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 membership comes from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors and includes health care, housing, education, and 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 all of our planning and in how we prioritize issues. We strive to focus on the ways structural and institutional racism and bias impact outcomes for people of color. We use a racial equity lens to focus our intent and bring us to a shared understanding, language, and definition of race and bias as we catalyze and carry out our work.

To help us with this commitment to health and racial equity, we partner with communities and use data to plan and prioritize for the future and measure our impact. We ask communities for ideas and solutions through ongoing action teams and twice yearly events we call CHIP collaborative events. Other data sources include community health assessments, surveys, and key informant interviews.

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

Our focus for the next five years is on two priorities: community mental well-being and housing stability as a social determinant of health and well-being.

We conducted key informant interviews with members of communities who are directly impacted by these issues. These interviews helped us formulate a vision and a plan for addressing both priorities and our action teams are now carrying out these plans. Our semi-annual CHIP collaborative events help us check in with communities to ensure that we're still on the right track.

Past CHIP accomplishments have included improving: school readiness; nutrition, obesity, and physical activity; and social connectedness.

* 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

Community Mental Well-being

Vision

Lead equitable policy and systems change that promote physical, social, and racial well-being and honors self-determined communities

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

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

Housing stability

Vision

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

Examples of what we hope to achieve

- Collaborate with communities and cross sector partners to reduce housing barriers for prospective tenants and residents of rental communities
- Support community led initiatives in rental communities that increase social connectedness

Plan

Partner across sectors to increase racial equity in rental housing
Example: Bring the expertise of housing, healthcare, and communities together to address current issues brought to the CHIP housing stability action team

Partner with people of color and indigenous populations to increase social connectedness in rental housing
Example: Advocate for and support tenant groups to build socially connected and supportive communities