Hennepin County Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP)

CHIP is a coalition of partners from across the community

Hennepin County CHIP was founded in 2012 on the idea that solutions to complex health issues can be found when partners from across the community work as one. The local health departments within Hennepin County convene and provide staff for CHIP*. Our partners come from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and include health care, housing, education, and many others.

We target community health issues together for greater impact.

CHIP is committed to equity and informed by data

Health and racial equity are at the core of our work. We start with this perspective in our planning and in how we prioritize issues. We also focus on the ways racism and bias impact health outcomes in many communities, particularly for people of color. We use a racial equity lens to focus our intent and bring us to shared understanding and language on race and bias as we catalyze and carry out our work.

To help us with this commitment, we partner with communities and use data to plan and measure our impact and to prioritize future work. We support community ideas and solutions by funding local projects, and through gatherings at CHIP celebration workshop events. We gather data by conducting community health assessments, surveys, and key informant interviews; asking grantees to share their successes, learnings, and recommendations in brief reports; and through community participation, input, and feedback at workshops.

CHIP is focused on community mental well-being and housing stability

Our current priorities are community mental well-being and social connectedness in rental communities. These priorities were determined through key informant interviews with members of communities directly impacted by these issues and by data assessments. They have been consistently upheld by our communities. The interviews and follow up convenings helped us formulate a vision and a plan for addressing each priority, and our action teams carry out these plans.

The funding CHIP currently provides communities through mini grants and larger contracts helps facilitate community driven solutions to these two priorities. Community members and organizations are selected competitively for funding, and those funded carry out projects and then share their successes, learnings, and

* CHIP was founded by Hennepin County Public Health, the Minneapolis Health Department, the health departments of Bloomington, Edina, and Richfield, with other partners. Community Health Improvement Partnerships are a best practice and a requirement for accredited health departments. Learn more at hennepin.us/chip

recommendations with CHIP partners. This learning and feedback loop, along with annual to semi-annual CHIP celebration workshops help us check in with communities to ensure that we're still on the right track.

Community mental well-being

Vision

Lead equitable policy and systems change that centers self-determined communities and promotes physical, social, cultural, and mental well-being.

Examples of what we hope to achieve

- Demonstrate to communities that we are committed to examining our own policies and practices through a health and racial equity lens
- Support spiritual/faith/cultural leaders in their efforts to respond to trauma in their communities

Plan

Become trauma informed/trauma responsive organizations
Example: use trauma informed tools and templates to review and revise policies and practices in CHIP partner organizations; establish a trauma informed pilot cohort of CHIP partner organizations to learn from one another

Partner with spiritual, faith, and cultural leaders
Example: listen to personal stories as leaders respond to trauma in their communities; better understand the barriers and challenges they face and how CHIP partners might support, promote, and advocate for this work

Housing stability

Vision

All people have equitable opportunity for stable, affordable housing in vibrant communities

Examples of what we hope to achieve

- Listen to residents of color and other priority populations living in rental communities to learn about their challenges and solutions related to social connectedness and wellbeing
- Support community led initiatives in rental communities that increase social connectedness and wellbeing

Plan

Partner with rental communities to support social connectedness
Example: Advocate for and support tenant groups and residents to build socially connected and supportive communities