

Leadership, Education, and Athletics in Partnership (LEAP)

Program Purpose and Design

LEAP develops young leaders who create and operate year-round, neighborhood-based programs to support children in historically underserved New Haven neighborhoods. Programs focus on literacy, youth development, aquatics, college access, reinforcing academic growth and leadership skills.

Funding

- **State Appropriation:** \$312,211
- **Total FY 24 Expenditures:** \$6.83 million
- **Funding Sources:** 44% individuals, 36% foundations, 18% government

Program Location

LEAP operates free summer programming every weekday from 8:00 – 4:00 pm and after-school programming Monday through Thursday from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at eight sites across six low-income New Haven neighborhoods. These programs take place in the Dixwell, Newhall Ville, Fair Haven, Hill, Dwight-Kensington, and Quinnipiac Meadows neighborhoods, providing children with accessible, community-based learning environments. In addition, LEAP's Roslyn Milstein Meyer Community Center and the Dixwell Community Q House serve as hubs for enrichment activities. Additional community programming takes place at the Dixwell Q House, offering free classes and events for families. The aquatics program, held at the Roslyn Milstein Meyer Community Center, is free for LEAP program participants and available to community members for a small fee.

Numbers Served in FY 2024-2025

LEAP has distinct programming for four different age groups of young people ranging from age 7 through 24. This past year, LEAP provided free programming for 1,633 young people. Over 92 percent of LEAP children qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. LEAP also provided 653 children with swimming lessons. Below is the number of young people served in each age group.

- **Children's Program:** 1,126 (ages 7-12)
- **Leaders in Training:** 217 youth (ages 13-15)
- **Junior Counselors:** 101 high school students employed (ages 16-18)
- **Senior Counselors:** 189 college students employed (ages 18 -24)

Outcome Data

LEAP consistently tracks program effectiveness through pre- and post-program assessments, participant surveys, and attendance records. Recent results show that 78 percent of children in LEAP's phonics program reported learning new strategies to read unfamiliar words. Additionally, via pre and post-tests, 81 percent of students improved their ability to decode sound patterns, and 97 percent of parents said they would recommend LEAP to other families. Junior Counselor and Leaders in Training programs continue to build a strong pipeline of leadership, with 100 percent of Junior Counselors being former LEAP participants. With help from the college access program, 100 percent of LEAP high school student junior counselors graduated from high school.