



## WORKING GROUP STRATEGY GUIDE

### Health, Family and Youth

#### *Priority Outcomes*

- Children, youth, and adults are physically and mentally healthy.
- Access to health care is improved by reducing social inequities in income, wealth, power and status and taking a “health in all policies” approach.

#### *Framing the Challenge*

- Quality health and strong families are fundamental to successful neighborhoods. How can improved supportive services help?
  - Quantifying the needs.
  - Improving the social determinants of health.
  - Youth programs to set kids on the right path.

## **What Neighborhood Residents Have Told Us**

- Desire for a broader range of youth service providers. Groups mentioned at community engagement events have included 4-H, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCA.
- Health education programming and increased access to low-cost medical services were suggested.
- Need to focus on youth with more youth employment opportunities, summer programs, and other enrichment activities.

## **Assets**

- Elementary schools (Lincoln-Gavin, Jefferson and Washington)
- Bloom Township High School
- Prairie State University
- Neighborhood-based facilities and programs (Jones Center, Chicago Heights Park District, etc.)
- Several support service and medical service providers are located in Downtown Chicago Heights including food pantries, Aunt Martha's, Access Health, Grand Prairie Services, and Respond Now.
- Churches that are actively engaged with serving neighborhood residents

## **Challenges**

- Programs aren't free, which puts them out of reach for many low-income households
- Impact of the closure of St. James Hospital