



HEALTHY CHICAGO

Key Messaging

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Mission & Vision

MESSAGE TOPIC	PEOPLE WHO NEED TO SHARE	PEOPLE WHO NEED TO HEAR/RECEIVE
Vision	Chicago is a city where all people and all communities have power, are free from oppression and are strengthened by equitable access to resources, environments and opportunities that promote optimal health and well-being.	Chicago is a city where all people, in all communities, have an equal opportunity to live full, healthy lives.
Mission	To close the racial life expectancy gap, we will improve systems of care for populations most affected by inequities; further the health and vibrancy of neighborhoods; strengthen community capacity and youth leadership; and transform policies and processes to foster anti-racist, multicultural systems.	To close the life expectancy gap—and to ensure healthier, longer lives for all Chicagoans—we come together to secure power and resources where they're most needed in our communities.

Healthy Chicago Overview

MESSAGE TOPIC	PEOPLE WHO NEED TO SHARE	PEOPLE WHO NEED TO HEAR/RECEIVE
Defining Healthy Chicago	Healthy Chicago is the movement toward addressing health disparities and improving community health for all Chicagoans.	Healthy Chicago is an actionable plan guiding everyone building the tools and a voice in power for all Chicagoans. The goal: healthier, longer lives for all.
Why Healthy Chicago is needed	The life expectancy gap between white and Black Chicagoans is unacceptably wide . And in the 10 years between 2010 and 2020, Latinx Chicagoans had the biggest decline in life expectancy. We need to reduce these urgent disparities by creating greater health in our communities.	It's a fact that white Chicagoans live 10 years longer than Black Chicagoans. And life expectancies are dropping, especially for Latinx Chicagoans . We need to ensure a healthy life expectancy for all Chicagoans.
People included in Healthy Chicago	Healthy Chicago is an initiative guided and supported by our public health system. We are guided by close collaboration with community leaders —folks living in areas most affected by inequitable health policies who understand the daily reality.	Healthy Chicago brings together groups from various sectors across the city —neighborhood and faith-based groups, businesses, government, policy advocates and more—to take real action for equity and better health and wellbeing.

Life Expectancy Gap & Drivers

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Defining life expectancy	<p>Life expectancy measures life span—the average number of years a person can expect to live based on traits like age, race, gender and even where they live.</p> <p>Life expectancy tells you how long a person born could expect to live if death rates remained the same as they are in that particular year.</p>	<p>Your life expectancy tells you how long you should expect to live based on the average for people like you.</p>
Factors that affect life expectancy	<p>A person's life expectancy can fluctuate throughout their lifetime, based on factors like healthcare and social service access; food access; housing conditions; community safety; and their neighborhood environment.</p>	<p>Life expectancy isn't a number that's set at birth. It's affected by things like access to healthy food, good doctors, a safe place to live and a vibrant neighborhood. In general, the more access you have, the longer you can expect to live.</p>

Life Expectancy Gap & Drivers

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Defining the life expectancy gap	The life expectancy gap measures the difference between how long two groups expect to live. At present, white Chicagoans live 10 years longer than Black Chicagoans, on average.	The life expectancy gap is the difference between how long two groups of people expect to live. Today, the average white Chicagoan lives 10 years longer than the average Black Chicagoan.
Why the life expectancy gap exists	Historically, Black and Latinx Chicagoans have less access to resources and power than other groups. We recognize that institutions have contributed to this problem. The resulting negative effects add up over time.	Historically, politicians and leaders have created unfair laws and policies rooted in bias and racism. As a result, Black and Latinx Chicagoans have less of a chance to live long, healthy lives.
Chicago's decline in life expectancy	Latinx Chicagoans have lost the most years of life expectancy since 2010. And all racial groups except white Chicagoans have lost or are losing life expectancy.	Latinx Chicagoans have lost the most years of life expectancy since 2010. And all racial groups except white Chicagoans have lost or are losing life expectancy.

Community & Public Health

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How Healthy Chicago decides where to focus its work	<p>CDPH uses data systems to monitor community health. And Healthy Chicago regularly speaks with Chicagoans about their daily experiences to learn how our communities could thrive.</p> <p>This feedback directed our work into seven city-wide priority areas, allowing us to invest the greatest resources where they're most needed. Some communities are focused on multiple priority areas.</p>	<p>Healthy Chicago uses data and the opinions of real Chicagoans to decide how and where to take action. Our work is broken up into seven categories, or priority areas.</p> <p>Multiple priority areas may apply to your community based on your unique challenges and goals.</p>
Equity zones	<p>Healthy Chicago is a city-wide effort, and we recognize that communities need leadership at the hyper-local level. To distribute funds, strengthen organizations and create change, we identified and fund six geographic Equity Zones that encompass the entire city.</p>	<p>Chicago is a huge city, made up of many communities. To help focus funding and effort where they're most needed, and ensure change is led by residents, CDPH funds six Equity Zones, covering the entire city.</p>

Community & Public Health

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What are Healthy Chicago's priority areas?	<p>Environment: Breathe clean air, drink clean water</p> <p>Food access: Healthy food, close to home</p> <p>Health & Human Service: The care every Chicagoan needs and deserves</p> <p>Housing: Safe, affordable homes for everyone</p> <p>Neighborhood planning & development: Creating vibrant neighborhoods that reflect Chicagoans' identities</p> <p>Public health system organizations: A voice and power to share ownership in addressing health inequity</p> <p>Public safety: Safe public spaces that serve all Chicagoans</p>	
Why our guiding principles exist	<p>We understand that institutions contribute to Chicago's racial life expectancy gap. Healthy Chicago's six guiding principles create accountability and explain how institutions can better serve all Chicagoans. They help us refocus our funding, energy and actions where they matter most.</p>	<p>Healthy Chicago's six truths, or guiding principles, hold institutions accountable for fair access to power and resources. They inspire action and help us talk about what a healthy future looks like.</p>

Community & Public Health

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What are Healthy Chicago's guiding principles?	<p>Antiracism: We actively challenge and fix racist systems.</p> <p>Asset-based: We lift up the strengths and culture of our communities.</p> <p>Capital building: We promote community wealth, affordability and belonging.</p> <p>Community-led: We ensure community members, including youth, have power in decision-making.</p> <p>Equity-focused: We build policies that benefit the most people in all communities.</p> <p>Trauma-informed: We respond with compassion and empathy to support resilience and healing.</p>	
Health means more than healthcare	Healthy Chicago considers the health of a whole person, and a whole community. That means both mental and physical health; a sense of safety, community and belonging.	Doctors and hospitals are just one part of what keeps us healthy. We also need access to healthy food, affordable homes, safe places to spend time with our loved ones, and more.

Progress & Reporting

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Measurements of health	Putting data behind health is critical to measuring our success. Healthy Chicago tracks more than 75 indicators of community health, most importantly life expectancy. Sharing this information proves our progress and democratizes the data within our communities.	Health is something we see and feel in our communities. To stay accountable , Healthy Chicago also shares real numbers, like life expectancy, for communities to use and understand progress.
How we make progress	Change must be led from within , and it must be measurable. Healthy Chicago works in lockstep with our community partners to ensure power, opportunities, and resources are available where they're most needed.	The people in our communities understand the change that needs to happen. They've lived unique experiences that give them valuable insight. Together, we and other experts make plans and act on our priorities.