

# CHICAGO

## STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN Executive Summary - 2022

*What would it take to enhance the substance use prevention system to serve Chicago's youth better?*

Chicago is the third largest city in the country; however, resources allocated to prevention efforts and the number of youth reached do not reflect this status. A recent assessment found that many communities struggle with youth and community engagement finding that “Nothing About Us Without Us” is just a catchy phrase and not a standard.

Given the complexity of historical and current trauma experienced by Chicago's youth, professional development is too general, and prevention strategies, programs, and processes lack culturally appropriate, evidence-based solutions that address real-life issues. Organizations need diversified, expanded funding to offer fair and livable wages.

### Community Risk Factors

	Substance Use	Depression & Anxiety	Delinquency	Teen Pregnancy	School Drop Out	Violence
Availability of Alcohol/Drugs	x					x
Availability to Firearms			x			x
Community Laws & Norms Favorable to Drug Use, Firearms, Crime	x		x			x
Transitions & Mobility	x	x	x		x	
Low Neighborhood Attachment & Community Disorganization	x		x			x
Media Portrayals of Violence						x
Extreme Economic Deprivation	x		x	x	x	x

### Systemic Racism

**Systemic racism is real and has recently been admitted to by the foundation of mental health and substance abuse prevention (American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, National Association of Social Workers), and therefore there is a need for Black and Brown communities to identify culturally based, trauma-informed collaborative efforts that do not place blame on the victims of systemic racism and current and historical oppression on the oppressed and their behavior.**

### Call to Action

Establish a **Chicago Strategic Action Council** composed of Chicago youth. (Ages 13 – 25), funders, and providers with a shared goal to build resiliency and promote optimum health for Chicago's youth who will:

1. Create a city-wide plan and portfolio of culturally responsive strategies that center youth voices and provide examples of implementation through collaboration and braided/leveraged funding.
2. Develop a toolkit for local communities to create and implement local-level collective impact plans that focus on resiliency.

### Next Steps

If you or your organization feel that you have a stake in this plan, contact Prevention First (CSAC@prevention.org) for more information or to participate in the process.

## Assessment

*In November 2020, Rafael Rivera, Ph.D., Deputy Director, Bureau of Prevention Services, Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS-SUPR), convened a meeting with the leaders of the Chicago Substance Use Prevention Services (CSUPS) funded agencies to discuss What would it take to enhance the substance use prevention system to serve Chicago's youth better?*

*To answer this question, IDHS-SUPR and Prevention First worked with Peyton Consulting and Slant Innovations to facilitate a collective impact process to seek answers.*

*The full report of the process and suggested strategies identified by the CSUPS committee and youth contributors can be found here: ["The Collective Impact for a Healthy Chicago"](#)*

### Contributors

#### CHICAGO NINE STEERING COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONS

Alternatives Inc.  
Haymarket Center  
Heartland Human Services  
HRDI  
Metropolitan Family Services  
Pilsen Wellness Center  
Prevention Partnership  
Rincon Family Services  
Youth Outreach Services

#### THE FACILITATORS

Karel Homrig, Prevention First  
Sherrine Peyton, Peyton Consulting  
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### Findings:

- CSUP providers are implementing evidence-based programs and strategies in over 40 Chicago public and charter schools; however, there are gaps in implementation.
- Chicago is the third largest city in the country; however, resources allocated to prevention efforts and the number of youth reached do not reflect this status.
- Professional development is too general, given the complexity of historical and current trauma experienced by Chicago's youth.
- Prevention strategies, programs, and processes lack culturally appropriate, evidence-based solutions that address real-life issues.
- Organizations need diversified, expanded funding to offer fair and livable wages.
- Many communities struggle with youth and community engagement - "Nothing About Us Without Us" is just a catchy phrase and not a standard.