

Mission, Vision, and Values of the Health Impact Collaborative of Cook County

Over a three-month period between May and July 2015, the diverse partners involved in the Health Impact Collaborative of Cook County worked together to develop a collaborative-wide mission, vision, and values to guide the CHNA and implementation work. The mission, vision, and values reflect input from over 20 hospitals, seven health departments, and nearly 100 community partners from across Chicago and suburban Cook County.

Mission:

The Health Impact Collaborative of Cook County will work collaboratively with communities to assess community health needs and assets and implement a shared plan to maximize health equity and wellness.

Vision:

Improved health equity, wellness, and quality of life across Chicago and Cook County

Values:

- 1) We believe the highest level of health for all people can only be achieved through the pursuit of **social justice and elimination of health disparities and inequities**.
- 2) We value having a shared vision and goals with alignment of strategies to achieve **greater collective impact while addressing the unique needs of our individual communities**.
- 3) Honoring the diversity of our communities, we value and will strive to include all voices through **meaningful community engagement and participatory action**.
- 4) We are committed to emphasizing assets and strengths and ensuring a process that identifies and **builds on existing community capacity and resources**.
- 5) We are committed to **data-driven decision making** through implementation of evidence-based practices, measurement and evaluation, and using findings to inform resource allocation and quality improvement.
- 6) We are committed to building **trust and transparency** through fostering an atmosphere of open dialogue, compromise, and decision making.
- 7) We are committed to **high quality work to achieve the greatest impact possible**.

The Four Focus Areas for the Health Impact Collaborative of Cook County

Through comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessments and the Collaborative prioritization process involving hospitals, health departments, and Stakeholder Advisory Teams, the Health Impact Collaborative of Cook County identified four “focus areas” as significant health needs:



- 1. Improving social, economic, and structural determinants of health while reducing social and economic inequities.**
- 2. Improving mental health and decreasing substance abuse.**
- 3. Preventing and reducing chronic disease, with a focus on risk factors – nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco.**
- 4. Increasing access to care and community resources.**

Policy, Advocacy, Data Systems, and Community Partnerships are strategies that should be applied across all priorities.

Key Community Health Needs for each of the Collaborative Focus Areas:

Improving social, economic, and structural determinants of health while reducing social and economic inequities.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic inequities and poverty • Education inequities • Healthy environment • Housing and transportation • Safety and violence • Structural racism 		
Improving mental health and reducing substance use.	Preventing and reducing chronic disease prevention.	Increasing access to care and community resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall access to services and funding • Violence and trauma, and ties to mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on risk factors - nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco • Healthy environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural & linguistic competency/ humility • Health literacy • Access to healthcare and social services, and navigating the system, particularly for uninsured and underinsured • Linkages between healthcare providers and community-based organizations for prevention