Health Equity in All Policies is a collaborative approach to improving the health of all Chicagoans by putting equity at the center of decision-making across policy areas and sectors.

To close Chicago’s racial life expectancy gap and achieve the vision of Healthy Chicago 2025, we must change the policies and systems that are the root causes of health inequities.

Healthy Chicago 2025 calls for a Health Equity in All Policies (HEiAP) approach, which shares power through transformative community partnerships. HEiAP focuses on five priority areas: neighborhood planning and development, housing, food access, environment, and institutional change.

ENVIRONMENT
An Environmental Equity Working Group and the HEiAP team are co-leading a Cumulative Impact Assessment to identify neighborhoods that experience unequal exposure to multiple environmental, health, and social stressors.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Elevated Chicago is a collaborative that promotes equitable development around public transit hubs. In 2022, Chicago's City Council passed the Connected Communities Ordinance, informed by a Health and Racial Equity Impact Assessment that was led by the HEiAP team and partners.

FOOD ACCESS
Chicago’s Food Equity Council, a ground-breaking community-government partnership that the HEiAP team planted seeds for, is transforming and building a more equitable food system by removing barriers to urban farming, supporting BIPOC food entrepreneurs, and better connecting Chicagoans with nutrition programs and nourishing, affordable food.

HOUSING
CDPH’s Systems Change Collaborative to improve the health of people experiencing homelessness - which included people with lived experience and cross-sector partners - developed recommendations for policy changes, additional capacity, and new investments to strengthen systems of care for this population.

Equity is attainable in Chicago. Our city will be stronger for everyone when we center health equity in all policies.

INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE
HEiAP’s Community Accountability Committee, made up of representatives from nine community-based organizations, provided strategic input into a new Equity Decision Support Tool, which will help City departments, elected officials, and community organizations incorporate equity into everyday decision-making. The HEiAP team also partnered with the Office of Equity and Racial Justice to launch two learning cohorts to help City departments develop a Racial Equity Action Plan.

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