



CCDPH Quarterly Report

*to the Cook County Board of Commissioners
in their capacity as the Cook County Board of Health*

Q1-2023 – Suburban Cook County Healthy Work Initiative

Item 23-1561

March 2023



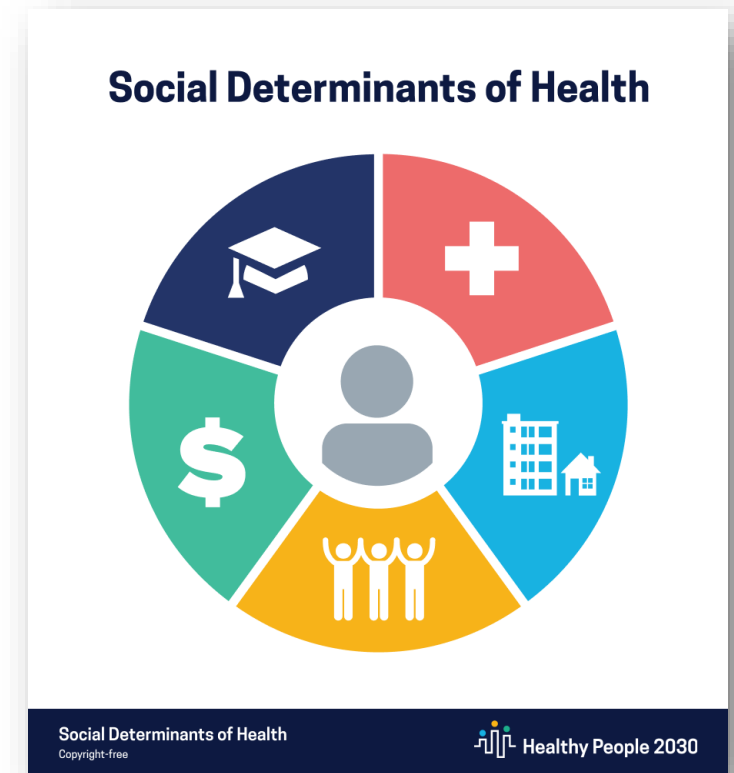
Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

Intersection between Health and Work

- “Health inequities. . .can be reduced by promoting safe, healthy and secure work.” WHO
- Several factors negatively affect workers’ health and their ability to sustain themselves and their families, including:
 - inadequacies in labor laws
 - structural racism
 - immigration policies
 - ageism
- COVID-19 pandemic elevated our failures



Harmful Trends: Workplaces and for Employees



Increases in health disparities in employment and health



Decreases in high-quality, full-time employment, with adequate wages and benefits



Increases in precarious working conditions and income and wealth inequities

"Work should take place in a safe and healthy working environment; conditions of work should be consistent with workers' well-being and human dignity; work should offer real possibilities for personal achievement, self-fulfillment, and service to society."

International Labour Organization



A Public Health Response: Suburban Cook County Healthy Work Initiative

Vision

End work precarity and *establish* an economic culture that values and prioritizes worker health across suburban Cook County

Goals

- Increase awareness of work as a social determinant of health
- Establish a county-wide system for healthy work-related interventions
- Increase access and availability of just, equitable, and healthy economic development for healthy work
- Improve regulatory environment for increased health and safety



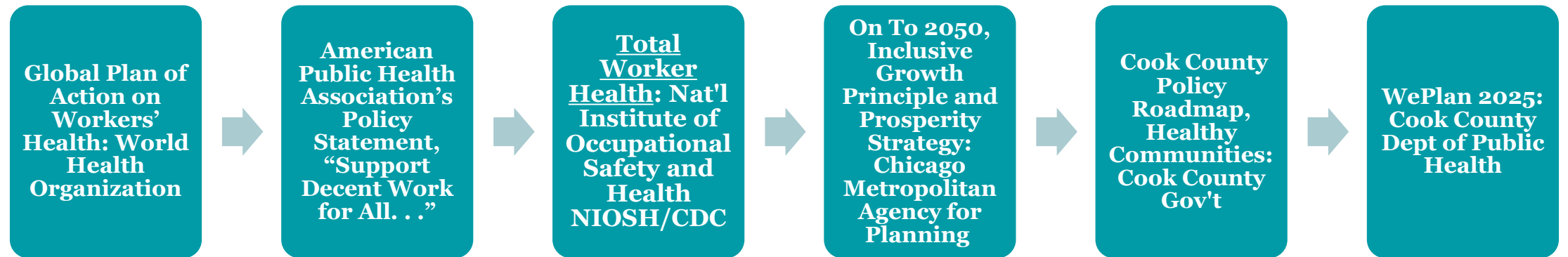
Suburban Cook County Healthy Work Initiative

A Comprehensive Approach



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Intervention Alignment



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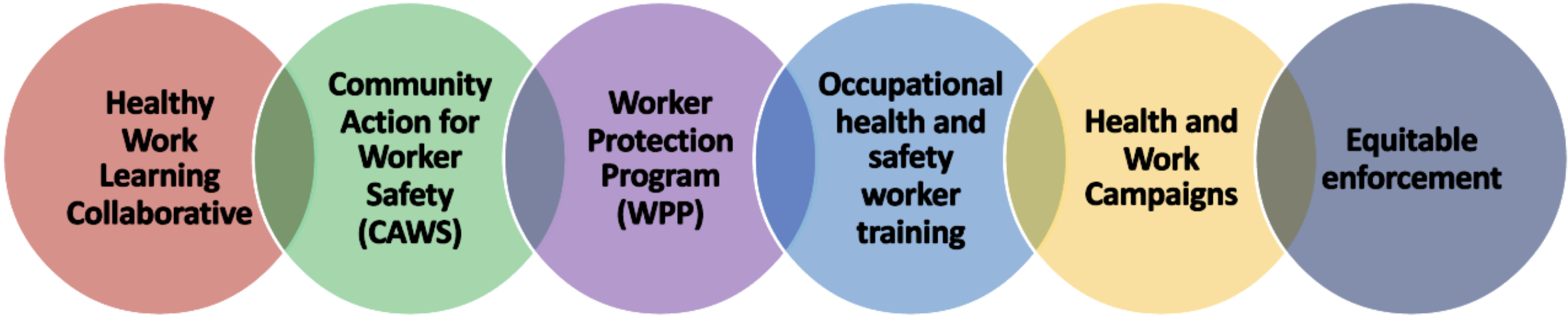
Select Key Partnerships

Cook County Gov't	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook County Commission on Human Rights
Worker-Centered Alliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the Floor Alliance • Chicago Jobs with Justice
Worker Centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arise Chicago • Centro de Trabajadores Unidos • Chicago Community & Workers Rights • Chicago Workers Collaborative • Warehouse Workers for Justice
Academic Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UIC School of Public Health, Center for Healthy Work
Regional Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)



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Program Areas



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Progress to Date

- Implemented the **Worker Protection Program** during the height of COVID-19 pandemic
 - 94 trainings
 - 4,800 attendees
 - 300 employers
- Raise the Floor and four worker centers since Dec 2021:
 - Outreach, education and provision of PPE resources to 100k workers
 - Established Medicaid coverage for 300 workers
- Relationship with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights



Chicago Workers Collaborative Website, 2/13/2023



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Progress to Date (cont.)

- Implementation of the Community Action for Worker Safety (CAWS) program with Warehouse Workers for Justice
- Technical assistance provider -> Chicago Jobs with Justice
- Supports co-enforcement model at the local level
- Between Oct – Dec 2022:
 - 750 community members provided with health and safety information



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Looking Ahead – Equitable Enforcement

- Process of ensuring compliance with law and policy that considers and minimizes harms to people affected by health inequities
- Opportunities to change how CCDPH conducts inspections
-
- Expand partnerships between government agencies and structures and community organizations
- Plan to partner with ChangeLab Solutions to train Environmental Health staff on equitable enforcement



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Looking Ahead – Equitable Enforcement (cont.)

- In addition to CAWS, CCDPH will be collaborating with Arise Chicago and Chicago Workers Collaborative to:
 - Identify where complaints are occurring/not occurring
 - Educate employers and workers of their rights, responsibilities, and best practices to promote healthy and safe workplaces
 - Assure workers have a safe, confidential way of reporting
 - Support employers and workers to comply with recommendations and requirements for safe workplaces
 - Build worker leadership capacity to change conditions through OSHA and other trainings



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Looking Ahead – Environmental Scan and Healthy Work Learning Collaborative

Partnership with UIC School of Public Health, Center for Healthy Work

- Environmental scan to understand current state of precarious work in suburban Cook County
- Advance the Healthy Work Learning Collaborative, comprised of small teams of different organizations to:
 - Increase cross-sectoral partnerships to decrease fragmentation in service provision to precarious workers
 - Improve regulatory relief for workers
 - Expand healthy work approaches across suburban Cook County



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Looking Ahead – Healthy Work Partnership

- A convening of various key partners to be launched in Spring 2023
- Purpose is to promote communication and coordination across healthy work-related interventions
- Expected to guide the environmental scan conducted by UIC



Thank You



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