

## Building Healthy Communities in Suburban Cook County: Overview of Funding Source(s) and Strategy(ies)

Strategies	Description
<b>CDC National Initiative to Address Health Disparities (CDC Health Equity Grant)</b>	
1. COVID Program & Services	As of February 2022, suburban Cook County had 503,711 cases and 6,224 deaths from COVID-19. While case rates are declining, working to increase vaccine acceptance and rates, improve equitable access to COVID-19 therapeutics, and increase the availability of testing and other mitigation resources continue to be critical in mitigating the spread of COVID-19, preventing hospitalizations, and preparing for a new variant or surge. <b>Grantees will conduct COVID-19-related outreach, education, and promotion; coordination of COVID-19 vaccine and testing events, and/or resource coordination to support quarantine and isolation and to lessen the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.</b>
2. IL Pathways for Health	Age and underlying chronic conditions are associated with severe illness from COVID. COVID-19 has also disproportionately burdened black and brown communities. IL Pathways is designed to connect people with evidence-based health promotion programs, including those that help people better manage their chronic health condition(s) and reduce their risk. <b>Grantees will be trained and responsible for delivering at least two evidence-based health promotion program workshop series (e.g., Chronic Disease Self-Management Program); promotion of the programs through communication strategies; and participation in monthly convenings for program guidance.</b>
3. Community Action for Worker Safety (CAWS)	COVID-19 illuminated workplace health and safety issues and highlighted social issues that the precarious workforce faces. It further emphasized challenges in enforcing existing health and safety laws. Critical to an overall recovery strategy is the development and implementation of multi-layered, co-enforcement approach, including a community-driven model, that protects and promotes worker rights, health, and safety. Funding will support the development and implementation of CAWS. <b>Grantees will conduct community-based mapping and assessments of current workplace conditions and bring together government agencies, labor expertise, community organizations and volunteers to support ongoing worker and workplace outreach and education.</b>
4. Organizational Health Literacy	Health literacy is “the degree to which individuals can obtain, process, understand, and communicate about health-related information needed to make informed health decisions” (Berkman et al., 2010). The COVID-19 pandemic increased the demands on health literacy for all those who lived and worked in suburban Cook County. Supporting organizations in advancing health literacy is one crucial component to building effective health literacy systems that reduce system complexity and increase access to opportunities and resources. <b>Grantees will participate in trainings and workshops related to health literacy; execute an organizational health literacy assessment; advance at minimum one policy or practice aligned with <a href="#">attributes of a health literate organization</a>; and engage in a learning community.</b> This strategy is complementary to the others listed.
5. Community Health Workers (CHWs)	Health disparities have worsened within communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. CHWs are “frontline public health workers who are trusted members of the community they serve” and are well-positioned to reach communities and populations hit hardest by COVID-19. This is one of two funding opportunities that support implementation of the CHW model to build a more expansive CHW network and be able to provide supports to more CHWs and their respective organizations. <b>Grantees will sustain or expand existing CHWs and provide them training to build and strengthen community resilience to fight COVID-19 and health disparities. CHW supervisors and organizational leadership will further have the opportunity participate in trainings and learn from their peers to maximize impact and sustain the CHW model.</b>

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<b>ARPA</b>	
6. Mental Health	Mental health is an essential part of overall health. It impacts the way in which people feel about themselves, how they build relationships and interact with others and the world around them, and how they perform at school, work, and throughout life. COVID-19 has impacted the mental health of people across all ages, whereby the country is currently experiencing a national mental health crisis. <b>Grantees will maintain or expand existing programs or services that promote mental health.</b> This may include mental health education and peer support groups, skills and training development, community-based treatment, resource coordinator and system navigation, evidence-based interventions, and outreach and education that minimizes stigma and increases access to care.
7. Food Insecurity	COVID-19 increased food insecurity rates across suburban Cook County. Food insecurity is the continuous lack of access to enough food for every person in a household to live healthy and active lives, which increased as a result of the pandemic ( <a href="#">Feeding America</a> ). People of color, children, older adults, people with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness are populations hardest hit. <b>Grantees will maintain or expand existing programs and services that build program awareness of federal nutrition (e.g., SNAP, WIC, etc.) or other local programs, help people navigate these food programs, connect communities with food retail and nutrition programs, and improve availability of healthy foods.</b>
8. Positive Youth Dev't	The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health challenges of suburban Cook County youth, with a disproportionate toll being placed among youth who are made to be even more vulnerable (e.g., youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities; youth of color; LGBTQ+ youth; youth living in poverty; youth in immigrant households; youth involved in the justice system, foster care, and child welfare systems; runaway youth; and youth experiencing homelessness). Promoting positive youth development is critical for COVID-19 recovery and resiliency. It is a prosocial approach that engages youth in a productive and constructive way; recognizes, uses, and enhances young people's strengths; and provides opportunities, fosters positive relationships, and furnishes support to build on leadership strengths ( <a href="#">youth.gov</a> ). <b>Grantees will maintain or expand an existing program or service that promotes positive youth development.</b> This may include mentoring, youth leadership, youth entrepreneurship, and job training programs, internships, service opportunities, and other programs that prevent abuse, violence, and risky sexual behaviors or promote social and emotional well-being.
<b>CDC CCR - CHW Grant</b>	
9. Community Health Workers (CHWs)	CHWs have long been an essential position within the public health workforce, as highlighted on pg. 14. This is the second funding opportunity that supports implementation of the CHW model. <b>Grantees will initiate a new CHW program or expand a current one within CBOs or community health centers, given that award recipients will be funded until August 30, 2024. This includes the hiring, training, and deployment of CHWs. CHW supervisors and organizational leadership will further have the opportunity participate in trainings and learn from their peers to maximize impact and sustain the CHW model.</b>
<b>IDPH COVID-19 Crisis Grant</b>	
10. Organizational Sustainability for COVID-19 Resiliency and Recovery	Throughout the pandemic, CBOs have been vital assets in addressing the health, wellness, and economic needs of their community members. Supporting CBOs to strengthen their infrastructure and capacity is essential for COVID resiliency and recovery. <b>Grantees will participate in a Community of Practice with other participating CBOs and engagement with technical assistance opportunities designed to support CBOs in scaling up and spreading their work that advances racial equity and well-being.</b>