



Cook County Department of Public Health First Quarterly Report 2023

Suburban Cook County Healthy Work Initiative

February 2023



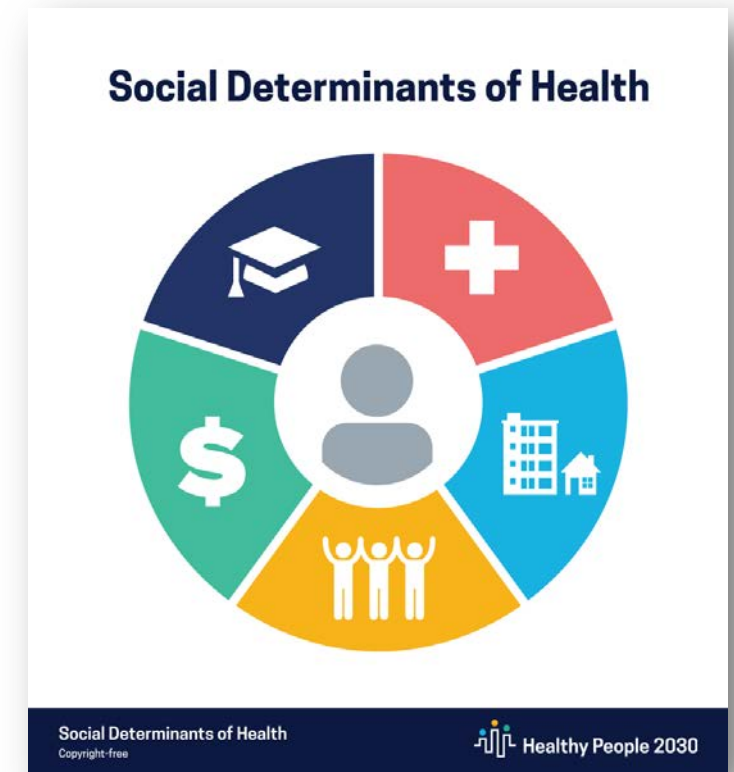
Cook County DEPT
Public Health



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



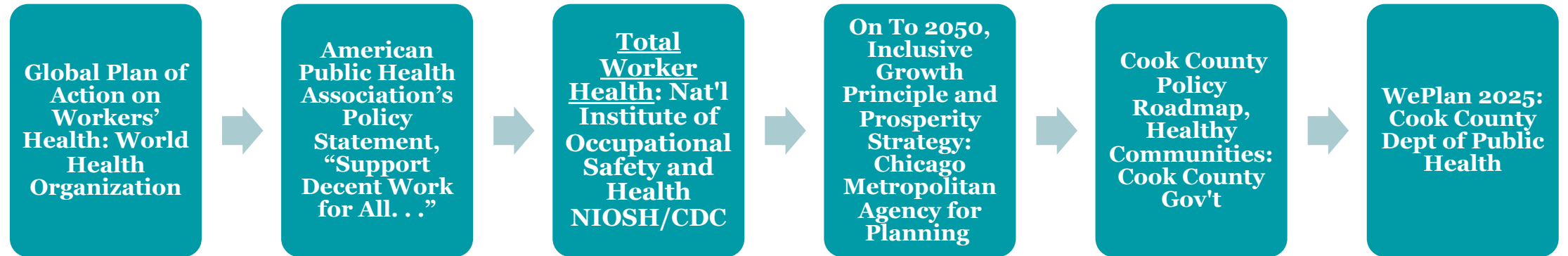
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A Comprehensive Approach



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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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