



## Charles Koch-led group invests almost \$2 million in Chicago-area nonprofits

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Programs that assist young and poor people plan to expand, thanks to donations from a group led by the billionaire businessman.

Youth Guidance, a Chicago-based nonprofit that mentors and assists at-risk young people, has received \$1 million from Stand Together, an initiative supported by billionaire businessman Charles Koch. The donation, announced today, is part of a total \$6.86 million given to 10 nonprofits nationwide that work with children and youth.

Earlier this month, Chicago-based Cara, which offers workforce development for at-risk youth, received \$700,000 from Stand Together, and I.C. Stars, a Chicago nonprofit that helps low-income people launch tech careers, received \$50,000 from the organization.

The \$1 million to Youth Guidance will help it expand its Becoming a Man and Working on Womanhood mentoring programs in Chicago and nationwide. The programs currently serve 11,000 young people in Chicago and 300 young men in Boston, says CEO Michelle Adler Morrison, who notes that organization's annual budget is about \$27 million. Last October, Youth Guidance received \$2.6 million from the city of Chicago, as Mayor Rahm Emanuel champions the mentoring programs as a solution to the city's violence problem.

The \$700,000 donation to Cara will help it expand its programs throughout Chicago and nationally, as well. "With Stand Together's investment not just in our local practice, but in our overall mission, we will get the help we need to do this at scale," said Cara CEO Maria Kim in a statement announcing the donation. Kim called the donation "catalytic." I.C. Stars will use its \$50,000 donation to pilot a new program that will increase by 19 percent the number of people it serves.

Stand Together, which Koch launched in 2016, grants money to nonprofits that address poverty issues nationwide. It's an offshoot of Koch's Seminar Network, founded in 2003 to help connect entrepreneurs in order to fix social ills such as poverty, education and injustices in the criminal justice system. Charles Koch, CEO of multi-company conglomerate Koch Industries, is

reportedly worth \$50 billion. He is a co-founder of the libertarian think tank Cato Institute in Washington, D.C.