

Advisory Board

The work of the Center is guided by an expert advisory board of Chicagoans committed to and experienced in community partnerships and engagement efforts. Board members include:

- *Faith Covici*, Deputy Regional Health Administrator, Region V, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- *Elizabeth Lee*, Senior Program Officer, Michael Reese Health Trust
- *John McKnight*, Co-Director, The Asset Based Community Development Institute, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University
- *Jackie Reed*, Director, Westside Health Authority
- *Clarence Wood*, Executive Director, City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations & Executive Director, Hull House Association

Contact Information

For more information on the Chicago Center for Community Partnerships or for linkages to specific coalitions, contact:

Chicago Center for Community Partnerships
Chicago Department of Public Health
333 S. State St., Room 320
Chicago, IL 60604
312-747-8820
partnerships@cdph.org
www.cityofchicago.org/health/partnerships



Chicago Department of Public Health
John Wilhelm, M.D. M.P.H.
Commissioner



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Chicago Center for Community Partnerships



Working Together
for a Healthier Chicago

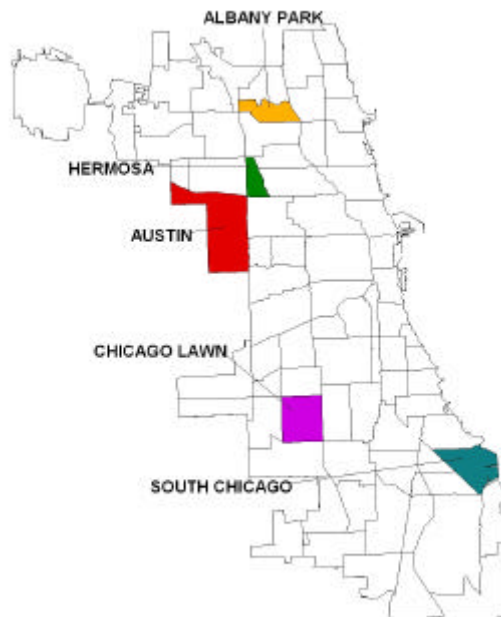
The Chicago Center for Community Partnerships

Mission and Background

The mission of the Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) Chicago Center for Community Partnerships (the Center) is to establish and support a sustainable network of community-based partnerships that have the capacity to identify and implement local health improvement priorities. The concept for the Center evolved from the efforts of the CDPH and the 26-member Chicago Partnership for Public Health's *Plan for Public Health System Improvement*. A critical component of CDPH's vision and key among the strategies of the Partnership's strategic plan were those designed to create a broad-based public health constituency and build the capacity of communities to establish priorities and influence public health resources.

In 2001, a small grant from the Kellogg Foundation was used to pilot an approach for meaningful neighborhood-level community health planning and partnerships. With the establishment of the Healthy South Chicago Coalition, the foundation was set for a citywide network of community-based public health improvement partnerships.

Currently, the Center supports partnerships in five communities: Albany Park, Austin, Chicago Lawn, Hermosa, and South Chicago.



Building Relationships

The Center works to increase community capacity throughout Chicago by helping communities access and analyze health data, sharing information about grants and other opportunities, and facilitating linkages to other coalitions, community organizations, and City agencies.

The Center also supports selected communities in efforts to engage in a health improvement planning process designed to increase the community's capacity to think strategically about and address issues that affect the community's health. The planning process includes six phases: (1) coalition development; (2) creation of a community vision; (3) a series of four community assessments, considering health status, community perceptions, environmental forces and trends, and local resources; (4) identification of strategic issues; (5) development of strategies to address identified issues, and; (6) the development and implementation of action plans. This approach is unique in that it is a community-led process within a structured framework, data collection is driven by the community, technical assistance is provided by a large public health agency, and appropriate citywide and community-level roles are identified.

Training Opportunities

The Center also offers a variety of workshops and trainings, including:

- *Grant Development.* CDPH grant writers conduct a development workshop for coalitions, focusing on identifying potential funding sources, how to approach foundations, and the specific nuts and bolts of crafting a grant proposal.
 - *Media Training.* This training focuses on ways local coalitions can work with their community and citywide media outlets to promote their activities, engage support and bring attention to pressing issues facing their communities.
 - *Policy Advocacy.* Coalitions learn how to work together to inform public health policy and craft policy agendas as one vehicle for addressing local public health needs
 - *Data Use.* This training assists coalitions in understanding and interpreting data. Participants will also discuss ways to best combine existing data from different sources to create a comprehensive description of their community area.
 - *Training through the Asset Based Community Development Institute.* Coalitions may receive training on ways to reach deeper into their communities and engage residents and other non-institutional representatives in coalition activities.
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