

# Health & Medicine

POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

40 years advancing health equity

## Hope for Public Health in Illinois

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

Annual Report 2021



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Health & Medicine  
works to improve the health  
of all people in Illinois  
by promoting health equity.

## From the Executive Director



As I reflect on this past year, I am struck by the determination, clarity of purpose and strength of our staff and board. Like the rest of the world, we have faced challenges that were new in type and scope. We linked arms to creatively support one another and our community during the pandemic. We had the good fortune to be able to work remotely, set up systems to keep in regular touch with our team, and collaborate in new ways internally and with new and existing partners.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to shed light on the effects of our hollowed-out, underfunded public health system on people's health, reinforcing our commitment to promoting social justice and challenging inequities in health and health care.

As an independent policy center, we are nimble in our approach to building collaborative efforts, conducting critical research, advocating for policy change, and piloting initiatives that move Illinois toward a healthier and more equitable state.

Our work in 2021 focused on trauma-informed training and statewide policy development; the health care safety net; equitable aging, housing, and environmental justice advocacy; community health worker and health career pipeline development; an equity-focused cadre of health professionals; a freestanding birth center serving the south side of Chicago; and public health system support.

It's been quite a year, and we have endured thanks to you—whether you are funder, community-based organization, health care provider, friend, project collaborator, or an attendee at one of our many forums or discussions, we couldn't do this work without you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie Schaps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Margie Schaps, MPH  
Executive Director



# Our Impact

## Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program

For 25 years, the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program has provided a platform for graduate students to design and implement innovative projects that improve the health and well-being of underserved populations throughout Chicago. In collaboration with existing Chicagoland organizations, fellows use a broad public health lens to improve well-being and target the social determinants of health.

- Successfully supported fellows (both in-person and remote) during our most challenging year, including graduating 28 fellows and welcoming 28 new fellows
- Formed 25th Anniversary evaluation team and developed Fellows for Life survey to gain insights for future planning and understand the program's impact on our nearly 700 alumni
- Granted and supported seven Seed Grants to our Fellows for Life to continue their community projects
- Made programmatic and process improvements for fellows, applicants, advisory committee, and academic partners
- Expanded our potential applicant pool, reaching a wider network of schools and disciplines

*“The Schweitzer Fellowship broadens one’s perspective beyond daily tasks, and reminds us of the purpose and possibility of service. It fosters bigger ideas, and bigger hearts through a network charged with positive, creative energy. In my case, it did this during the fellowship, and continues to re-inspire me more than 15 years later.”*

**Shirley Stephenson, FNP-BC Site Medical Director,**  
UIC CON Faculty Practice Site, Mile Square Humboldt  
Park, Fellow for Life and Advisory Council Member



Top: 2021-22 Fellow Rachel Francis delivers food to home-bound families through the Pilsen Food Pantry as part of a Schweitzer MLK Day service day.



Left: 2020-21 Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellow Kelly Moore delivers food to an older adult during the pandemic. Her work with Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly reduced isolation and supported consistent volunteer training.

## **Birth Center Task Force**

Health & Medicine is proud of the role we have played in advocating for birth center\* expansion. In 2021, we were pleased to renew advocacy efforts and announce our role as fiscal sponsor to support the development of the new Chicago Southside Birth Center.

Throughout 2021, the Task Force was actively involved in renewed efforts to expand the availability of birth centers in Illinois. This new push for birth center expansion emerged in mid-2020 following the confluence of three timely developments: 1) interest by two certified nurse midwives wanting to open a new birth center in the growing obstetrical desert on Chicago's south side; 2) two statewide maternity-related Task Forces recommending expansion of the birth center model in Illinois; and 3) reimbursement challenges being faced by the two existing two birth centers in Illinois—the Birth Center at PCC Community Wellness Center (an FQHC-run center in Berwyn) and the Birth Center of Bloomington-Normal (a private, downstate center run by two OBGYNs)—and two others planned in the southwest suburb of Burr Ridge and on Chicago's north side.

As a result, the Task Force, along with legislative partners, initiated a two-prong legislative approach last session: a “quick fix” tweak of the current language in the Alternative Health Care Delivery Act that increases the maximum number of birth centers in the metro Chicago area from four to six and the creation of a separate licensing category for birth centers in Illinois that also addresses some of the reimbursement issues. During this legislative session, there are also two parallel but related efforts to create a licensing category for certified professional midwives in Illinois and to establish a pilot project that studies the benefits of home births for pregnant persons of color who receive Medicaid.

Health & Medicine has long championed the value of birth centers to provide cost-effective, high-quality prenatal and obstetrical services, offering women an additional option when choosing where to give birth in Illinois. For more than 30 years, Health & Medicine's Birth Center Task Force has provided policy expertise and leadership for the birth center movement in Illinois.

*\*A birth center is defined as a designated site that is away from the mother's usual place of residence and in which births are planned to occur following a normal, uncomplicated, and low-risk pregnancy. A birth center shall offer prenatal care and community education services and shall coordinate these services with other health care services available in the community.*

## **Center for Public Health Equity**

Advancing social justice and health equity is at the heart of all of Health & Medicine's work, and our Center for Public Health Equity helps us find new opportunities to live our values. Externally, the Center works to make health equity a shared value, combat structural inequities, advocate for progressive public health policy reform, and grow the capacity of the public health system. Through organizing, collaboration, and narrative change, we build power for health equity.

The Center works on public health system funding and capacity building, community health improvement and other public planning consulting, and training and technical assistance focused on health organizing, health equity, and social determinants of health. For more information, contact the Center at [consulting@hmpg.org](mailto:consulting@hmpg.org).

- Contributed to and collaborated on the Stop General Iron campaign for environmental justice and the Just Cause to Evict campaign for housing justice
- Collaborated with the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) to conduct national research about support for large public health departments and inform potential directions for policy, budget, and programs at the department
- Collaborated with CCDPH to research and advance behavioral health opportunities
- Organized and hosted Health & Medicine's Forum for Justice in Health Policy, including a 3-part virtual forum series on lessons learned from COVID-19, and launched new forum sponsorship opportunities
- Served as a resource to City, County and State leadership on a variety of COVID-19 response issues

*“Health & Medicine Forums are my go-to for clear, accurate communication about trending health topics. As a teacher of public health critical thinking, it is important for me to hear reliable information based on quality evidence. I am confident in sharing the information I get at Health & Medicine forums with my students and members of organizations I am a part of.”*

—Mary Driscoll, RN, MPH

## Health Reform and Health Care Safety Net Transformation

Health & Medicine’s Health Reform and Safety Net Transformation initiative works to advance equitable health care as a human right for all people through policy research and development, advocacy, and narrative change.

- Successfully supported collaborative efforts to advance legislation related to data transparency and uncompensated care
- Continued to advocate for adequate funding for Cook County Health
- Supported Healthy Illinois Campaign’s efforts to expand the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program

## Center for Long-Term Care Reform

The Center for Long-term Care Reform promotes policy and systems that enable people to age according to their own goals and values.

- Launched [Illinois Aging Together](#), a statewide movement for aging equity in Illinois, including meeting with Illinoisans about what aging issues matter to them, hosting Policy Academy trainings and regional roundtable discussions, and engaging with legislators throughout the state to support legislation
- Developed and launched the Illinois Aging Together website and social media
- Reconstituted the Health & Medicine Center for Long-term Care Reform committee for broader membership and deeper collaborative work
- In collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago, researched older adults’ deaths due to COVID-19 in nursing homes and other congregate settings compared to independent living

## Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative

Health & Medicine is the lead convener of the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative, a group of multi-sectoral stakeholders committed to expanding the understanding of trauma and its impact on people's lives. Through advocacy and mobilization efforts, we work to put the issues of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and resilience on the forefront of the equity agenda in Illinois.

The Collaborative offers training on Trauma and Trauma Informed Care, Burnout, and Historical and Community Trauma. To learn more or customize a training for your organization, contact the Collaborative at [training@hmpg.org](mailto:training@hmpg.org).

In 2021, the Collaborative:

- Successfully engaged community members and partners to develop a statewide [Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois](#)
- Implemented a training and organizational change program with a large multi-service non-profit
- Expanded capacity-building projects on national, state, and local levels, including the Centers for Disease Control, Chicago Public Schools, Cook County Health, and other large health and human services providers
- Developed and piloted a train-the-trainer program to expand the reach of trainings and system change
- Hosted “[Building a More Resilient and Just Illinois](#)” in honor of Illinois’ third annual Trauma-Informed Awareness Day

*“It is critically important to lift up the power of healing and trauma-informed policies and practices, and I am honored to be a part of this event on Trauma-Informed Awareness Day. This past year has created deep harms to already challenged communities. Together, we can build a more resilient and healing Illinois.”*

—Grace B. Hou, Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services.



## Chicago Area Health Education Center

The Chicago Area Health Education Center (AHEC) works at the policy and practice level to recruit, train, and retain a diverse health professions workforce committed to underserved populations.

- Successfully trained over 100 direct care workers on Active Listening skills for caregivers
- Developed advanced active listening programming focused on behavioral health
- Co-convoked AHEC virtual Summer Institute with Project Brotherhood and the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago
- Implemented First Fridays networking events for AHEC scholars
- Recruited two Chicago AHEC scholar virtual cohorts, with 30 scholars completing community-based, experiential, or clinical training in underserved areas and 40 hours of didactic education
- Led Community Health Worker (CHW) summer training and mentorship program for Chicago Public School high schoolers to learn about health and medical careers and train to become CHWs



Workforce Director Sheronda Kimbrough takes high school students enrolled in Health & Medicine's health career pipeline and mentorship pilot program to an urban garden to learn more about the ways that food and gardening connect with health.

## **Workforce – Community Health Workers (CHWs)**

Community health workers are frontline public health workers who are trusted community members with a close understanding of the community served. Health & Medicine has a long-standing commitment to the CHW model, and we advocate at the state level and within health systems to strengthen the role and recognition of CHWs as integral members of the health care team.

- Successfully led 3rd year of our Community Health Workers Pilot Project in the Western Suburbs
- Supported CHW legislation and implementation strategy development with partners, legislators, and Governor's office
- Successfully collaborated with the Cook County Department of Public Health on efforts to secure CDC Equity and CHW grants

## **Workforce – Public Health Workforce Collaborative (PHWC)**

Health & Medicine is the convener of the Public Health Workforce Collaborative, a collective of over 20 organizations working to build a unified, sustainable, and equitable public health workforce in the Chicagoland region. The Collaborative includes the region's largest local health departments, public health research institutions, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and community-based organizations who were vital to emergency-response efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Brought together leading public health employers; identified shared challenges; and collectively identified pathways and leadership for future collaboration
- Facilitated collaborative efforts among employers to support CHW bill
- Elevated the PHWC partnership with COVID-19 response corps to connect members with professional development and jobs
- Developed a comprehensive CHW research agenda with the Illinois Community Health Workers Association (ILCHWA) and Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI)
- Compiled over 150 professional development opportunities for entry-level public health workers
- Co-Chaired the Chicagoland Vaccine Partnership policy/advocacy committee

## **Looking Ahead**

Health & Medicine is proud to announce our top priorities for policy change in 2022.

Read our 2022 Policy Agenda for Health Equity in Illinois [here](#). 

# Equity Intern Program

## Why Equity Internships

In 2018, Health & Medicine created an Internship Equity Committee charged with developing a new model for internships in which unpaid intern labor is replaced with a paid internship model, and for which we established a “one door” application process to make internship opportunities more equitable.

Providing paid internships is an important step toward creating and sustaining a diverse, equitable, accessible, and inclusive workforce.

## 2021 Equity Interns

Phylicia Abraham

Saba Ansari

Brittany Cobb

Rachel Donaldson\*

Brandon Felton

Courtney L. Savage Hoggard

Scott Hulver

Havisha Pedomallu

Khushbu Shah

*\*Ben Squires Equity Intern*

## Ben Squires Equity Internship



Inspired by their father’s commitment to mentoring future generations, Amy Squires and Sarah Squires-Doyle graciously support the Ben Squires Equity Internship. As a board member at Health & Medicine Policy Research Group for 25 years, Ben made significant and lasting contributions to public health in Illinois. In 2021, Ben posthumously received the Quentin D. Young Board of Directors Award of Excellence for his tireless commitment to public health and his mentorship of young people starting out in their careers. Established in 2021, the Internship supports one intern per cohort for an entire year, for a total of three interns annually. The Ben Squires Equity Internship Program launched with our fall cohort.

*“At Health and Medicine, I was surrounded and mentored by an amazing team of health advocates every day. I am walking away from my internship empowered to use my voice to advocate for health equity in my community. I couldn’t be more grateful for this experience, and I look forward to supporting Health and Medicine’s work for years to come.”*

—**Rachel Donaldson**, Inaugural Ben Squires Equity Intern

# Named Fellowships 2021–22

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## Tarik F. Ibrahim Fellow

**Paige-Ashley Campbell**, University of Chicago  
Pritzker School of Medicine

Ashley is organizing a health education workshop series for vulnerable immigrant and refugee families at World Relief Chicago. These workshops will provide education on topics that have been identified by the families world relief as vitally important, such as COVID-19 and the COVID-19 vaccine, budget conscious nutrition education, and mental health and wellness.



*Tarik F. Ibrahim*



*Paige-Ashley Campbell*

## Leslie Nickels Schweitzer Fellow

**Natali Smiley**, Rush University, College  
of Medicine

Natali is collaborating with World Relief, working with immigrants and refugees to build health literacy and confidence for these new arrivals. Natali has initiated a Women's Health Group to discuss everything from how we relate to our bodies to how the transition to the United States has been to what it is like to be women in the US vs. Afghanistan, and beyond!



*Leslie Nickels*



*Natali Smiley*

## Bob and Caryle Perlman Fellow

**Ivy Hernandez Delgado**, University of Chicago,  
Master's in Social Service Administration

Ivy Hernandez is conducting a series of Know Your Rights immigration workshops in English and Spanish. These workshops provide information on immigration topics such as DACA, public charge etc. She is working to empower the immigrant community and demystify immigration policies.



*Bob and Caryle Perlman*



*Ivy Hernandez Delgado*



# Celebrating 40 Years

## 40th Anniversary Gala

On Thursday, September 30, 2021, Health & Medicine hosted our 40th Anniversary Awards Gala at Ignite Glass Studios. More than 150 in-person guests and 200 virtual guests joined us for a beautiful night celebrating health justice leaders in Chicago and connecting with those committed to working towards health equity. We were inspired and energized by all of the work our dedicated awardees have done to challenge inequities in health and health care.



Top: Executive Director Margie Schaps provides an update on our work this year; Center: Immediate Board Past President Claudia Fegan, MD, guides us through the awards ceremony while the crowd watches; Bottom: Health & Medicine Staff at the event pose for a rare photo together.



Each year at the Gala, Health & Medicine presents awards to Chicago-area leaders whose work exemplifies Health & Medicine's mission to promote social justice and challenge inequities in health and health care.

This year, to celebrate our 40 years of advancing health equity, we honored public health champions with over 40 years of service, emerging leaders with under 40 years of service, and groups that have had a significant impact on public health, as well as presented our inaugural Quentin D. Young Board of Directors Award of Excellence.

### **Over 40 Years of Service Award**

Jacqueline Boone, RN, MSHA, *Cook County Health*

Robyn Gabel, MSPH, MJ, *Illinois House of Representatives*

Joy Getzenberg, MA, *UIC School of Public Health*

Jorge A. Girotti, PhD, MHA, *UIC College of Medicine*

Berneice Mills-Thomas, RN, MSM, MBA, MPH, *Near North Health Service Corporation*

Peter Orris, MD, MPH, *UIC School of Public Health*

### **Under 40 Years of Service Award**

Keith R. Green, PhD, MSW, *Loyola University Chicago*

Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, MD, MPH, *University of Wisconsin, Madison*

### **Group Award**

Illinois Unidos  
Stop General Iron Campaign

### **2021 HMPRG Quentin D. Young Board of Directors Award of Excellence**

In Memoriam, Ben Squires, 1925–2021,  
HMPRG Board Member



## Historical Timeline of Significant Activities 1981–2021

Health & Medicine was formed in 1981 by social justice advocate Quentin D. Young, MD, as a health policy think tank to research, educate, and convene stakeholders to challenge health inequities and improve the health of all people in Illinois. They envisioned a nimble and responsive “action tank” that would address urgent issues as they arose, oppose the exploitation of the health system for profit and support health care as a human right, promote the elimination of health inequities, have a working board, and act independently of institutional ties and obligations. As Health & Medicine has grown, we have taken on a wide variety of issues, but our commitment to our founding values has never wavered.

### 1980s

#### Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Proposed that \$1.5b budgeted for Medicaid be used to support the Illinois Health Service Authority, a statewide network of county operated health delivery systems (1982)
- Chaired Health Committee of Mayor-elect Harold Washington's Health Transition Team (1983–84)
- Supported Quentin D. Young as President of Chicago Board of Health (1984)
- Developed and published Health and Medicine's first policy proposal to reform Medicaid in Illinois (1984)
- Served on the commission establishing the need for a new Cook County Hospital, calling for integrating inpatient and outpatient facilities, existing health service, and a replacement hospital (1987)

- Consulted for the City of Chicago, Cook County, and State of Illinois Health Care Summit to set public health goals and safety net standards for the next decade (1989)
- Led Urban Public Health System study tours in US and Canada with legislators, civic and community leaders to examine and compare systems of care (1989–92)

#### Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Established the Citizens Coalition for Medicaid Reform to serve as an informed constituency advocating Medicaid reform (1981–82)
- Held the Healthy Babies Healthy Mothers Conference shining a light on racial disparities in maternal and child morbidity and mortality (1981–82)
- Sponsored “Health Block Grants: Directions for Citizen Advocacy,” a strategy session for citizen participation in deciding the future of Illinois' health programs (1982)

- Convened Task Force to formulate a position on the future of Cook County Hospital (1983)
- Forged the coalition to ban the sale of leaded gas in Illinois (1984)
- Participated on Illinois Department on Public Health's Maternal & Child Health Task Force and helped develop Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative in Illinois (1985)
- Supported the Illinois Hunger Action Coalition (1985)

## 1980s Continued

### Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Developed and produced WBEZ radio show, Health & Medicine, hosted by Quentin D. Young (1981–83)
- Published quarterly journal, Health & Medicine, which focused on clarifying urgent public health issues and challenges (1981–86)
- Educated communities about environmental causes of illness and worked with City departments to develop environmental protections (1986)
- Convened “Health Care Crisis in Chicago: Impact on the Hispanic Community” conference (1989)

### Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Begin to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans’ focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities (1981)
- Established the Health Management Services Center to support community organizations (1985)
- Collaborated with CDPH and Chicago Health Systems Agency to develop a strategic plan to reduce infant mortality, exposing inequities (1985)

- Crafted position papers on Cook County Hospital, defining the need for integrated outpatient facilities, community input, and linkage of already existing services, in addition to a replacement hospital (1986)
- Released comprehensive briefing papers on AIDS examining the dimensions of the issue in Chicago; ethical, policy, and financial considerations, and the philanthropic response (1986)
- Presented analysis of the state of Chicago’s Expanding Public Health Care Crisis, calling on the Mayor to address the crisis (1987)
- Produced research indicating a lack of birth options for Illinois families, resulting in our Task Force introducing the first legislation to establish freestanding birth centers (1988)
- Helped promote coverage of hospice care as a benefit under Medicare (1989)

## 1990s

### Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Established criteria to assess the impact of Humana’s purchase of Michael Reese Hospital on Chicago’s health system (1991)
- Initiated a proposal for the intergovernmental transfer of funds to capture millions of additional federal Medicaid matching dollars (1991)
- Released primer report on Options for Medicaid reform in Illinois (1991)
- Convened Illinois business leaders to challenge them to address the issue of uninsured residents in Illinois (1995)
- Measured primary care capacity for Cook County, establishing the need for primary and reproductive care (1996)
- Authored and promoted the Bernardin Amendment to the Illinois Constitution which advocated for health care for all Illinois residents (1997)

## 1990s Continued

### Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Formed and staffed the Illinois Women's Health Coalition, which developed a statewide policy agenda and legislative report card for voting records on women's health, providing advocates with information and tools (1994-95)
- Founded the Illinois Public Health Advocate, bringing the public's voice to public health (1998)
- Supported Quentin D. Young during his presidency of the American Public Health Association (1998)

### Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Made public the Health Care Summit Policy Steering Committee's statement of principles (1990)
- Established a Speakers Bureau that advocated for a single payer health care system (1991)
- With First Chicago Bank, briefed business leaders on the likely implications of the Clinton health reform agenda (1993)
- Met with the Illinois Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues to influence national health reform debate (1993)

- Provided policy analysis, education, and media strategy on the Governor's Medicaid reform proposal, contributing to the abandonment of the MediPlan Plus program (1996)
- Convened national "Urban Women's Health: Models for the Future" meeting (1996)
- Released report "Improving the Health of Urban Women," developing a blueprint for the Agency for Health Research & Quality (1997)

### Inspiring & Equipping the Health Workforce

- Launched the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program to nurture the next generation of service-minded health care leaders with an inaugural class of 20 Fellows (1996)
- Released report "The Implications of Health Policy on Workforce Development" (1996)

### Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Led Birth Center Task Force to successfully pass resolution that would allow alternative health facilities option in Illinois (1990)
- Developed and disseminated a model grievance procedure for Medicaid managed care entities (1996)
- Released report "Implications of Welfare Reform on the Health of the Public" (1996)
- Served on the Mayor's Task Force on Women's Health and the Governor's Commission on Women's Health (1997)
- Developed legislation requiring a minimum charity care standard for non-profit hospitals in Illinois (1998)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans' focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

## 2000s

### Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Launched the Center for Long-Term Care Reform which: educated legislators through a legislative study group approach (2000–01); helped initiate the Older Adults Services Advisory Committee (2005); and secured an additional \$63 million to support home and community-based services (2006)
- Participated on Governor Blagojevich's Health Transition Team (2002)
- Briefed Illinois legislators on health reform needs of women and issued legislative report care on women's issues (2003)
- Health & Medicine President Quentin D. Young appointed to the statewide Adequate Health Care Task Force, for which we developed a minority report promoting single payer national health insurance (2005)
- Developed plans for strengthening the regional safety net by hosting Regional Safety Net Summits, bringing together a diverse provider/stakeholder continuum with local officials (2006)
- Led the Coalition to establish the Independent Board for the Cook County Health and Hospitals System and began serving on the nominating committee for the Independent Board until now (2006–present)

- Conducted a preliminary analysis supporting the merger of the city and county public health systems (2008).

- Collaboratively launched the Bridge Model of Transitional Care, a social worker-based model that helps frail elderly safely transition from hospital to home (2008)

### Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Initiated the Illinois Campaign for Healthy Allocation of the Tobacco Settlement (CHATS) and participated in a statewide coalition that resulted in spending tobacco settlement dollars on improving health (2000)
- Launched a project with the Chicago Public Schools, resulting in the creation of the Office of Coordinated School Health (2002)
- Launched a working group to address the health needs of girls in the juvenile justice system, resulting in a new county office of Girls Programming (2003)
- Served as a key member of the Fair Care Coalition to ensure that non-profit health systems dispense charity care to the uninsured and underinsured (2005–08)
- Formed the Emergency Network to Strengthen Cook County Health Services (2007)

### Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Convened "Emerging Issues in Correctional Health" conference, forming state and local policy recommendations (2000)
- Issued briefing papers on significant long-term care issues for policymakers (2001)
- Provided annual advocacy training to increase public participation in health reform (2001–09)
- Hosted "Healing Girls in the Juvenile Justice System: The Challenge to Our Community" conference (2003)

### Inspiring & Equipping the Health Workforce

- Expanded the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows program to include 30 fellows (2001)
- Began an Awards program that recognizes the accomplishments of local activists making a difference (2003)
- Launched the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows for Life alumni group (2006)



## 2000s Continued

### Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Engaged older adults and individuals with disabilities on long-term care policy and urged state long-term care policy reform (2003)
- Initiated a project examining the health needs of incarcerated and recently released girls (2002) and developed a Girls' Bill of Health Rights (2004)
- Shepherded passage of an LGBTQ+ policy—one of the few in the country—in the Cook County juvenile justice system through the Court-Involved Youth Project; began training justice system staff on safer custody of LGBTQ+ youth (2002)
- Conducted briefings for community foundations on long-term care issues (2004)
- Provided legislative advocacy training for girls and conducted Springfield advocacy day (2005)
- Conducted critical advocacy to include sexual orientation in the Illinois Human Rights Act, resulting in passage after 30 years (2005)
- Passed Public Act 95-0445, allowing a limited number of freestanding birth centers in Illinois to operate on a pilot basis (2007)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans' focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

## 2010s

### Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Developed legislation requiring a minimum charity care standard for all not-for-profit hospitals agreeing to provide free care to ER patients whose incomes are below 200% of the federal poverty line (2011)
- Helped to ensure the successful opening of the first free standing birth center in Illinois (2014)
- Provided strategic guidance and support for the development of the Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (2014)
- Established the Center for Public Health Equity, which increased the focus on structural inequities in public policies (2015)

### Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Served as founding member of the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative (2011); convened health and policy leaders for the 2015 Midwest Regional Summit on Adverse Child Experiences to advance understanding of the tremendous impact of trauma and toxic stress on the health of individuals and communities (2015)

- Joined as steering committee member of Healthy Illinois Campaign, focused on expanding health insurance to all Illinoisans (2015)
- Launched the Behavioral Health & Primary Care Integration Learning Collaborative to help address the fragmented care and health disparities faced by those with mental illness (2015–18)
- Initiated the country's first Trauma-Informed Hospital Workgroup to train 16+ area health systems on ACEs, trauma, and resilience (2017)
- Joined the Collaborative for Health Equity Cook County, focused on aligning public health with community demands for justice and building power for health equity (2015)
- Became a charter member of Public Health Woke, a coalition focused on safe, welcoming, and affirming health care for immigrants in Cook County and Illinois (2017)
- Joined as steering committee member of Protect Our Care Illinois, focused on defending the ACA and Medicaid and advancing health care access and affordability (2017)
- Became a member organization of the Chicago Housing Justice League, focused on safe, healthy, and accessible and affordable housing for all (2018)

## 2010s Continued

### Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Launched the Chicago Forum for Justice in Health Policy, convening leaders from communities, health systems, and government to focus on policy approaches to advance health equity (2014)
- Developed a three-part webinar series on ACEs, including Intro to ACEs, Historical Trauma, and Impact of and Prevention of Burnout; presented and trained thousands of individuals and systems to begin the journey to becoming trauma-informed and healing-centered (2019)
- Published numerous system reform-related educational materials, including: [“Strengthening the Safety Net After Health Reform: An Examination of the Cook County Safety Net”](#) (2016); [“A Qualitative Review of Chicago’s West Suburban Safety Net: Consequences, Adaptation, and Recommendations for Future Reform”](#) (2018); [“Beyond the Clinic: A National Health Equity Review Implications for our local safety net”](#) (2018); [“A Checkup for Cook County’s Safety Net: A Qualitative Review of Health Reform”](#) (2019)

### Inspiring & Equipping the Health Workforce

- As part of the national program, became a Chicago Area Health Education Center (AHEC), encouraging students from underrepresented populations to pursue health careers; added AHEC internships to provide community college students with opportunities at area health centers (2013)
- Worked with community and legislative partners to successfully draft and pass HB5412, Illinois’ first legislation recognizing Community Health Workers (2014)
- Launched the Quentin D. Young Equity Project, an intersectoral 6-month educational effort of 30 people, aimed to shape the next wave of progressive activists to build on Quentin’s legacy (2016)

### Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Co-chaired the *root causes* section of Healthy Chicago 2.0 and contributed writing during assessment and plan implementation (2015–20)
- Launched a project mapping health resources and referral networks to better serve recently released court-involved youth and the communities to which they return (2016)
- Provided guidance to CDPH on approaches to measuring structural racism in Chicago (2016)
- Supported community-led efforts to eliminate Cook County gang database (2018–19)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans’ focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

## 2020s—Looking forward

- Hosted a “Black Men in White Coats” Chicago Youth Summit to encourage more Black boys to consider careers in medicine (2020)
- Partnered with CDPH and other nonprofits to conduct weekly assessments and apportionments for coordinated PPE distribution for Chicago safety net and community sites during early phase of COVID-19 pandemic (2020)
- Launched the Public Health Workforce Collaborative, a collaborative of public health employers to identify common challenges and policy and program solutions (2020)
- Launched the Intern Equity Program, which provides a paid opportunity for people wishing to begin a career in health policy with a focus on advancing health equity and eliminating and redressing structural inequities (2020)
- Published *Health Equity Requires Defunding and Abolishing the Police* policy statement as guidance for our work for racial justice, health equity, and abolition of police (2020)
- Convened two-part forum series, “Fighting for Our Lives: Public Health Historical Context for COVID-19” and “Fighting for Our Lives: Developing a Public Health Agenda During COVID-19” (2020)
- Joined #StopGeneralIron / #DenyThePermit campaign against environmental racism to deny the permit to polluter being moved to the Southeast Side, organizing letter with 70+ organizations and 500+ health workers (2021)
- Co-organized forum, “#DenyThePermit: Public Health, Democracy, & Environmental Racism” (2021)
- Launched Illinois Aging Together, a campaign for aging equity in Illinois that aims to advance an unprecedented strategic action plan on aging for Illinois (2021)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans’ focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

# With Gratitude

Health & Medicine expresses sincere gratitude for all of those who have made our work possible in 2021—individual one-time donors, monthly donors, funders, event sponsors, and contributors to our Summer and Winter Friends campaigns.

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# Financials

January 1–December 31, 2021

Unaudited financials as of January 15, 2022. Final audited financials will be posted on the website when complete.

## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets

Cash + Cash Equivalents	\$1,484,942
Accounts Receivable	\$684,402
Prepaid Expenses	\$1,074
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$2,170,417</b>
Property and Equipment	\$8,045
Other Assets	\$3,969
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,182,431</b>

### Liabilities and Net Assets

#### Liabilities Accounts

Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$107,750
Amounts Held for Others	\$500,686
Payroll Liabilities	\$3,862
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$612,298</b>

#### Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$504,518
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,065,614
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$1,570,133</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,182,431</b>
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## Statement of Activities

### Support and Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$1,423,773
Government Contracts	\$316,975
Special Events (net of direct costs)	\$57,211
Program Income	\$110,589
Interest	\$475
SBA Payroll Protection Plan Forgiven Advance	\$347,920
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,256,943</b>

### Expenses

Program Services 56468	\$1,485,604
Support Services Administrative 394908	\$201,403
Fundraising	\$193,505
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,880,512</b>

Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$1,193,702
<b>Net Assets End of Year</b>	<b>\$1,570,133</b>



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# About Us

## Health & Medicine Policy Research Group

The Health & Medicine Mission is to promote social justice and challenge inequities in health and health care. We are an independent policy center that conducts research, educates and collaborates with other groups to advocate policies and impact health systems to improve the health status of all people.

The Health & Medicine Vision is a society free of social inequities, with a healthy population accessing high quality health care, delivered in trauma-informed, comprehensive health systems by culturally competent providers.

Health & Medicine is proud of its history of collaborating with and supporting other nonprofit organizations throughout the state. In 2021, we supported several organizations with fiscal donations, whose work we find meaningful and which aligns with our own mission and values: Everthrive, Thresholds, Chicago Jobs Council, Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI), Age Options, Erie Family Health

For more information about Health & Medicine, contact [info@hmprg.org](mailto:info@hmprg.org). Consider making a gift to Health & Medicine in 2022 to support our work in Illinois.

## Health & Medicine POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

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29 East Madison Street  
Suite 602  
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