Greetings WSU Family,

This year’s report chronicles our unwavering 1000-day commitment that we declared to the West Side of Chicago on March 5, 2020. At the close of 2021, we were 640 days into our 1000-day promise to accelerate our anchor mission strategies, align our hypertension and maternal child strategies, convene resource generating tables and pilot new ideas that benefit West Side families, residents, students, communities, leaders and organizations.

I am honored to report that in 2021, we are on track to deliver what we declared we will achieve by July 2023 despite facing a global pandemic and the challenges it has presented. I am proud to lead an organization born from the consciousness of healthcare partners seeking to address and eradicate historical inequities by following the lead of community. This year’s progress was not possible without the hard work and steadfast dedication of the entire West Side United staff. Our efforts were coupled with resolute commitments from our founding hospitals, community advisory council, community partners, and funders. Each of us are architects leveraging the blueprints left behind by Jean Baptiste DuSable, Kitihawa, Keith Lewis, Jane Addams, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Al Raby, Rudy Lozano, Ida B. Wells, Steven Whitman and so many others.

Our path to decreasing the life expectancy gap by 50% by 2030 is one that will continuously require effective and sustainable partnerships that lead with the voice of the communities we serve. Our obligations to dismantle systems upheld by systemic racism and historical disinvestment need to be constantly adopted by all of the structures who are responsible for creating and perpetuating the conditions that prevail and that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. West Side United and many others have taken on the challenge and we are honored to share our 2021 Impact.
FOUNDING HOSPITALS

OUR FUNDERS

- A Better Chicago
- American Medical Association
- Anonymous Family Foundation
- AT&T
- Boeing
- Chicago Blackhawks Foundation
- Chicago Community Trust
- Chicago Covid Response Fund
- Chris Redd’s Covidig Protest Relief Fund
- Clara Lionel Foundation
- Denny And Laurie Thorley
- Edwardsonian Family Foundation
- Illinois Network Of Charter Schools
- John D. And Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- Kids First Chicago For Education
- Michael Reese Health Trust
- Molson Coors Beverage Company
- Momentum Fund Of United Philanthropy Forum
- Oprah Winfrey Charitable Foundation
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Tito’s Handmade Vodka
- United Way
- Verizon
- Walton Foundation

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- AARP Illinois
- Abundant Venture Partners
- ACCESS Community Health
- Advocate Health
- Alivio Medical Center
- American Medical Association
- AMITA Health
- Ann & Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago
- Arturo Velazquez Institute-City Colleges of Chicago
- Austin Coming Together
- Breakthrough Urban Ministries
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Chicago Family Health Center
- Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
- Chicago Office Of The Mayor
- Christian Community Health Center
- Civic Consulting Alliance
- County Care
- Depaul University
- Dialysis Patient Citizens
- Enlace
- Erie Family Health
- Esperanza Health
- Forty Acres Fresh Market
- Friend Health
- Garamel of Illinois
- Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Kidney Alliance/Kivvit Chicago
- Latinios Progresando
- Loretto Hospital
- Loyola University
- MAAFA Redemption Project
- Medical Home Network
- Mercy Hospital
- My Block My Hood My City
- National Kidney Foundation of Illinois
- North Lawndale Christian Health Center
- Northwest Medical
- Northwest Center
- Norwegian American Hospital
- NovoPaw
- PCC Wellness
- Rush University Medical Center
- Sinai Chicago
- Sinai Urban Health Institute
- South Shore Works
- South West Organizing Project
- St. Anthony Hospital
- St. Bernard Hospital
- University of Chicago
- University of Chicago Biological Sciences
- University of Illinois At Chicago (UIC)

ECONOMIC VITALITY

- Allies for Community Business
- American Medical Association
- Austin African American Business Networking Association
- Austin Coming Together
- Chicago Community Learning Center
- Chicago Community Loan Fund
- Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
- Chicagoland Healthcare Workforce Collaborative
- City Colleges of Chicago Foundation
- Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection
- Economic Strategies Development Corporation
- FF
- JPMorgan Chase
- Little Village Chamber of Commerce
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Malcolm X College
- National Able Network
- North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council
- Northern Trust Corporation
- Northwest Center
- One Million Degrees
- Skills for Chicagoland’s Future
- St.Anthony Hospital
- Tukendorf Training Institute
- West Side Forward
- Women’s Business Development Center
- World Business Chicago

EDUCATION

- A Better Chicago
- Academy of Scholastic Achievement
- Austin College and Career Academy
- Benito Juarez High School
- Catalyst Circle Rock Charter School
- Chicago Bulls College Prep (Noble)
- Chicago High School for the Arts
- Chicago Hope Academy
- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Technology Academy High School
- Christ the King College Prep
- Collins Academy High School
- Communities In Schools of Chicago
- Community Christian Academy
- Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
- David G. Farragut Career Academy
- Frederick A. Douglass Academy High School
- George Westinghouse College Prep
- Hanka Consulting
- Herz School of Excellence
- Human Square Foundation
- Illinois Center for Rehabilitation & Education
- Illinois Mental District
- Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Infinity Math Science and Technology High School
- Innovare
- Instituto Health Science Career Academy High School
- ITW David Saper Academy
- John Marshall Metropolitan High School
- Josephinum Academy
- Kelvyn Park High School
- Kids First Chicago
- Chicago LAMP
- Legal Prep Charter Academy
- Little Village Lawndale/Infinity
- Malcolm X College
- Manley Career Academy High School
- Michelle Clark Academic Prep Magnet High School
- Nicholas Senn High School
- Noble DRW College Prep
- Noble Street College Prep
- North Grand High School
- North Lawndale College Prep - Christina & Collins
- North Lawndale Community Action Council
- North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council
- Ocean-HP Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Ombudsman Chicago West
- Orr Academy
- Our Lady of Tepeyac High School
- Phoenix Military Academy High School
- Pilgrim College Prep High School
- Prasser Career Academy
- Providence St. Mel
- Raby High School
- Ranlett College Prep
- Richard T. Crane High School
- Roberto Clemente Community Academy High School
- Rowe Clark
- Simpson Academy
- Social Justice High School
- St. Ignatius College Prep High School
- Thrive Chicago
- UCAN
- UIC College Prep
- Whitney M Young High School
- Windy City Dolphins
- World Language High School
- YCCS-Austin Career Education Center HS
- YCCS-CCA Academy HS

NEIGHBORHOOD & PHYSICAL ENV.

- Alliance for Health Equity
- Bethel New Life
- Beyond Hunger
- Chicago Department of Public Health
- Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion
- Circle Urban Ministries
- Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children
- European American Association
- Experimental Station
- Forty Acres Fresh Market
- Garfield Park Community Council
- Garfield Park Rise to Wellness Collaborative
- Greater Chicago Food Depository
- Harmony Community Church
- Pantry
- Hope Community Church
- Iglesia Evangelica Emmanuel
- La Casa Norte
- New Life Centers of Chicagoland
- New Mount Pilgrim Church
- Mariluc House
- Marshall Square Resource Network
- Michigan Farmers Market Association
- Midwest Independent Retailers Association
- New Life Centers
- New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church
- North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council Wellness Committee
- NowPow
- Pilsen Food Pantry
- Pare Chicago
- Santa Maria Addolorata Church
- The Food Trust
- The Salvation Army Chicago Temple
- Top Box Foods
- Wholesome Wave
- Farm on Ogden/Windy City Harvest
- Vouchers & Veggies-EatSF
- Bain & Company
- Boston Consulting Group
- Bridgespan
- Catholic Charities
- Career Solutions America, Inc
- CAN TV (Chicago Access Network Television)
- Civic Consulting Alliance
- Democracy Collaborative
- Erie Family Health Center
- Foaglove Alliance
- Hana Consulting
- HEAL Initiative
- Human Square Foundation

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- ACCESS Community Health Network
- American Heart Association
- American Medical Association
- Best Babies Zone
- Cook County Health
- City of Chicago
- Esperanza Health
- Garfield Park Wellness Collaborative
- Garfield Park Community Council
- Sinai Urban Health Institute
- Sinai Urban Health Institute
- Willie Wilson Foundation

HEALTH & HEALTHCARE
MEET OUR TEAM

Introducing our dedicated team at the forefront of building stronger, healthier, and more vibrant neighborhoods on Chicago’s West Side.

Ayesha Jaco
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tenisha Jones
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY & OPERATIONS

Ladarius Curtis
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Eve Shapiro
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DATA & EVALUATION

Mariah Van Ermen
DIRECTOR OF ANCHOR MISSION STRATEGY

Sanica Lewis
DIRECTOR OF ANCHOR MISSION STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
ELC members with an asterisk (*) mark also serve on the Community Advisory Council.

Angela Taylor*
Garfield Park Community Council

CRISTAL GARY
AMITA Health

David Ansell
Rush University Medical Center

Debra Wesley
Sinai Community Institute

Emma Lozano*
Lincoln United Methodist Church

Iliana Mora
Cook County Health

Liz Abunaw
Forty Acres Fresh Market

Marcus Betts
UI Health

Marshall Hatch Jr.*
MAAFA Redemption Project

Mary Kate Daly
Lurie Children’s Hospital

Matthew Davis
Lurie Children’s Hospital

Robert Barish
Cook County Health

Robert Dahl
AMITA Health

Rukiya Curvey Johnson
Rush University Medical Center

Shannon Andrews
Cook County Health

Tanesha House*
North Lawndale Employment Network
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

CELESTE SÁNCHEZ
Education

EDWARD BOONE
Health & Healthcare

ESMIRNA GARCIA
Small Business Grant Pool

ESTEBAN RODRÍGUEZ
Impact Investing
Small Business Grant Pool

HEATHER TARZCAN
Employee Pathways Program

GREG VAN HYFTE
Health & Healthcare
Metrics Workgroup

KEITH FREEMAN (1966 - 2021)
Local Hiring

KEVIN SUTTON
Education

LEVI MOORE
Impact Investing
Small Business Grant Pool

NATHASHA SMITH-WALKER
Education

NATHALIE ROSADO
Impact Investing
Metrics Workgroup

RICHARD TOWNSELL
Impact Investing
Small Business Grant Pool

VANESSA FORD
Education
In 2021, WSU amplified our work to increase health and wellness across the West Side.

We continued to push forward our new work that addressed COVID-19 disparities and vaccine equity as well as continue our original mission-related programming to improve Economic Vitality, Education, Health & Healthcare, and Neighborhood & Physical Environment outcomes across our ten West Side communities. As the Healthy Chicago Equity Zone West region lead, we are excited to integrate our vision with the City’s 2025 Plan for health.

**OUR IMPACT**

**ECONOMIC VITALITY**

Local Procurement (2021)

$34.5M  
378+  
0.77%

Local Spend  
WS Vendors  
% WS Spend

Local Hiring (2021)

1262  
14.5%

WS Hires  
% WS Hires

Employees Professional Pathways

Since 2018, we’ve had 278 participants in 4 different types of professional pathways.

**NEIGHBORHOOD & PHYSICAL ENV.**

Impact Investing

$10.8M  
107  
129

Cumulative Investments  
New Loans in 2021  
Jobs Created or Preserved

Healthy Food: Food Pantry Support

WSU anchor hospitals each partner with 1-2 West Side food pantries, advocating for more healthy produce, providing resources, and sharing educational toolkits.

13  
196,133  
1M+

Partner Pantries  
Clients Served  
Lbs of Produce Distributed
**MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH**

**FAMILY CONNECTS CHICAGO**

We distributed 2,619 diaper packs, 8,520 packs of wipes, 83 Pack ‘n Play kits, and 47 car seats to 174 families on the West Side. (August - December 2021)

**HYPERTENSION MANAGEMENT**

We are working with 3 FQHCs to distribute 100 blood pressure cuffs to prenatal and postpartum mothers who have been diagnosed with hypertension.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**

**PPE DISTRIBUTION**

In 2021, we distributed 81,000 masks, 3,100 wipes, and 4,100 hand sanitizers to 25 organizations through our partners, including Community Advisory Council, HCEZ Community Leads, and Live Healthy Chicago grantees.

**LIVE HEALTHY CHICAGO**

- **303,010** TOTAL TOUCHPOINTS
- **39,387** PPE DISTRIBUTED
- **244,454** MEALS DISTRIBUTED
- **$5M** OWCF GRANTS
- **19,169** CALLS/OUTREACH
- **4,559** CONTACT TRACING

**EDUCATION**

**CLUSTER OF CARE SCHOOL-BASED COMMUNITY HUB**

- **320** FRESH PRODUCE BAGS DISTRIBUTED
- **21 Teachers Received** TRAUMA INFORMED CARE TRAINING
- **10,000** CHILD-SIZED MASKS DISTRIBUTED

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The WSU Cluster of Care Hub at Herzl School of Excellence affords our scholars tremendous opportunities to reach their full potential. Whether it’s through trauma-informed care, physical health services, access to fresh food and produce, and connections with community-based partners, we are improving the quality of life in North Lawndale. WSU and Herzl are doing our part in positively affecting the life expectancy rate here in North Lawndale. **Together, we’re making generational change.**
The West Side is composed of ten beautifully diverse neighborhoods that vary substantially in history and demographics. Four neighborhoods are primarily Black, four are primarily Latino, and two are predominantly white. There are stark social differences between these West Side neighborhoods, including the impact of anti-Black racism, discrimination based on immigration and documentation status, and economic opportunities and retail corridors.

What is common across the West Side is that residents of these neighborhoods experience many more social determinants that negatively impact their health and wellbeing, including fewer resources for schools, higher unemployment, much lower wages, and neighborhood features like food deserts, vacancies, brownfields, and proximity to pollutants compared to other, wealthier parts of the City.

WSU HAS COMMITTED TO ADDRESS THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF EACH OF THESE NEIGHBORHOODS AND TO COMBAT THE LEGACY OF RACISM AND DISINVESTMENT.

We are proud of the unique cultural contributions from each of our West Side communities and will continue to lift their residents, leaders, organizations, and assets in our work.

10 Communities 562,158 Residents 74.67 YEARS Life Expectancy

These snapshots feature some of our program outcome data as well as other indicators, including life expectancy, race & ethnicity, and median household income. These demographic data are pulled from the American Community Survey (ACS) and Illinois Department of Public Health. Outcomes by program were associated with neighborhoods or best-affiliated zip codes. As zip codes do not perfectly align with community area boundaries, the numbers were divided by the number of different zip codes/community areas. Grants and investments were distributed to organizations located in or serving each neighborhood. The number of vaccination events for the Healthy Chicago Equity Zone (HCEZ) project only reflects events that community leads hosted or participated in through funded partnerships.

Please visit our website to learn more about other program outcomes not highlighted in this section.
LOWER WEST SIDE

**Community Overview**

- **Life Expectancy**: 80.9 years
- **Race/Ethnicity**:
  - HISPANIC/LATINX: 19%
  - NON-HISPANIC WHITE: 71%
  - ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 19%
  - BLACK: 71%
  - OTHER: 71%

**Grants & Investments**

- **$1.5M+ Impact Investing**
- **$728,100 Live Healthy Chicago Grant**
- **$192,686 Healthy Chicago Equity Zone**
- **$88,000 Small Business Grant Pool**

**South Lawndale**

**Community Overview**

- **Life Expectancy**: 78.9 years
- **Race/Ethnicity**:
  - HISPANIC/LATINX: 8.7%
  - NON-HISPANIC WHITE: 87%
  - ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 8.7%
  - BLACK: 87%
  - OTHER: 87%

**Grants & Investments**

- **$1.1M+ Impact Investing**
- **$978,100 Live Healthy Chicago Grant**
- **$239,000 COVID-19 Relief Grants**
- **$50,000 Small Business Grant Pool**

**Our Impact**

- **Local Hiring**:
  - **166 New Hires**
  - **51 Vaccination Events Hosted**
  - **166 New Hires**
  - **51 Vaccination Events Hosted**

- **Local Procurement**:
  - **44 Vendor Repository Businesses**
  - **23 Vendor Repository Businesses**

- **COVID-19 Response**:
  - **11,000 Masks Distributed**
  - **14,500 Masks Distributed**

**Snapshot**

- NMMA boasts one of the country's largest Mexican art collections.
- The famous terra cotta archway over 26th Street!
NORTH LAWNDALE

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

- **LIFE EXPECTANCY**
  - 69.1 YEARS

- **MEDIAN INCOME**
  - $32,051

- **RACE/ETHNICITY**
  - 83.8%
  - 11.8%
  - 0.8%

- **GRANTS & INVESTMENTS**
  - **$6.3M**
    - Impact Investing
  - **$732,415**
    - Live Healthy Chicago Grant
  - **$125,750**
    - Small Business Grant Pool
  - **$54,000**
    - COVID-19 Relief Grants

- **OUR IMPACT**
  - **LOCAL HIRING**
    - **288** New Hires
  - **HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE**
    - **49** Vaccination Events Hosted
  - **LOCAL PROCUREMENT**
    - **98** Vendor Repository Businesses
  - **COVID-19 RESPONSE**
    - **Distributed** 6,000 Masks

HUMBOLDT PARK

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

- **LIFE EXPECTANCY**
  - 73.7 YEARS

- **MEDIAN INCOME**
  - $41,646

- **RACE/ETHNICITY**
  - 58.7%
  - 29.9%
  - 0.8%

- **GRANTS & INVESTMENTS**
  - **$1.3M**
    - Impact Investing
  - **$916,615**
    - Healthy Chicago Equity Zone
  - **$63,750**
    - Small Business Grant Pool
  - **$12,500**
    - Clara Lionel Foundation Grant

- **OUR IMPACT**
  - **LOCAL HIRING**
    - **95** New Hires
  - **HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE**
    - **40** Vaccination Events Hosted
  - **LOCAL PROCUREMENT**
    - **17** Vendor Repository Businesses
  - **COVID-19 RESPONSE**
    - **Distributed** 6,000 Masks
E. GARFIELD PARK

19,995 RESIDENTS

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

LIFE EXPECTANCY
67.7 YEARS

MEDIAN INCOME
$26,139

RACE/ETHNICITY

HISPANIC/LATINX: 83.6%
NON-HISPANC WHITE: 8.4%
BLACK: 8.4%
OTHER: 8.4%

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS

$2.6M+ IMPACT INVESTING
$227,750 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT POOL

OUR IMPACT

LOCAL HIRING
178 NEW HIRES

HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE
43 VACCINATION EVENTS HOSTED

LOCAL PROCUREMENT
75 VENDOR REPOSITORY BUSINESSES

COVID-19 RESPONSE
10,000 MASKS

W. GARFIELD PARK

17,423 RESIDENTS

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

LIFE EXPECTANCY
69.1 YEARS

MEDIAN INCOME
$27,406

RACE/ETHNICITY

HISPANIC/LATINX: 83.6%
NON-HISPANC WHITE: 8.4%
BLACK: 8.4%
OTHER: 8.4%

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS

$1M+ IMPACT INVESTING
$93,000 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT POOL

OUR IMPACT

LOCAL HIRING
64 NEW HIRES

HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE
39 VACCINATION EVENTS HOSTED

LOCAL PROCUREMENT
13 VENDOR REPOSITORY BUSINESSES

COVID-19 RESPONSE
6,000 MASKS

SNAPSHOT

The Garfield Park Conservatory is one of the largest in the nation.

The historic Golden Dome field house in the Garfield Park.
BELMONT CRAGIN
78,151 RESIDENTS

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

- LIFE EXPECTANCY 79.2 YEARS
- MEDIAN INCOME $56,323
- RACE/ETHNICITY
  - HISPANIC/LATINX 11.4%
  - NON-HISPANIC WHITE 82.1%
  - BLACK
  - ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER
  - OTHER

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS

- $1.3M+ IMPACT INVESTING
- $736,615 LIVE HEALTHY CHICAGO GRANT
- $135,250 COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS
- $116,750 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT POOL

OUR IMPACT

- LOCAL HIRING
  - 92 NEW HIRES
- SMALL BUSINESS GRANT POOL
  - 10 BUSINESSES SUPPORTED
- LOCAL PROCUREMENT
  - 13 VENDOR REPOSITORY BUSINESSES
- EMERGENCY FOOD MICRO-GRANT
  - IGLESIA EVANGELICA EMMANUEL RECEIVED $25,200 TO SERVE BELMONT CRAGIN RESIDENTS IN NEED.

NEAR WEST SIDE
67,817 RESIDENTS

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

- LIFE EXPECTANCY 76 YEARS
- MEDIAN INCOME $80,801
- RACE/ETHNICITY
  - HISPANIC/LATINX 24.3%
  - NON-HISPANIC WHITE 43.2%
  - ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER 18.9%
  - BLACK
  - OTHER

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS

- $2.2M+ IMPACT INVESTING
- $676,100 LIVE HEALTHY CHICAGO GRANT
- $63,750 SMALL BUSINESS GRANT POOL
- $26,500 COVID-19 RELIEF GRANTS

OUR IMPACT

- LOCAL HIRING
  - 261 NEW HIRES
- HEALTHY CHICAGO EQUITY ZONE
  - 44 VACCINATION EVENTS HOSTED
- LOCAL PROCUREMENT
  - 144 VENDOR REPOSITORY BUSINESSES
- COVID-19 RESPONSE
  - DISTRIBUTED 6,000 MASKS

SNAPSHOT
A mural celebrating the cultural history of Belmont Cragin.

SNAPSHOT
United Center is home to the Chicago Bulls and Blackhawks.
**AUSTIN**

**COMMUNITY OVERVIEW**

- **Life Expectancy**
  - 71 Years

- **Median Income**
  - $43,187

**GRANTS & INVESTMENTS**

- **$2.2M** Impact Investing
- **$363,500** Small Business Grant Pool

**OUR IMPACT**

- **Local Hiring**
  - 161 New Hires

- **Healthy Chicago Equity Zone**
  - 49 Vaccination Events Hosted

**WEST TOWN**

**COMMUNITY OVERVIEW**

- **Life Expectancy**
  - 81.1 Years

- **Median Income**
  - $112,881

**GRANTS & INVESTMENTS**

- **$1M+** Impact Investing
- **$93,000** COVID-19 Relief Grants

**OUR IMPACT**

- **Local Hiring**
  - 131 New Hires

- **Healthy Chicago Equity Zone**
  - 39 Vaccination Events Hosted

- **Emergency Food Micro-Grant**
  - Santa Maria Addolorata Church received $25,200 to serve West Town residents in need.
LOOKING AHEAD

HERE ARE SOME OF THE INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES WSU IS LOOKING FORWARD TO IN 2022.

1  DATA
We updated our data dashboard and are glad to continue to share vital information about health and well-being on the West Side.

2  POLICY
We are thrilled to support two exciting pieces of legislation this session: the Safe Gun Storage Public Awareness Campaign at the State-level and the Bring Chicago Home Campaign at the City. If passed, these two initiatives will combat gun violence and homelessness and further support the needs of West Side residents.

5  HEALTHY FOOD
Our robust healthy food portfolio supports several initiatives to increase access to healthy affordable food across the West Side. We are launching a pilot fruit and vegetable voucher program in partnership with Bethel New Life. We are continuing to support local food pantries through small grants and will provide 100 families at our partner school with 12 home deliveries of fresh produce.

6  FAMILY CONNECTS
WSU will continue to support the community engagement arm of the Family Connects city-wide initiative. We will increase programmatic outreach by inviting more community organizations to join the Community Advisory Board and engage more doulas, Prenatal Home Visitor Programs, and WIC centers.
WSU is continuing to build our school-based cluster of care model with partner school Herzl Elementary in North Lawndale. This year, we look forward to bringing new services to the school, including physical health services, behavioral health support, and improve parent engagement.

WSU is continuing to increase local hiring and procurement by building pipelines between WS residents and job opportunities and between WS small businesses and hospital contracts. We are continuing to expand our Employee Professional Pathways programs and aim to launch our fourth pathway this year.

Best Babies Zone will continue to support maternal and infant health in East Garfield Park by developing outreach strategies to engage residents and improving our engagement of other key organizations in the neighborhood. Through the BBZ initiative, we strive to address racial disparities in infant mortality and birth outcomes.

We will continue to remove barriers and tackle racial inequities by providing vaccination education and vaccines to our West Side communities. In 2022, we will transition to the second phase of the initiatives, supporting neighbors with health equity resources to improve health and wellness.