



# Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST)



## Purpose

The purpose of the Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) Program is to promote resilience, support and health in marginalized communities that have faced civil unrest through implementation of Trauma-Informed, violence prevention and community engagement programs. The overall goal of this program is for communities to work together in ways that lead to improved behavioral health, empowered community residents, and reductions in trauma with sustained community change.

## ReCAST Communities

Some of the proposed activities will impact all Chicago residents, while some activities will prioritize high-risk youth and families living in low “child opportunity areas.” These activities will focus on youth and families defined as high-risk through the Child Opportunity Index.

## Opportunities for Resilience

Chicago has a number of organizations and initiatives focused on building community resiliency and support, which will help ensure a sustained focus on violence reduction and trauma recovery.

There are also emerging efforts to leverage technology to help connect programs and residents. This includes social media focused awareness campaigns, text and web based resource mapping, cross training of providers on issues including trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

## Chicago ReCAST Outreach & Engagement

*Youth Engagement.* Through the ReCast Community of Learning Institute and in partnership with the community ambassador sites, ReCAST will work with partners to identify community residents (youth and adults) who can serve as credible messengers and leaders to cross inform and advance the messaging of ReCAST, provide feedback, and as citizen leaders will be trained through the Learning Institute to engage high-risk youth and families. The ambassadors will receive leadership development training and on-going coaching and support to engage the communities in which they live to identify strengths, host community meetings, invite members to participate in the work of the other community facing efforts. In partnership with community organizers, Chicago ReCAST will also engage a citywide, multi-cultural youth leadership council to steward the project.

## Approaches to Resilience

- (1) Promote well-being, resiliency and community healing through community engagement and community-based, participatory approaches.
- (2) Strengthen the integration of behavioral health services and other community systems to address social determinants of health that can contribute to health outcomes.
- (3) Create more equitable access to trauma informed community behavioral health resources.

## Chicago ReCAST Outreach & Engagement

Community voice. CDPH, in collaboration with partners, including Lurie’s, Illinois Child Trauma Center, Illinois ACE Collaborative and Urban Youth Trauma Coalition (URTC), Kennedy Forum of Illinois, Presence Health, and NAMI, will establish the ReCAST Community of Learning Institute. The Institute will engage community mental health agencies, city agencies, youth development organizations, faith-based leaders, residents, and youth to form a Steering Committee to guide the formalization of trauma-informed agency readiness assessments, and training, coaching, and support for evidence-based, trauma-informed behavioral health services.

Community Partners. The Safer Commission is a group of over 130 community and faith leaders, practitioners, subject matter experts, City staff, parents, and youth. The Commission is comprised of volunteers and a representative cross-section of thought leaders and community residents. Safer is addressing five issue areas: Youth Employment, Health and Healing, Creating Restorative School Communities, Safety and Justice, and Safe Spaces and Activities. Each issue area is co-chaired by a city and community chair person ( e.g., police, CPS, CDPH, Parks, DFSS along with Lurie’s Hospital, Metropolitan Family Services, Kleo Family Life Center).

To address civil unrest, the Mayor launched the Police Accountability Taskforce in 2016 along with the Law Enforcement Mental Health Steering Committee. Member include CDPH and partners, Kennedy Forum, NAMI, Presence Health and Thresholds as leaders in addressing the intersection of mental illness and police encounters.