



## Press Release

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### **Cook County Department of Public Health awarded nearly \$2.5 million to drive down chronic disease and create a healthier suburban Cook County.**

Today, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCPDH) was awarded a Partnerships to Improve Community Health (PICH) grant totaling \$2,480,807 million. This funding is for the first year of a 3 year project that will support continuation of efforts to advance policy, systems and environmental changes in suburban Cook County to make healthy living easier.

The funding will create or strengthen the places where residents live, work, learn, worship, play, or receive health care to make it easier for them to make healthful choices and take charge of their health, especially in communities that have less access to practical, readily available options.

“The direct connection between place and our health cannot be ignored, and this award will catapult the movement being led by CCDPH and the Alliance for Healthy and Active Communities to make suburban Cook County a Healthy HotSpot,” said CCDPH COO, Dr. Terry Mason, MD, FACS. “Across the nation each year, seven of every 10 Americans die from a chronic disease - mostly caused by tobacco use, obesity, poor diet, and too little physical activity.”

Specifically, CCDPH and the Alliance for Healthy and Active Communities will work to expand smoke-free policies, increase access to healthy food and beverage options, improve access to physical activity, and improve access to programs for preventing and managing chronic diseases.

The PICH awards are part of a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiative to support public health efforts to reduce chronic diseases, promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will administer the grants, which will run for 3 years, subject to availability of funds.

CCDPH’s award is one of 39 grant awards from HHS provided to local health agencies. PICH is the newest generation in CDC’s long history of community efforts to create and strengthen healthy environments.

To learn more, visit [healthyhotspot.org](http://healthyhotspot.org).

*The Alliance for Healthy and Active Communities (AHAC) is a group of community health advocates led by the Cook County Department of Public Health working to make healthy options easy, convenient and accessible to residents of suburban Cook County through skill building and advocacy.*

*Healthy HotSpot is an initiative led by the Cook County Department of Public Health aiming to make suburban Cook County healthier one spot at a time through partnerships for healthy living.*

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