



Introduction to Health Equity in All Policies

Presentation to the Chicago Board of Health

July 20, 2022

HEALTHY CHICAGO 2025

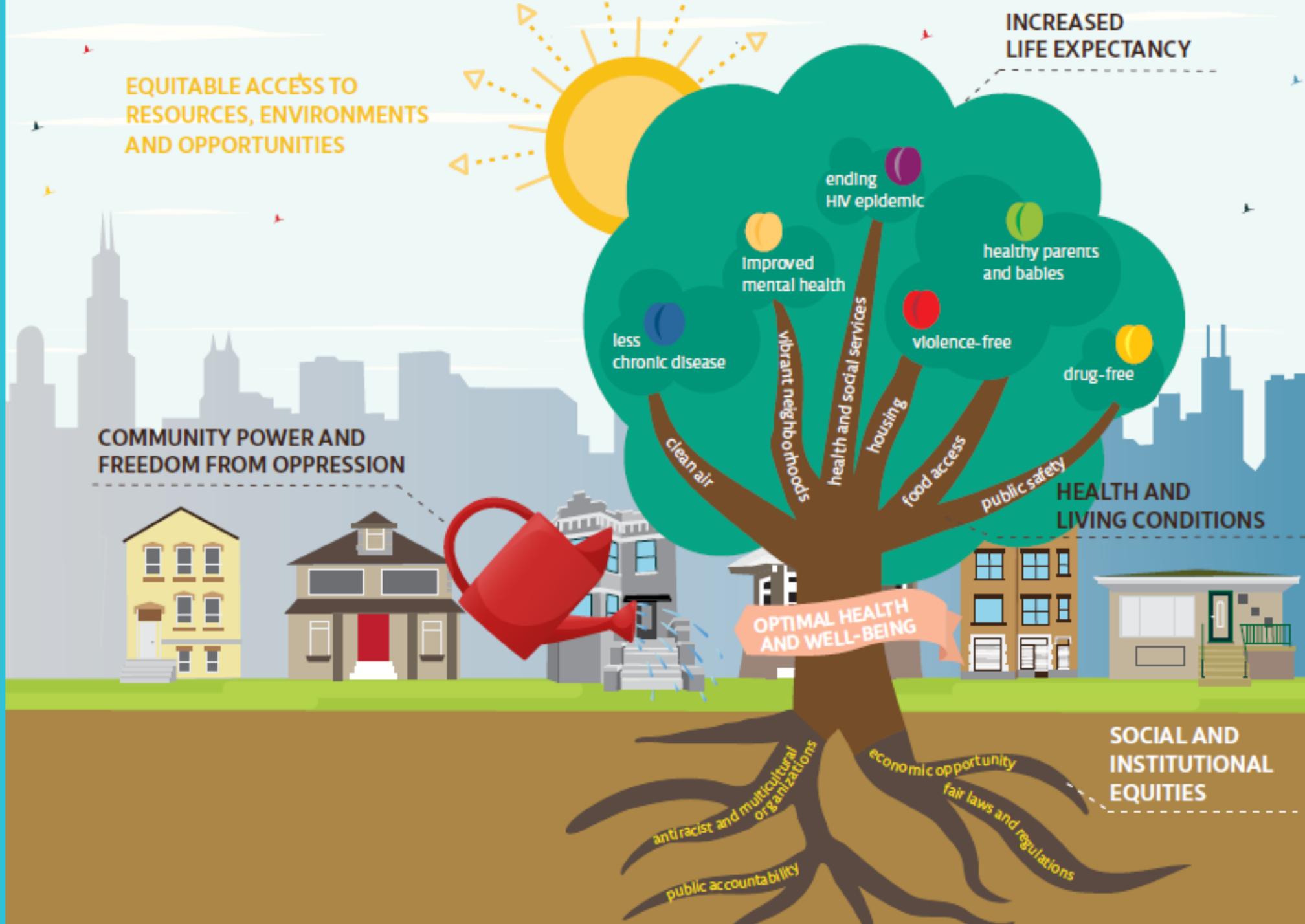
Citywide Health Improvement Plan
To Close Our Life Expectancy Gap

Identify Local
Priorities

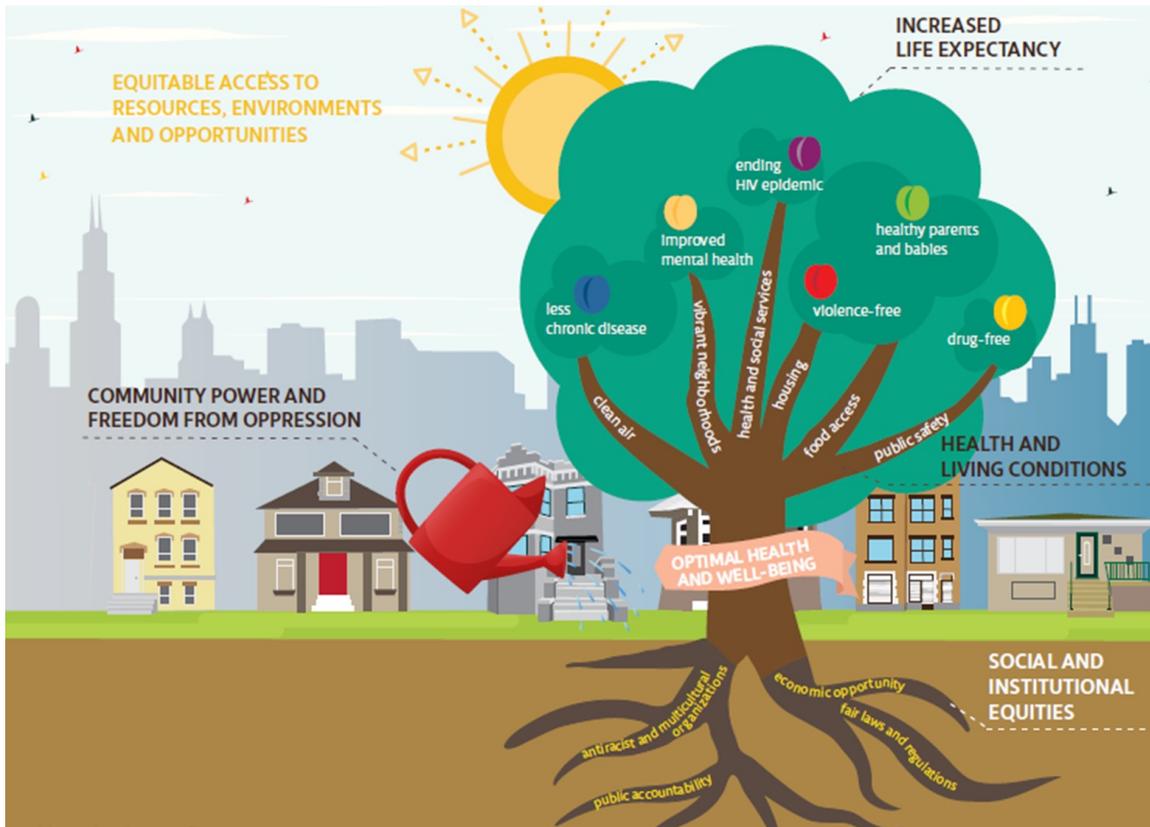


Evaluate
Progress

Take
Action



★ Social and Structural Determinants of Health



Social determinants are the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, learn, work, and age, which are shaped by a set of forces beyond the control of the individual.

Structural determinants are the 'root causes' of health inequities. They include the governing process, economic and social policies that affect whether the resources necessary for health are distributed equally in society, or whether they are unjustly distributed according to race, gender, social class, geography, sexual identity, or other socially defined groups of people.

Equity is both a Process and Outcome

As an **outcome** equity results in fair and just access to opportunity and resources that provide everyone the ability to thrive. Acknowledging the present and historical inequality that persist in our society, equity is a future state we strive to create where identity and social status no longer predestine life outcomes.

As a **process**, equity requires a new way of doing business, one that...

- prioritizes access and opportunities for groups who have the greatest need;
- methodically evaluates benefits and burdens produced by seemingly neutral systems and practices;
- and engages those most impacted by the problems we seek to address as experts in their own experiences, strategists in co-creating solutions, and evaluators of success.

Healthy Chicago 2025 Values that Guide our Work

Antiracism

We actively challenge and redress racist systems through our process and strategies.

Asset-based

We highlight community strengths and culture as we tell our stories.

Equity-focused

We consider who benefits and who is burdened by our proposed solutions.

Trauma-informed

We recognize that trauma affects all individuals, communities, organizations and systems and we support resilience and healing.

Capital building

We promote community wealth, affordability and belonging.

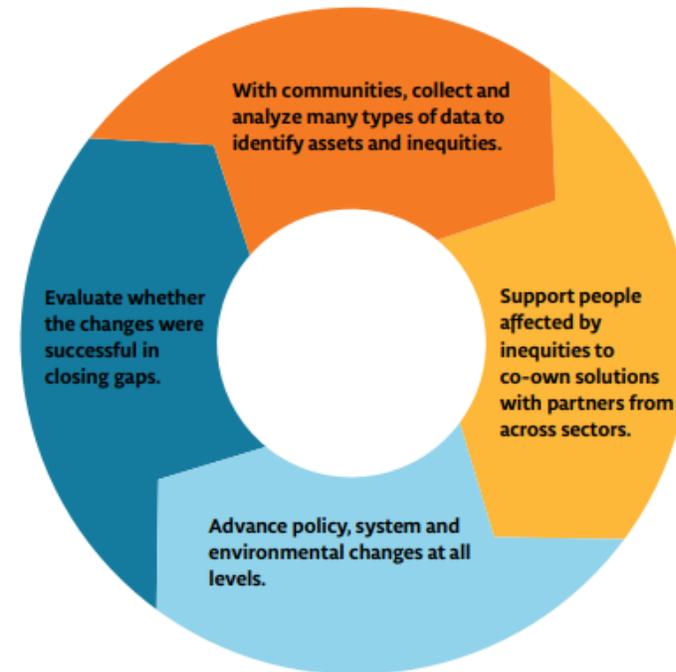
Community-led

We make sure that community members, including youth, have power in decision-making.

★ What is Health Equity in All Policies?

A **collaborative policy and systems change approach** to center health equity in decision-making across policy areas and sectors.

- It aims to create **system changes** in how government agencies relate to each other and how policy decisions are made and implemented so that **health equity is centered**.
- It focuses on **policy change** to **address the structural and social determinants of health** that are the drivers of health inequities.



★ Health Equity in All Policies approach supports Healthy Chicago 2025 implementation

Assessment themes	To close the racial life expectancy gap, we will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Improve systems of care for populations most affected by inequities •Further the health and vibrancy of neighborhoods •Strengthen community capacity and youth leadership •Transform policies and processes to foster anti-racist, multicultural systems 							
Assessment priority areas	Address inequities in...	 HOUSING	 FOOD ACCESS	 ENVIRONMENT	 PUBLIC SAFETY	 NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	 PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS ORGANIZATIONS
Populations experiencing inequities	With a focus on...	Black, Latinx and low-income Chicagoans	Black, Latinx and low-income Chicagoans	Communities disproportionately burdened by pollution	Black Communities	Disinvested and gentrifying communities	Black, Latinx and low-income Chicagoans	Black and Latinx Chicagoans
Ideal states	So within one generation, all Chicagoans...	Have a healthy, affordable home	Have enough nutritious food and local food businesses thrive	Breathe clean air free of harmful pollutants	Are safe across the city and have trusting relationships with law enforcement	Live in vibrant neighborhoods that reflect their identities	Benefit from a full range of health and human services	Have voice and power in the public health system
Healthy Chicago 2025 vision	In 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.						

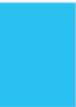
The City of Chicago has adopted a “health in all policies” approach to make sure that government works with community to **shape our social, economic and physical environments in ways that promote health equity.**



Health Equity in All Policies Strategy

CDPH's **Health Equity in All Policies** team seeks to advance policy and systems change that results in health equity being centered across policy areas and sectors – leading to more fair and just health outcomes.

We do this by partnering with community organizations, building capacity for City departments to embed health equity in their work, supporting cross sector partnerships for transformational change, operationalizing new practices, and promoting policies that address the structural and social determinants of health.



Health Equity in All Policies Strategy

- We support **capacity building** to center health equity in decision making across policy areas and sectors.
 - Examples include funding cross-department racial equity learning cohorts, in partnership with the Mayor's Office for Equity and Racial Justice
- We catalyze **systems change** by leading and engaging in **transformative partnerships** and **embedding health equity in city processes and decision making**.
 - Examples include supporting community leadership of Elevated Chicago, Food Equity Council, Environmental Equity Working Group, and our Healthy Chicago Equity Zones.
 - Examples include leading a health and race equity impact assessment to inform ETOD policy, embedding health equity in the We Will Chicago citywide planning process, and embarking on a Cumulative Impacts Assessment
- We amplify and advance **policy change** that addresses the structural and social determinants of health.
 - Examples include Food Equity Council executive order and Connected Communities ordinance.
- We remain **accountable** by working directly with communities most impacted by health inequities and by building infrastructure for tracking progress and measuring impact.



What can this look like in action? Example: Equitable Transit-Oriented Development



CHI | **ETOD Policy**

**THE CITY OF CHICAGO
EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (ETOD)
POLICY PLAN**

Transit Oriented Development, the next chapter: centering equity to eradicate disparities from the first round. Not just TOD. It's ETOD.

ETOD POLICY

CHICAGO
MAKING LIVES LIGHTER

**EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (ETOD)
HEALTH & RACIAL EQUITY
IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Equitable Transit Oriented Development policies and investments that center equity and community participation will increase community vibrancy and housing opportunity, improve sidewalk and pedestrian safety for all sidewalk users, promote the use of active transportation modes, increase climate resilience, and foster social cohesion. This assessment finds that the Connected Communities ordinance, along with community-centered implementation and investment focused in communities that have traditionally been excluded from decision-making in planning, development, and investment, will likely make progress toward addressing persistent health and racial inequities.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE PROPOSED CONNECTED COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE**

WHEREAS, all Chicagoans deserve the opportunity to live healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, Chicagoans have inequitable health outcomes based on race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, geography, and other variables; and

WHEREAS, as of 2020, the gap in life expectancy between Black and white Chicagoans was ten years (up from 8.8 years in 2017), and for the first time in decades, life expectancy for Black residents of Chicago fell below 70 years; and

WHEREAS, Latinx residents of Chicago saw a 3-year decline in life expectancy between 2019 and 2020, the steepest drop of any racial or ethnic group, and have lost a total of 7 years of life expectancy since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Chicago 2025, Chicago's current five-year community health improvement plan recognizes that systemic forces including housing, food access, environment, public safety, and neighborhood planning and development are root drivers of health; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Chicago 2025 places a special focus on health and racial equity, articulating the following vision for Chicago: "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"; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that achieving health equity requires transforming policies and practices across institutions, CDPH is a founding member of Elevated Chicago, a community-led organization formed to bring a racial equity lens to urban planning and development, transit, public health, and other drivers of community well-being; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago, CDPH and Elevated Chicago are aligned in recognizing that equity is both a process and an outcome, and in order to realize equity, communities most impacted by inequities must be engaged as experts in their own experiences, strategists in co-creating solutions, and evaluators of success; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill a mandate from City Council, in 2020, the City developed an Equitable Transit Oriented Development (ETOD) policy plan to convey Chicago's approach to equitable, healthy and sustainable development near transit hubs and corridors. The ETOD policy plan is the result of collaboration between the 80+ community, non-profit and City leaders, along with developers, artists, environmentalists, organizers and public input; and

WHEREAS, the City's ETOD policy plan was adopted in 2021 by the Chicago Plan Commission and the ETOD policy plan identified several priorities which required City Council action to implement; and

**Connected Communities
ORDINANCE**

The Connected Communities Ordinance will strengthen our economy, improve housing opportunity, and make Chicago's streets and sidewalks safer

THE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES ORDINANCE:

1. Creates and connects to jobs and encourages more **homes and businesses near transit** by expanding existing TOD incentives more equitably across the city.
2. Improves the **safety of our streets and sidewalks near transit** for Chicagoans while they walk, bike, or roll.
3. Increases **housing opportunities, affordability, and accessibility near transit**.

In high-cost and gentrifying neighborhoods, the ordinance strengthens affordability requirements and incentives, reduces barriers to more moderate-cost housing, and protects naturally occurring lower-cost housing from deconversion.

In lower and moderate-cost neighborhoods, the ordinance brings more equity to where existing TOD incentives apply and lowers barriers to creating more bold community investments like the 12 affordable and mixed-income TOD developments announced by the Dept. of Housing in Dec. 2021 for the South and West Sides.

In all neighborhoods, the ordinance encourages more sustainable, equitable development and welcoming streets so that every Chicagoan—whether walking, riding a bicycle, rolling a wheelchair, or driving a car—can participate in the economic and cultural life of our great city.

The Connected Communities Ordinance recognizes that Chicago's neighborhoods are too diverse for one-size-fits-all solutions. It also recognizes that every Chicagoan should be able to live in a healthy and sustainable neighborhood that connects them to transit and makes it easier for them to get to what they need—from jobs and schools to services and more.

CHICAGO | **ETOD**



Discussion

- What has been your **experience working on structural and social determinant of health issues**, such as neighborhood development and planning, housing, transportation, food equity, and environmental justice, etc.?
- How can we work together to **raise our public health voices** to amplify community-driven health equity priorities?

Thank You!



[Chicago.gov/Health](https://chicago.gov/Health)



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