect, or advocacy. The type of service depends on the interests of the students, teachers, and the community. Every student who engages in service through CYC programming is taken through CYC’s Integrating Service Model, which relies heavily on the IPARD/C model, the model of best practice for service-learning (Corporation for National and Community Service). Also, students are able to demonstrate and celebrate their success with their peers, families, and the community.

In FY14, CIA will take on a whole new level of development as CYC will partner with Des Moines Public Schools to infuse service-learning into the classroom structure of eight International Baccalaureate schools with the assistance of AmeriCorps members. CYC staff will train and support these members as they develop into service ambassadors within the schools and support the teaching staff in connecting service to the curriculum.





The Mentoring Advantage Program, referred to as MAP, is the only career-based youth mentoring program in the state of Iowa and the only one in central Iowa open to all middle and high school students.

ACADEMIC
OUTCOMES

MATCHED FOR AT
LEAST ONE YEAR

Percent of students
reducing school absences

100% of middle school students decreased school absences
by an average of 5 days

Percent of students
reducing school absences

50% of program participants decreased
school absences by an average of 4.7 days

30%, average reduction of
5.3 days in suspension

Percent of students
reducing office referrals

36%, average reduction of 7
office referrals

MENTORING
ADVANTAGE
PROGRAM



In FY13, MAP served 58 youth, connecting each of them with a mentor in their chosen field of interest. Of these students, 64% were high school students, 59% receive targeted school services, 57% are female, 38% are immigrant youth, and 53% identify as a racial minority. Each of these students had the opportunity to participate in career-based and relationship-building activities. Students in CYC’s mentoring program showed academic improvement, reduced student absences, and decreased suspensions and office referrals.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

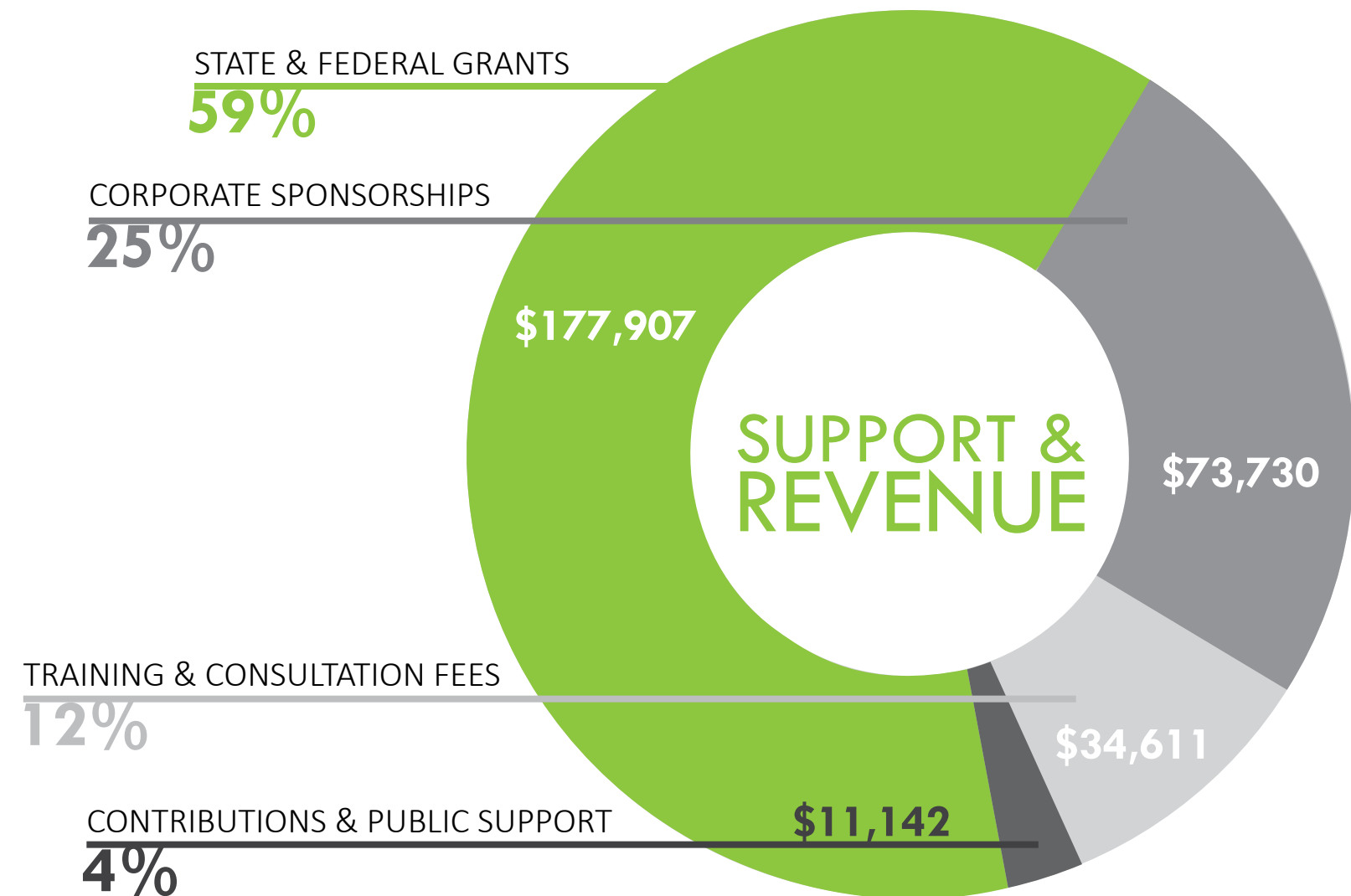
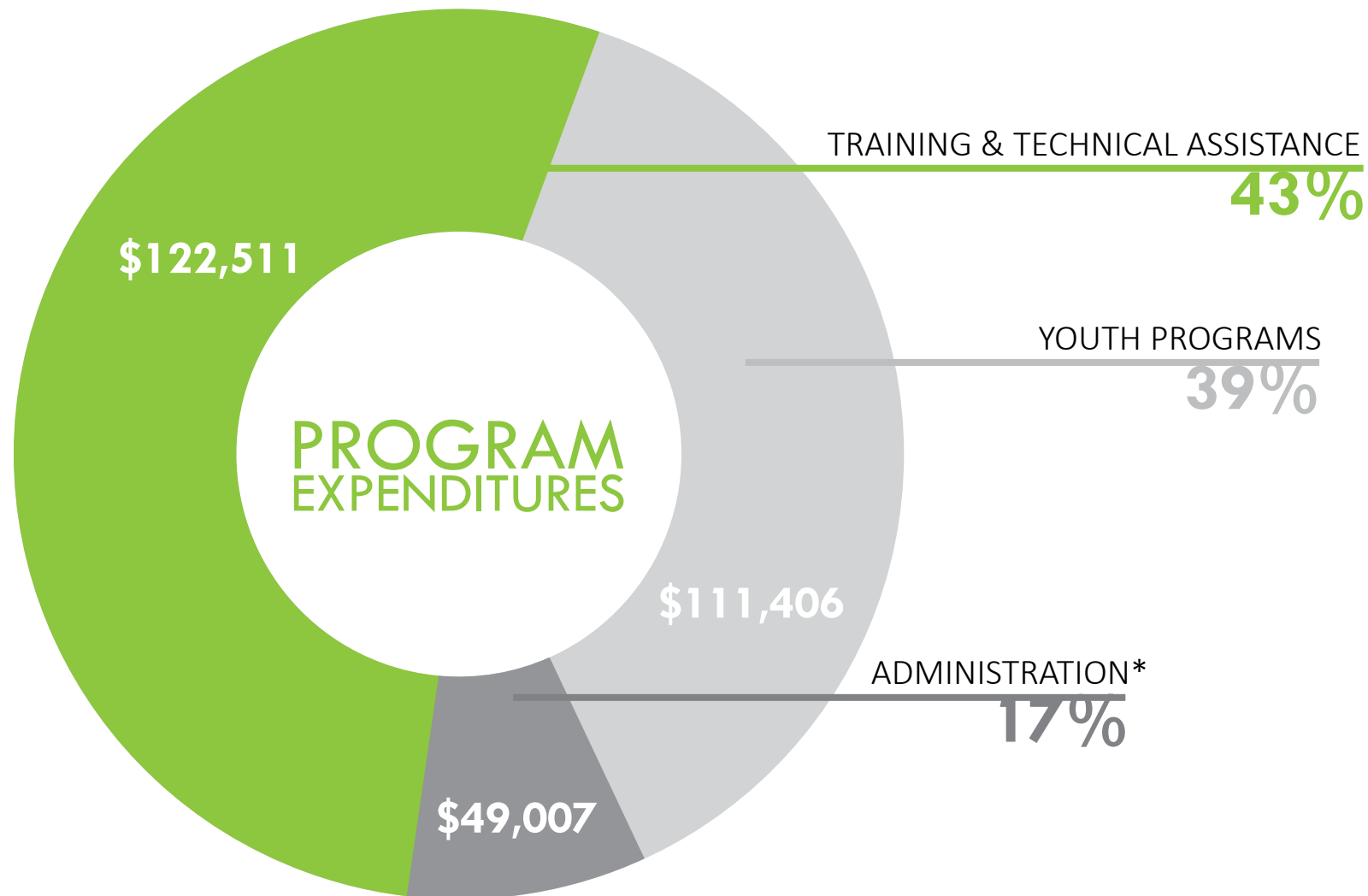
CYC staff members and its network of nine consultants are certified trainers in numerous curriculums and processes and are able to offer continuing education units through the Iowa Department of Human Services. CYC staff currently serves as national field consultants for the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and the Forum for Youth Investment, American Camping Association, and the Wyman Center's Teen Outreach Program. In FY13, 501 youth-serving professional participated in 36 trainings offered by CYC. Furthermore, CYC staff and its network provided program quality assessment services to 56 program sites state-wide. These assessments were utilized to inform training options and work with staff to develop program improvement plans which staff could easily implement to improve practice. Coaching services were provided to 61% of these sites. All of the sites that participated in coaching stated the process helped improve the quality of their programs.

Of those trained, 301 completed CYC evaluation forms. Those evaluations show 93% of participants rate the trainer's skills as high and 97% stated the facilitator used effective communication and facilitation technique, was knowledgeable about the content. Of participants, 93% stated it was worth their time and they learned new skills or strengthened current skills. Ninety-four percent stated the information is applicable to their current position.

SIDEWALK CHALK FLOOD EVENT

The 3rd annual Sidewalk Chalk Flood was brief, as it truly was a flood for the first time. Before the rains came, CYC was well on its way to breaking an attendance record with over 250 youth and adults partaking in the activities. We are looking forward to the 4th annual Sidewalk Chalk Flood in August 2013.

FINANCIALS



*Administration includes strategic planning, rent, insurance, financial review, and utilities.

ON THE HORIZON

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It is anticipated that FY2014 will continue to be a year of growth. CYC plans to expand the lessons learned through the work with Des Moines Public Schools to an additional seven sites state-wide and up to ten central Iowa sites. By working with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service, CYC anticipates the launch of an Iowa Service-Learning Network that can support the collective work of those interested in service.

MAP will see an intentional focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math as we continue to see workforce data that suggests deficits in these career areas in central Iowa.

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THANK YOU DONORS

\$20,000 OR MORE

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service
Iowa Department of Public Health
Mid-Iowa Health Foundation
Chrysalis Foundation

\$5,000 TO \$19,999

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UP TO \$4,999

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