

## HEALTH & MEDICINE'S TOP POLICY PRIORITIES:

Our policy priorities include state legislation, local ordinances, policy implementation, planning, and administrative changes to prompt government to advance health equity. We lead on some of these issues and join others in coalition to make progress.

Health & Medicine's values support our work toward our health equity mission, including an anti-racist praxis alongside work against all forms of oppression, which are structural causes of health inequities.

### Aging Equity

- Legislation or executive order requiring the State of Illinois to develop a strategic action plan for aging equity

### Healing-Centered and Trauma-informed Systems

- Widespread adoption and implementation of trauma-informed policies, practices, policy development standards, and training within governmental departments, healthcare, and community-based organizations, supported by sufficient public funding

### Health Care as a Human Right

- Universal health insurance coverage, especially for undocumented immigrants, through an expansion of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults/Seniors program
- Development of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to help reduce costs of high-cost prescription drugs
- Sustainable funding, accountable governance, and equitable health care access at Cook County Health as the largest local provider of free and reduced cost care

Health & Medicine's mission is to build power and momentum for social justice and health equity in Illinois.

### Health Workforce

- Community health worker voluntary certification, reimbursement, and sustainable funding and career pathways
- Quality, well-paid, sustainable health care and public health jobs with efficient and effective career entrance, hiring practices, retention, and advancement opportunities focused on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion

### Public Health Equity

- Sufficient, flexible, and sustained public funding for state and local public health departments
- Cooperative agreement for enhanced collaboration between the Chicago and Cook County departments of public health to support efficiency and effectiveness
- Healthy, safe, affordable, equitable, and accessible housing, including: proactive rental inspections ordinance, just-cause for eviction ordinance, and home repair funding legislation
- Mechanisms for health equity in all policies
- Integrated behavioral health system in Cook County linked with Chicago-focused behavioral health initiatives

### Reproductive Justice

- A full range of equitable reproductive health, contraception, and abortion services and resources through implementation of laws, regulations, and accountability measures, especially important given the increased spread of syphilis and maternal and child health inequities disproportionately harming Black families
- Expand birthing options by allowing licensed certified professional midwives to practice as primary birth attendants, supporting doula reimbursements, increasing birth center reimbursements, and reducing unnecessary administrative rules

Our vision is a society free of social and health inequities so that all people can attain their full potential.

# ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Health & Medicine takes an inclusive view of health and what it will take to have health equity. Everything we encounter affects health. Our vision includes racial justice, economic justice, gender justice, social justice, and human rights. The items below represent additional issues of importance to Health & Medicine.

We provide support as we are able, aligning these issues with our top priorities listed on page 1. We invite current and potential partners to reach out to Health & Medicine regarding critical moments in which we can bolster policy efforts that align with health equity.

## Aging Equity

- Expanded and improved long-term care workforce

## Behavioral Health

- Improved response to the opioids crisis, including widespread use of harm reduction initiatives, such as distribution of Naloxone, needle exchanges, and safe consumption sites

## Climate and Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice progress, including passage of a cumulative impact ordinance in Chicago
- Tree canopy equity to provide benefits such as green space, urban cooling, and rainwater cycling
- Strong public health response to the climate emergency and decarbonization of our economy

## Community Safety

- Defunding and abolition of police, plus investment in the health and social services and resources that help people to be safe
- Treatment Not Trauma approach to providing solely a health response rather than police to health, social, and behavioral health emergencies
- Creation of alternative systems for accountability and safety
- Decarceration of prisons and jails, including moving older adults out of prison and providing improved transition supports
- Improvement of healthcare in carceral settings
- Passage of the Peace Book Ordinance in Chicago
- Stronger record sealing and expungement laws
- Public health approaches to gun violence

## Economic Justice

- Thrivable wages for all workers
- Mandatory earned leave of a sufficient amount for people's needs
- Legal requirement for all internships to be paid
- Progressive income tax
- Expansion of guaranteed income programs
- Protect and strengthen the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) programs
- Universal paid parental leave
- Free universal childcare

## Education Equity

- Equitable K-12 schools funding
- Free college education
- Better funded MAP grants, expansion of scholarships, loan repayment, and loan forgiveness, and other funding to make higher education more affordable, accessible, and to reduce education debt

## Housing Justice

- Care, services, and permanent supportive and affordable housing for unhoused people, including supporting Bring Chicago Home

## Human Rights

- Single-payer health insurance system, with care provided free at the point of service for all people
- Services and support for new arrivals and undocumented people who arrived previously
- Promote democratic engagement, including equitable and accessible voting laws
- Oppose authoritarianism and fascism

## Public Health Equity

- Accelerated lead water line replacement
- Healthy, affordable, accessible food for all
- Improved personal protective equipment (PPE) policies and planning
- Improved indoor air quality standards for air filtration and ventilation
- Improved application of complete streets policies to enable safe freedom of movement
- Free and accessible public transportation

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