Healthy Chicago 2.0 is a collaborative, cross-sector plan that builds on 200 specific actionable and measurable strategies to build strong communities and provide all residents with equitable opportunities to maximize their health and well-being. Launched by the Chicago Department of Health (CDPH) in partnership with the Mayor’s office, the plan singles out four key social determinants for special attention: housing, education, the built environment, and economic development.

To send a clear message that health equity is integral to everyone’s mission, the City Council also passed a Health in All Policies resolution to guide government activities, complementing Healthy Chicago 2.0’s process of bringing together public, private, and nonprofit leaders.

In moving Healthy Chicago 2.0 into action, CDPH continues to demonstrate the value public health brings to cross-sector initiatives, especially by offering data expertise and connecting community and government partners. Among its many initiatives, the department has supported the Corporation for Supportive Housing and other housing advocates in creating a Flexible Housing Pool; led mapping work for Elevated Chicago, a community-led initiative to revitalize seven neighborhoods near transit stations; and joined health systems and other partners in launching West Side United to revitalize Chicago’s West Side and improve health outcomes.

CDPH engaged nearly 1,000 stakeholders to lay the groundwork for the plan—including residents, health care providers, government agencies, community and social service organizations, foundations and public health experts. Together, they reviewed data that told the story of health inequities in the city and then identified ten priority areas for action. Action teams, each co-chaired by a CDPH staff person and a community partner, were formed to focus on each priority.

We realized that the approach to health has to address more than health care if we are going to improve outcomes. Where we have moved the dial on public health outcomes, they were multi-partner, multi-sector projects…

David Ansell, Rush Medical Center