

Research

ACA's research team worked diligently in fiscal year 2024 to advance camps' ability to provide impactful youth and staff experiences through industry-leading research as well as grant-funded and program quality initiatives.

LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS PROJECT

Phase 1 of ACA's Leadership Pathways Project (Empowering Youth Through Counselor-in-Training Programs) wrapped up its final year of supporting 22 camps with grant funding, communities of practice, and shared training opportunities. Phase 2 launched immediately after, awarding 21 camps across the country with funds to build new counselor-in-training programs or improve existing programs, through a three-year community of practice experience. The goal of this project is aligned with ACA's strategic goals to increase access to camp leadership roles for campers and young staff from underrepresented backgrounds.

CAMP-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

In year three of this innovative collaboration with the National Summer Learning Association, ACA supported nine camps serving students in the New York City, Los Angeles, and San Francisco metro areas. Camps partnered with public school administrators, teachers, and volunteer chaperones to co-create outdoor experiences for students from historically Title I schools, who may have never attended camp before. This project meets ACA's mission to increase access to camp experiences, and the overwhelmingly positive teacher responses support that fact, such as one in Los Angeles who said camp was, "actually a life-changing experience for some of my students."

CAMP PROGRAM QUALITY

Ongoing efforts to scale up Camp Program Quality at ACA was central to our pursuit of excellence and unwavering commitment to quality youth and staff experiences at camp. This work blends together peer-led assessments, a knowledge-sharing community, and comprehensive workbooks. Collectively, these components gave camps the tools and support to continuously improve the quality of camp programs.

INDIANA YOUTH PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS

The Indiana Youth Programs on Campus (IYPC) Initiative offered tailored support for youth program providers at colleges and universities in the state of Indiana. As the training and technical assistance provider, ACA delivered specialized resources, training, and networking opportunities to nearly every college and university in the state, enriching on-campus camp programs with the goal of strengthening college-going pathways for Indiana youth.



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