

Healthy Chicago 2025

Community Themes and Strengths Assessment

Hearing from community members about their priorities is an essential component of the health assessment process. Findings include feedback over 5,900 surveys of community members, 57 focus groups, existing community plans and other recent community health assessments.

Key Takeaways

Below are the overarching topics community members identified:

- *Economic Development, Workforce, and Investment*- For example, prioritizing hiring from communities impacted by racial injustice, including people returning from jail
- *Health-Promoting Resources*- For example, providing appropriate mental health services and increasing access to affordable healthy foods in neighborhoods and schools
- *Community Safety and Stability*- For example, ensuring safe community spaces
- *Education and Youth Development*- For example, providing early learning programs
- *Equity and Systemic Change*- For example, making government responsible for increasing public investments in communities that need them
- *Community Engagement/Leadership Development*-For example, creating more opportunities for community decision making for local priorities
- *Housing*- For example, achieving greater housing affordability throughout Chicago, including special populations (e.g., seniors and people with disabilities)
- *Community Development*- For example, promoting revitalization in neighborhoods
- *Environmental Justice*- For example, protecting communities from pollution around industrial districts
- *Transportation*- For example, improving transportation options, including public transit, bicycling, and walking