



ARPA Healthy Communities Program Initiatives Implemented by the Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Board Health & Hospitals Committee Meeting
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Item #22-4516

Presenter: Kiran Joshi, MD, MPH – Senior Medical Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health



Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH



NT037: Sustaining Mental Health Hotline for Suburban Residents

WHAT & WHY

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health challenges of suburban Cook County residents. NAMI's Chicago Helpline saw a 200% increase in calls during the pandemic with a significant increase in reports of anxiety, depression, substance use, and suicidality. Thus, it is critical that Suburban Cook County residents have access to the Helpline for support and information on mental health resources.

ADVANCING EQUITY

All Suburban residents will have access to the Helpline, no matter their circumstances. Targeted outreach to promote the Helpline will be focused on communities vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19.

SERVICES

Mental Health

Safe Spaces

Emotional Support

Program Description	To provide a mental health and crisis support hotline for suburban Cook County residents. NAMI's Helpline provides a free and confidential service seven days a week to suburban Cook County callers. The Helpline will provide emotional support, information on mental health and substance use, refer callers to appropriate mental health or substance use resources, and assist in connecting to other social services when needed. NAMI will also provide intensive case support for callers with significant needs using their Clinical Support program.
Budget	Total Budget: \$1,485,000 – FY22 Budget: \$60,000
Partners	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Chicago



NT037: Sustaining Mental Health Hotline for Suburban Residents

ADDRESSING COVID-19 IMPACTS

The public health crisis and increasing community demand demonstrated a significant need for system navigation support, care, and encouragement. This investment expands the capacity of NAMI Chicago to provide essential services to address the mental health needs created and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in suburban Cook County.

GOALS

Provide emotional support, information on mental health and substance use, refer callers to appropriate mental health resources for 3,500-4,000 callers per year.

Key statistics about project need or proven solutions

- Research from the Kaiser Family Foundation in April 2021 states that about half of adults (47%) continue to report negative mental health impacts related to worry or stress from the pandemic.
- One in four adults who did not get mental health care say the main reason why was because they could not find a provider (24%)

TIMELINE

Program will run from 2022 to 2026

PROGRAM MANAGER

Jennifer Brothers, Director of Behavioral Health





NT042: Good Food Purchasing Program

WHAT & WHY

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is a comprehensive procurement strategy that directs institutional food purchasing towards five core values: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare and nutrition. It provides a metric-based, flexible framework to assess the progress of public institutions as they work to become recognized Good Food Provider. In 2018, Cook County approved a resolution promoting GFPP that requires all Cook County food-procuring departments and agencies to participate including: Cook County Health, Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Cook County Sheriff's Office, and Cook County Bureau of Asset Management.

ADVANCING EQUITY

Three population types will be served: 1) small to medium-sized food producers and businesses of color; 2) CCH patients; youth residents at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center; and individuals served by the Cook County Sheriff's Office (Cook County Jail); and 3) Cook County Government staff.

EQUITABLE

SUSTAINABLE

HEALTH CONSCIOUS

Program Description	Through incremental shifts in the County's food purchasing over time, this program can transform the local food system towards one that is transparent and racially equitable, investing in local food producers and businesses of color while ensuring safe and fair working conditions.
Budget	\$4.5 million
Partners	Chicago Food Policy Action Council (CFPAC) and Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI)



NT042: Good Food Purchasing Program

ADDRESSING COVID-19 IMPACTS

COVID-19 has exacerbated many of the health inequities we see in the communities CCDPH serves. COVID-19 also exposed the weak points in the local food system, resulting in food supply chain disruptions that increased food insecurity and caused economic harm among our most vulnerable communities. The crisis has demonstrated why we need to build a local food system that is more resilient. Advancing the Cook County's GFPP is a step towards building this resiliency by generating economic opportunities for local food producers and businesses while also providing access to healthier food options for those we serve.

GOALS

Over the next five years, the program intends to: 1) advance GFPP implementation in partnership with food-procuring County departments and agencies to support a more just, equitable, sustainable and healthy food system; 2) accelerate implementation of good food purchasing by further aligning the County's procurement regulations with GFPP and transforming institutional procurement processes; and 3) provide Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) food workers, producers, and suppliers opportunities for sustainable growth and equitable access to institutional supply chains.

TIMELINE

Program will run from 2022 to 2026

PROGRAM

Amy O'Rourke



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Thank you



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