

Healthy Communities Cook County



Access Living – Cambiando Vidas
Access to Care
American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
Apna Ghar
Arise Chicago
Asian American Advancing Justice (AAAJ)
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC)
Centro Autonomo
Centro de Trabajadores Unidos (CTU)
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)
Chicago Irish Immigrant Support
Communities United (CU)
Community Wellness Program/St. Anthony Hospital
ENLACE Chicago
Fight For 15!
Hanul Family Alliance
Heartland Alliance
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Korean American Community Services (KACS)
Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA)
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Chicago
Northside Community Resources
Northeastern Illinois University-Undocumented Student project
P.A.S.O- West Suburban Action project
Salud Sin Papeles
Service Employment International Union – Health Care (SEIU- HealthCare)
Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
Young Invincibles

My name is Dan Potts and I am a member and organizer of the Health Systems division of SEIU Healthcare Illinois. We represent over 3,000 acute care employees in Cook County, many of them serving in low income communities where access to quality care is not available. Furthermore, we represent over 10,000 members who live in these communities that are affected, many of whom cannot afford care under the ACA or are restricted based on their immigration status.

We at SEIU Healthcare are proud of the strides made by ACA and believe that accessible quality health care is human right. Despite the progress that ACA represents, our hospital members continually see the negative impact when individuals are uninsured or underinsured. All too often in low income communities of color access to quality primary and preventative care is not prioritized or valued. The result is an endless cycle where many health issues that could be addressed through quality preventative care become chronic illnesses, thus putting great burden on families and tax payers alike.

Cook County and the Chicago area is rapidly becoming a tale of two cities where the wealthiest 1% enjoy the best housing, education, and healthcare, while working families are left to suffer. For this reason SEIU Healthcare Illinois is proud to be a part of the HC3 coalition. By implementing a Direct Access Health Program in Cook County our members will see better health outcomes at all stages of care in the hospitals we represent. The end result will produce a more humane health system in Cook County which serves all communities, and in the long run will provide relief to tax payers as well.

We thank the present Commissioners for their support and look forward to working with you and all organizations for a healthier Cook County.