

Healthy Chicago Lawn



Strategic Plan for
Community Health Improvement

Executive Summary

Healthy Chicago Lawn Coalition

Coalition Coordinator: Ilana Gotz Bodini

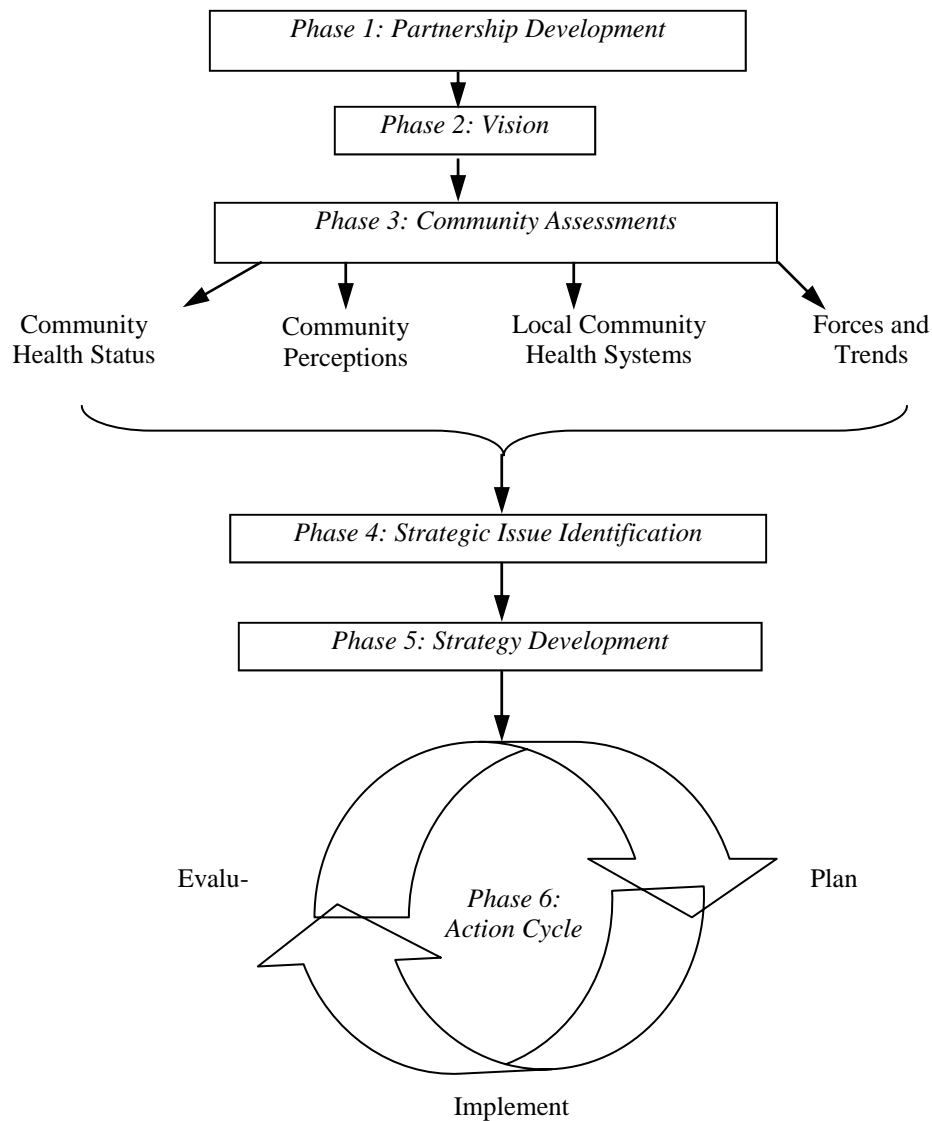
Members:

15th Ward Alderman Ted Thomas' Office
16th District State Senator Jacqueline Collins' Office
6400 S. Fairfield Block Club
71st and 72nd S. Sawyer Ave. Block Club
Ada S. McKinley Community Services
Arab American Action Network
Beth Shalom B'Nai Zaken Ethiopian Hebrew Congregation
Cease Fire
Chicago Department of Public Health
Chicago Department on Aging, Southwest Center
Chicago Police Department 8th District
Chicago Public Library – Chicago Lawn Branch
Community Mental Health Council, Inc.
Friend Family Health Center
Greater Southwest Development Corporation
Healthy Schools Campaign
Holy Cross Hospital
Inner City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) Health Clinic
Jarocki, GailAnn – 15th Ward Precinct Captain
Latino Organization of the Southwest
Maria High School
Marquette Elementary School
Metropolitan Family Services
Neighborhood Housing Services
New Communities Program
New Hope Ministry
Rio Valley Grocery
Sakevicius, Vida – Nativity B.V.M.
Social Services Assisting Neighborhood Arab-American Development (SANAD)
Shinners, Jeri – Queen of the Universe church
Sisters of St. Casimir
Southwest Chicago PADS
Southwest Organizing Project
Southwest Women Working Together
Southwest Youth Collaborative
TASC/System of Care
UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy
YouthNet Region 5

Healthy Chicago Lawn's Strategic Plan for Community Health Improvement

The Healthy Chicago Lawn Coalition (HCL) was formed in April 2004 and is supported by the Chicago Center for Community Partnerships at the Chicago Department of Public Health. Coalition members followed a community health improvement planning model adapted from the National Association of County and City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, called Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP). The coalition assessed the Chicago Lawn community's strengths, assets, and needs and formulated a plan to address identified concerns.

Healthy Chicago Lawn's Road To Community Health Improvement



Healthy Chicago Lawn Vision Statement

Our vision for a healthy Chicago Lawn is a safe, inclusive, culturally accepting community in which people feel connected and invested. Building on existing and seeking new resources, our community fosters collaboration among all of its members, developing and promoting an environment that provides high quality of life.

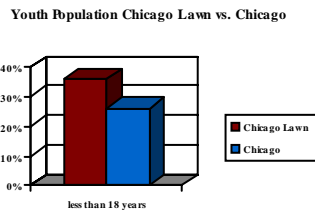
Community Assessments

Community Health Status Assessment

The Chicago Lawn community area is located on the southwest side of Chicago and has a population of 61,412. Its neighbors include the community areas of Gage Park, West Englewood, Ashburn, and West Lawn.

The area was historically populated by Lithuanians, but has since experienced demographic changes which have created an extremely diverse community, including African-American, Latino, and Middle Eastern residents. Chicago Lawn's diversity is further highlighted by the fact that 21% of its population was born outside of the United States, 37% of whom entered the United States between 1990 and 2000. Additionally, nearly one-third of Chicago Lawn residents identified Spanish as their primary language.

In recent years, Chicago Lawn has also seen an increase in the number of youth living in the community. According to the 2000 census, over 35% of Chicago Lawn's community is comprised of youth who are less than 18 years of age; this percentage is particularly striking when compared to the city of Chicago.



For the Chicago Lawn community the leading causes of death are consistent with those in Chicago. However Chicago Lawn stands out in two areas when compared with Chicago: unintentional injury and homicide. The death rate for unintentional injury in Chicago Lawn is nearly 46 and homicide is 29, compared with Chicago at 36 and 21 respectively.

Among all live births in Chicago Lawn, the percent of teen births has risen from nearly 18% in 1992 to almost 21% in 2002. Additionally, the percent of low birthweight infants being born has risen to 11% for 2002, as compared to 9% in 1992. However, more women are receiving prenatal care and there have been significant declines in the percentage of women who smoke during pregnancy.

In the past decade, the percentage of women who smoke during pregnancy has decreased from 15% to 8%.

Additionally, nearly 16% of Chicago Lawn's population is unemployed and close to 47% of the population lives at 200% of the poverty level or below. In both cases, this exceeds what is found in many of the surrounding areas as well as the city of Chicago.

Community Perceptions Assessment

Nine focus groups, involving 70 participants from the community, and 11 key informant interviews were conducted to gather perspectives about Chicago Lawn from community members and leaders. Points of discussion included: key social issues in Chicago Lawn; thoughts on health within the community and what is going well and; barriers to staying healthy.

Key Findings—Focus Groups and Interviews

Strengths:

- Desire to work together
- Potential of Marquette Park as a resource
- Diversity

Concerns:

- Crime and drugs
- Gang activity and violence
- Don't know how to get involved in community
- Lack of outlets and opportunities for youth
- Lack of access to information and awareness of resources
- Lack of affordable health care
- Language barriers

Local Community Health Systems Assessment

This assessment was conducted using data collected from two different sources: Chicago Lawn Community Health Profile as developed by the Chicago Department of Public Health- Chicago Health and Health Systems Project and; Community Landscape Asset Mapping (CLAM).

The Chicago Lawn Community Health Profile contained a mix of health status and health resource data for the community area.

Key Findings—Community Health Profile

- 1 hospital within Chicago Lawn community
- 1 hospital-affiliated health center located directly within Chicago Lawn, and 1 community-based health center on the border between Chicago Lawn and Gage Park.
- While there are other facilities within a 3 mile radius of Chicago Lawn, there are distinct geographic challenges in accessing them such as limited availability of public transportation services.

The CLAM assessment involved three types of block-by-block assessments: Looking Around, Grocery Shopping, and Eating Out. These assessments measure a variety of quality of life indicators in the Chicago Lawn community through community resident observation.

Key Findings—CLAM

Looking Around:

- 385 blocks assessed
- 27% have at least one vacant lot
- 28% have buildings and/or homes with dilapidated windows
- 14% had at least one police car present
- There are 9 dentists with private offices in Chicago Lawn

Grocery Shopping:

- 44 stores assessed
- 30% sold liquor, beer, or wine
- 70% sold tobacco
- 59% had “We Card” signs for age eligibility to purchase tobacco products
- 34% carried fresh fruits
- 27% carried fresh vegetables

Eating Out:

- 56 total restaurants assessed
- 46% were take out restaurants
- 46% were smoke free
- 43% offer vegetarian dishes
- Among those that served meat: 54% offered chicken that was grilled and/or fried; 68% offered beef that was grilled and 20% offered it fried; 48% offered fish that was fried.

Forces and Trends Assessment

Coalition members identified external forces and trends that impact the health of the community:

- Cuts in government funding
- High rate of re-entry of ex-offenders
- Increase in number of youth under the age of 18
- Lack of training, re-training, education, and other necessary skills to enter workforce
- Loss of manufacturing jobs
- Existing health care facilities at-risk
- Demographic changes – increased immigration
- Decreased homeownership
- Distrust of health system and insurance
- Lack of affordable childcare
- Less physical activity among youth and adults
- Overcrowding in schools
- Increased gang activity

Strategic Issue Identification

Healthy Chicago Lawn identified strategic issues by exploring the combined results of the four assessments. The identified issues represent the prominent cross-cutting findings that need to be addressed to reach the coalition’s vision.

Identified Strategic Issues

How can the HCL Coalition:

1. Work to ensure a safe community?
2. Provide safe alternatives and opportunities for youth?
3. Foster healthy child development?
4. Enhance access and utilization of health and social services?
5. Increase knowledge and awareness of health resources?
6. Increase availability of healthy food options?
7. Better promote healthy lifestyle choices?
8. Help strengthen the economic base?
9. Help create awareness and acceptance of diversity?

Action Area and Strategy Development

To address the strategic issues, the HCL coalition developed a series of strategies grouped into four broad action areas.

I: Awareness/Access to Comprehensive Health Services

- Increase support for, awareness of, and access to existing health and social service resources
- Increase access, awareness, and use of more comprehensive mental health care services for youth (including youth and family focus)
- Enroll more Chicago Lawn children in KidCare/FamilyCare
- Ensure primary care services are culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Expand primary care and urgent care centers to decrease utilization of Emergency Room for non-emergent issues

2: *Healthy Lifestyles and Behaviors*

- Address attitudes, behaviors, and responses that support and/or promote violence
- Promote healthy eating and lifestyles
- Increase availability of healthy foods in schools and organizations in the Chicago Lawn community
- Develop health education programs
- Enhance nutrition education in schools – enhance/improve awareness

3: *Youth*

- Create/expand more opportunities for Chicago Lawn youth (including those in school, not in school, not going to college)
- Decrease number of youth not in school
- Create/expand programs that harness the energy of Chicago Lawn youth and direct it towards positive youth development through active engagement in HCL's activities.
- Promote safe playgrounds in Chicago Lawn neighborhood

4: *Community/Civic Engagement*

- Work with police to increase security
- Address attitudes toward violence
- Coordinate efforts of Chicago Lawn community groups such as block clubs
- Increase resources in the Chicago Lawn community
- As a coalition, influence/be involved in policy and civic awareness

Action Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation

To address priority strategies, the HCL coalition is in the process of developing an action plan. Coalition members continually assess membership to assure that key players are involved in the work of the coalition. Members of the coalition participate in action area sub-committees and plan, develop, and implement the specific actions that address each strategy. Critical to the success of each action plan has been the creation and strengthening of collaborations to best leverage available resources.

As the coalition changes and new issues emerge, the coalition will adapt as necessary, revisiting the assessments, the vision and membership on a regular basis.

Healthy Chicago Lawn



Working Together for a Healthier Chicago

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Chicago Center for Community Partnerships

The Healthy Chicago Lawn Coalition is a partner of and is supported by the Chicago Center for Community Partnerships (the Center) at the Chicago Department of Public Health. The goal of 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. Center staff provide technical assistance to local partnerships in conducting and implementing health improvement plans.

The Center currently supports four other community area coalitions:

Healthy Albany Park
Healthy Austin
Healthy Hermosa
Healthy South Chicago

For more information, contact the Chicago Center for Community Partnerships at:

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partnerships@cdph.org
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