



POLICY ROADMAP

PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2025



COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT
TONI PRECKWINKLE

Toni Preckwinkle

Table of Contents

01.

Introduction

03.

Healthy Communities

09.

Vital Communities

19.

Safe and Thriving Communities

25.

Sustainable Communities

33.

Connected Communities

41.

Open Communities

49.

Equity Fund Addendum

61.

Equity Fund Financial
Reporting

Introduction

Last year, Cook County launched The Policy Roadmap 2024-2027, a strategic plan documenting our goals and charting the path for the next four years. Outlined in the plan is a policy-driven, strategic approach that aligns the work of the Cook County Offices Under the President (OUP) in six priority areas: health and wellness, economic and community development, safety and justice, climate resiliency, public infrastructure and technology, and good government.

Since the release of the first Policy Roadmap in 2018, under the leadership of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, OUP has launched numerous initiatives in line with the original plan while adapting and responding to significant, emerging needs. Through a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic and historic economic and housing downturn to the mass protests regarding policing and the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, plus the ever-growing climate crisis, the Policy Roadmap provided a framework for Cook County's strong response and leadership.

Building on its internal work to operationalize racial equity, the Cook County Equity Fund, created in 2021, established a budgeting vehicle with dedicated revenues, and launched a portfolio of meaningful systems-change efforts to drive racial equity. The \$1 billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation the County received from the federal government funded COVID-19 mitigation and public health programs, as well as economic and community recovery initiatives. Together, these marked significant financial and programmatic investments that aimed to advance equity and were rooted in the Policy Roadmap.

This report captures implementation progress for the first year of the Cook County Policy Roadmap 2024-2027: Four Year Strategic Plan for Offices Under the President (OUP). In the year following its publication, OUP has advanced implementation by creating action plans to achieve the strategies, objectives and goals of the Policy Roadmap 2024-2027 and convening pillar members to share progress and enable interdepartmental collaboration. In line with the Policy Roadmap's goal to fold varied streams of reporting under its umbrella, this report also includes a progress update on the Equity Fund. Improving outcomes for residents through this policy framework requires a continued focus on Cook County's values of equity, engagement, and excellence, as well as continuous coordination and collaboration between OUP, separately elected Cook County officials, and other partners. Through the goals and objectives outlined in the Policy Roadmap 2024-2027 Cook County strives to create more healthy, sustainable, connected, safe and thriving, open and vital communities.



Healthy Communities

Healthy Communities

Cook County is committed to improving the health and well-being of all residents by ensuring access to healthcare services as well as addressing the social drivers of health, such as housing instability, food insecurity and access to transportation, and the physical environment. Through collaboration and partnership with government agencies, community-based organizations and healthcare providers, the County aims to reduce residents' barriers to accessing and integrating health services and advance policies and programs that promote healthy, active lifestyles and communities.

Goal: Improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of Cook County residents and communities.

Objective 1:

Reduce health inequities by addressing the racial disparities and the social, physical and economic conditions that impact health.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.1) Ensure all policies and practices address the root causes of health inequities.	Health Equity in All Policies		1.1 Health Equity in All Policies
1.2) Reduce barriers to accessing health services for all residents through assessment, education, outreach, and advocacy.	CCDPH Immunization Program		
1.3) Deepen relationships and foster authentic dialogue with community-based organizations, advocacy groups, healthcare providers, government agencies, residents and other partners for increased collaboration and capacity to advance health equity.	Behavioral Health Summit Mental health strategic plan Community needs assessment		

Objective 2:

Improve access to and integration of high-quality, responsive healthcare.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.1) Enhance access to high-quality mental healthcare, trauma-informed services and substance use disorder care.	Behavioral health workforce assessment Opioid treatment program at Austin clinic Network of behavioral health telehealth providers for CountyCare members		1.2 Behavioral Health Administration
2.2) Ensure a continuum of health-related services exists within Cook County to meet residents' needs.	Bi-directional referral network with other organizations to promote access Service line expansion to address health gaps in neurology, cardiology, cancer and maternal/child Expansion of services at Provident Hospital		
2.3) Explore and support innovative models of care that increase access and expand ability to serve historically marginalized residents.	Impact Fund grants to community organizations CountyCare Access- Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults and Seniors Additional Behavioral Health personnel and support at existing clinics		1.2 Behavioral Health Administration

Objective 3:

Support healthy and active lifestyles and communities for residents.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.1) Advocate for recreational opportunities and wellness programs that promote physical activity and improved health outcomes for all residents.	Cook County Bike Plan	Connected 3.5) Invest in public transit, bicycle, electric vehicles and pedestrian access.	
3.2) Improve access to healthy and affordable food options to reduce food insecurity and enable healthy living, especially within historically marginalized communities.	Good Food Purchasing Program FoodCare initiative	Sustainable 2.5) Develop equitable, healthy and sustainable local food systems to improve resident health and create economic opportunity.	
3.3) Promote accessible multi-modal transportation options, including walking and biking, that connect people to family, work and play.	Public transportation funding reforms to promote active and safe transportation Safety action plan	Connected 3.1) Coordinate and advocate for transportation investments and reforms across jurisdictions within the region. Connected 3.5) Invest in public transit, bicycle, electric vehicles and pedestrian access.	
3.4) Encourage a cleaner and more resilient environment to mitigate the harmful effects of pollution and climate change.	CountyCare climate action plan for the Health Plan	Sustainable 4.1) Integrate sustainability measures, such as energy and water use reduction, waste management and recycling, into every Cook County department's operations.	

Objective 4:

Implement a public health approach that emphasizes trauma-informed strategies for mental and behavioral health, substance use, and community safety.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
4.1) Encourage hospitals and healthcare providers to develop collaborative holistic, trauma-informed intervention models to reduce individual and community violence.	Hospital Engagement, Advocacy, and Leadership (HEAL) initiative	Safe & Thriving 1.1) Invest in a public health approach to reduce gun violence, and coordinate and integrate efforts across the County.	
4.2) Coordinate a continuum of services and programs and work across jurisdictions to reduce behavioral health inequities and address the opioid epidemic.	Mobile harm reduction unit Additional naloxone vending machines in courthouses and CCH sites Unified Crisis Continuum Stakeholder Committee		1.2 Behavioral Health Administration
4.3) Support people with mental health and substance use by promoting alternatives to policing and detention.	Clinical Triage and Stabilization Center at Provident Hospital Harm reduction legislative advocacy Behavioral health specialists care coordinators at HACC properties	Safe & Thriving 2.4) Advocate for evidence-informed policies that decrease racial, ethnic and socio-economic disparities and advance criminal legal reforms that promote community safety.	
4.4) Improve access to meaningful employment opportunities in the health sector for individuals who face barriers, such as legal system involvement, through pathway programs and wrap-around services.	Provident Hospital scholarship program	Vital 5.4) Eliminate barriers to participation and access in the workforce development ecosystem and related training programs.	

SPOTLIGHT: COOK COUNTY FOODCARE PROGRAM

With the understanding that access to healthy food is a social determinant of health, Cook County Health's FoodCare initiative aims to increase access to healthy food and nutrition services to improve patients' health outcomes by delivering meals to discharged patients experiencing food insecurity. It includes emergency home delivered meals, a digital platform connecting members with a dietician and medically tailored meals for members with specific conditions. As of August 2024, the program has over 53,000 enrolled members, 2,000 of whom are enrolled in the medically tailored meals program. Over 20,000 emergency meals have been delivered. The program won a 2024 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award, along with a Best in Category distinction.





Vital Communities

Vital Communities

Cook County represents the core of the region's jobs, businesses, and productivity. While our economy is diverse, inequities persist, particularly in communities that have experienced historic disinvestment. The County aims to address these inequities by promoting innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to economic growth that prioritize jobs, support small businesses, and promote economic security and mobility for residents in historically marginalized communities.

Goal: Pursue inclusive economic and community growth by supporting residents, growing business, attracting investment and nurturing talent.

Objective 1:

Champion a regional approach to grow the economy and combat racial and economic inequities.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.1) Employ equitable and inclusive policies and practices for strategic decision-making, implementation and resource allocation.	Equity metrics for BED programs		
1.2) Lead collaborative efforts to reform Cook County's property assessment and taxation system to promote equity and fairness and reduce the racial wealth gap.	Property tax reform group		2.1 Property Tax Reform
1.3) Facilitate collaboration to advance regional economic vitality.	Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership		
1.4) Attract, retain and expand businesses by facilitating redevelopment and reactivating markets.	Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program		

Objective 2:

Invest in economic sectors with good jobs and positive economic, environmental and social impact.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.1) Identify, prioritize and support new and emerging sectors that lead to good jobs.	NEXUS program for sector partnerships		2.7 Workforce
2.2) Lead and support industry-led cluster initiatives to boost equitable economic growth.	Manufacturing Reinvented program Southlands Metals Hub		2.7 Workforce
2.3) Build industry capacity to strengthen competitiveness and resilience of key sectors.	Cook County Arts program Cook County Tourism Alive program		2.7 Workforce
2.4) Promote sustainability as an economic driver by attracting quality green sector jobs and developing workforce programs.	Solar Collaborative Sector Partnership	Sustainable 3.1) Increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in businesses, residences and governments through funding, technical assistance and implementation.	2.7 Workforce

Objective 3:

Grow the small business ecosystem, support innovation and entrepreneurship, and build wealth for historically excluded communities.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.1) Continue and expand the Small Business Source as a one stop resource for small businesses assistance.	Small business grants program Small business advising		2.8 Small Business
3.2) Improve access to capital for Cook County small businesses.	Access to capital pilot Cook County Cannabis Development Grant		2.8 Small Business Cannabis Business Development Program
3.3) Provide resources and support to grow a pipeline of small businesses with the capacity to procure local government and private sector contracts.	Women's Business Development Center and The Small Business Source Webinar Series		2.8 Small Business
3.4) Build and maintain a network of organizations and partners that can support small businesses in Cook County.	Business Support Organizations (BSO) network		2.8 Small Business

Objective 4:

Provide a continuum of quality affordable housing for all.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
4.1) Advocate for fair housing policies and practices that effectively support affordable housing.	Fair housing advertising campaign Fair housing research study		2.2 Fair Housing Laws
4.2) Develop and increase funding and its flexibility for affordable housing types, ensuring investments are community-driven and maximize impact.	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program HOME Investment Partnerships program		2.4 Affordable Housing
4.3) Transform the County's homeless and housing services to achieve housing security for our most vulnerable residents.	Transition to fixed site shelters Emergency Solutions Grants program		2.3 Homelessness
4.4) Increase affordable homeownership programs to help increase family stability and address the racial wealth gap.	Downpayment assistance pilot program		2.5 Homeownership

Objective 5:

Open access to economic prosperity for all by investing in workforce and talent development.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
5.1) Promote training and placement models that lead to good jobs.	Good Jobs Challenge grant		2.7 Workforce
5.2) Coordinate with the stakeholders in the workforce development ecosystem to intentionally and strategically support high quality jobs that promote residents' economic mobility and equity.	Cook County Manufacturing Apprenticeship Accelerator Healthy workers initiative		2.7 Workforce 2.11 Healthy Workers
5.3) Meet the talent needs of employers in key sectors to increase opportunity for and access to good jobs.	Investing in Families and Youth program		2.7 Workforce
5.4) Eliminate barriers to participation and access in the workforce development ecosystem and related training programs.	Forest Preserve District's Conservation Corps program	Sustainable 2.4) Invest in ecological restoration and stewardship to protect native habitats and species and to reduce the adverse impacts of invasive species.	2.7 Workforce

Objective 6:

Base investments on their capacity to promote equitable economic growth in historically marginalized communities.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
6.1) Invest in opportunities to increase access to economic opportunities and jobs.	Community Development Block Grant Invest in Cook grant program		
6.2) Facilitate multimodal transportation of goods and people within and beyond Cook County to encourage economic growth and community vitality.	Cook County Long Range Transportation Plan CREATE program grade crossings	Connected 3.2) Provide technical assistance and funding to municipalities to promote seamless transportation throughout the region. Connected 3.3) Implement the Long Range Transportation Plan to address gaps in transportation networks to ensure equitable access for residents.	
6.3) Expand alternative forms of transportation to improve residents' mobility and access to jobs.	Bike share expansion Access pilot program	Connected 3.4) Integrate intelligent transportation technologies into public infrastructure planning and development.	4.1 Fair Transit
6.4) Build capacity of and support local governments to achieve locally desired economic and community development goals	Community Development Block Grant – Capital program Lead service line replacement pilot program		
6.5) Reactivate previously developed land in Cook County to encourage infill, build community wealth, and improve quality of life.	No Cash Bid program Tax incentive programs	Connected 1.2) Invest in the improvement of undeveloped or under-developed land throughout Cook County to promote community and economic vitality.	CCLBA

Objective 7:

Support residents and community institutions to promote economic security and mobility.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
7.1) Provide cash and debt relief support directly to residents.	Promise Guaranteed Income Pilot Medical Debt Relief Initiative		2.6 Economic Security
7.2) Develop and support programs that provide financial education and legal assistance to residents.	Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt		2.6 Economic Security
7.3) Promote better access to and coordinate social services for residents.	Community Information Exchange 211 Metro Chicago		1.3 Community Information Exchange
7.4) Provide capacity building assistance to municipalities and non-profits so they can better serve residents.	Community Development Block Grant – Public service grants program Capacity-building investments in food access sites		6.1 Equity in Grantmaking
7.5) Pursue place-based investment through a community centered approach to implement community development and economic revitalization.	Transforming Places program		2.9 Place-based Investment

SPOTLIGHT: HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE

During the pandemic, Cook County housed homeless residents in hotels as an emergency solution. The County has been transitioning from a hotel-based sheltering model to fixed-site shelters. The Margarita Inn and the Write Inn in Evanston and Oak Park are the first of two such hotel shelters that the County acquired and converted into fixed-site shelters. In addition to ensuring residents have a place to stay, the County funds the social service organizations that provide accompanying wraparound supports. The County has kicked off the next step in its homelessness mitigation strategy, i.e., permanent supportive housing units for residents who need support to stay housed, by opening the Broadview housing development in Maywood.





Safe and Thriving Communities

Safe and Thriving Communities

Creating safe, thriving communities and an equitable and fair legal system for all of Cook County's residents requires continued advocacy for safe, sustainable reforms and community-based programs that address the root causes of crime and violence. Cook County facilitates and invests in comprehensive and coordinated planning and implementation to proactively address violence and improve safety in highly impacted communities. The County also works to align investments and strategies to prioritize the needs of individuals involved in the criminal legal system and promote alternatives to detention.

Goal: Create safe communities and an equitable and fair legal system for all residents.

Objective 1:

Champion a regional approach to grow the economy and combat racial and economic inequities.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.1) Invest in a public health approach to reduce gun violence, and coordinate and integrate efforts across the County.	Convene County agencies engaged in violence prevention efforts Aligning budget investments with public health approach for violence prevention	Healthy 4.1) Encourage hospitals and healthcare providers to develop collaborative, holistic, trauma-informed intervention models to reduce individual and community	3.3 Alternatives to Policing 1.2 Behavioral Health Administration
1.2) Support community-based partners with planning, resources and response capabilities to address root causes of violence and reduce reliance on the legal system.	Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction grants Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services initiative Community of Care for violence prevention grantees	Open 1.5) Identify and implement best practices to help community-based organizations strengthen capacity and access County funding opportunities.	6.1 Equity in Grantmaking
1.3) Collaborate across jurisdictions to maximize investments, approaches and outcomes.	Government Alliance for Safe Communities Scaling Community Violence Intervention for a Safer Chicago (SC2)		3.1 Data Transparency

Objective 2:

Align strategies to prioritize the needs of individuals involved in the criminal legal system and promote alternatives to detention.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.1) Center impacted communities and people with lived experience in criminal legal reform efforts and decision-making	Racial Equity Cohort Safety and Justice Challenge Capstone Grant Community Engagement Project	Open 1.3) Improve community engagement by involving community members and stakeholders in an authentic way that centers them in processes and informs planning.	6.2 Equitable Community Outreach
2.2) Develop a collaborative budgeting process and performance metrics for multi-agency criminal legal system reform that work to streamline efforts and maximize impact.	Justice Reinvestment Initiative		3.3 Alternatives to Policing
2.3) Expand investment in community-based organizations, violence prevention initiatives, reentry support and survivor services.	Cook County Reconnect program Domestic Violence Intervention and Support Services initiative Cook County Readiness and Capacity Building Initiative	Open 1.5) Identify and implement best practices to help community-based organizations strengthen capacity and access County funding opportunities.	6.1 Equity in Grantmaking 3.2 Re-entry Plan

Objective 2 continued:

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.4) Advocate for evidence-informed policies that decrease racial, ethnic and socio-economic disparities and advance criminal legal reforms that promote community safety.	Pretrial stakeholders group Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED) program evaluation		3.1 Data Transparency
2.5) Partner across governmental entities and aligned civic partners to advance innovative strategies and meet the needs of residents involved in the legal system.	Government Alliance for Safe Communities Pretrial stakeholders group		3.1 Data Transparency
2.6) Continue to safely reduce County detention populations.	Electronic monitoring reform Pretrial Fairness Act monitoring and implementation and evaluation Reimagine youth detention		3.2 Re-entry Plan

Objective 3:

Inform criminal legal system decision-making by improving collection, analysis, interagency sharing and public release of data.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.1) Ensure data collection advances County priorities and provides accessible and usable information that centers community questions and concerns.	Countywide criminal justice system dashboard		3.1 Data Transparency
3.2) Advocate for improvements in residents' experiences utilizing the court system and accessing needed information.	Racial Equity Cohort Community dialogue on criminal legal reform efforts and access to justice	Open 1.1) Improve communications with residents, paying special attention to those with unique needs related to disability, language and other barriers. Open 1.3) Improve community engagement by involving community members and stakeholders in an authentic way that centers them in processes and informs planning.	6.2 Equitable Community Outreach
3.3) Support ongoing collaboration among separately elected officials to maintain a publicly available dashboard and reports on the criminal legal system, including disaggregated demographic data.	Countywide criminal justice system dashboard Safety and Justice Challenge Capstone Archiving Project	Open: 4.3) Implement public-facing communications to share data on an ongoing basis.	3.1 Data Transparency

SPOTLIGHT: GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES (GASC)

GASC is a collaborative partnership between the State of Illinois, City of Chicago and Cook County governments to strengthen the region's community safety ecosystem through optimizing investments in community safety. The region received a high volume of federal funding to spur pandemic recovery efforts. In response, the three levels of government partnered to maximize the impact of the funding by creating a grants guide connecting local organizations to funding opportunities, supporting and scaling community-based approaches to building safe communities and providing capacity building resources to local organizations. In November 2024, GASC announced a \$100 million grant opportunity for violence prevention and community violence intervention initiatives.



A circular frame with a dark border shows a view of the Chicago skyline, including the Willis Tower, seen through the branches of trees with yellowing autumn leaves. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Sustainable Communities



Sustainable Communities

Sustainable Communities have clean air and water, equitable access to green spaces, and a commitment to using resources efficiently and reducing waste. Protecting the environment is key. Cook County is home to numerous waterways, forests, and prairies, that require responsible stewardship of natural areas, supporting the health of ecosystems and residents. Sustainable Communities require collaboration, collectively evaluating climate change impacts and natural hazards, building resilience, and remedying environmental injustices. This is done through addressing the County's own emissions, investing in clean energy and green jobs, and supporting residents and municipalities with resiliency support.

Goal: Support healthy, resilient communities that thrive economically, socially, and environmentally.

Objective 1:

Advance environmental justice by means such as investing equitably across the County to address historic disinvestment and inequitable pollutant overburden.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.1) Address communities' environmental priorities and identify their assets and vulnerabilities.	Resilience Hubs Cook County municipalities preparedness planning	Open 1.6) Ensure that access to emergency response resources and capabilities are equitably distributed throughout Cook County.	5.1 Climate-resilient Infrastructure
1.2) Offer programs that reduce exposure to pollution, with priority given to environmental justice areas.	Healthy Homes for Healthy Families program Lead service line program South suburban hazardous household hazardous waste facility and satellite collection locations	Vital 6.4) Build capacity of and support local governments to achieve locally desired economic/ community development goals.	5.3 Public/ Environmental Health

Objective 1 continued:

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.3) Increase awareness of and financial support for environmental benefits to ensure access to services and resources.	Solar Switch Chicagoland program		
1.4) Minimize environmental impacts of facilities by adopting technology that reduces energy and water consumption, minimizes toxics use and output and diverts waste.	Environmental Justice policy Cook County Water Affordability program		5.2 Environmental Justice Policy

Objective 2:

Promote environmental sustainability in land use, transportation policy and economic development.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.1) Incorporate environmental impact as a key criterion when making policy and economic development decisions.	Environmental Justice policy		5.2 Environmental Justice Policy
2.2) Increase availability of and access to open spaces, greenways and trails, prioritizing areas where open space is currently limited.	Forest Preserve's Southeast Cook County Land Acquisition Plan		5.3 Public/ Environmental Health
2.3) Support policy that prioritizes use of land, protection of open space, and the connectivity between jobs, transportation and housing.	Neighborhood Revitalization Brownfield Remediation		
2.4) Invest in ecological restoration and stewardship to protect native habitats and species and to reduce the adverse impacts of invasive species.	Forest Preserve's Riparian Restoration project Community Conservation Corps RainReady program	Vital 5.4) Eliminate barriers to participation and access in the workforce development ecosystem and related training programs.	5.1 Climate-resilient Infrastructure
2.5) Develop equitable, healthy and sustainable local food systems to improve resident health and create economic opportunity.	Urban farming initiative gap analysis research Capacity-building investments in food access sites Good Food Purchasing program	Healthy 3.2) Improve access to healthy and affordable food options to reduce food insecurity and enable healthy living, especially within historically marginalized communities.	5.3 Public/ Environmental Health

Objective 3:

Reduce contribution to climate change and invest in mitigation.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.1) Increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in businesses, residences and governments through funding, technical assistance and implementation.	Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) program Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program Green building standards		5.3 Public/ Environmental Health
3.2) Invest in transportation systems that decrease emissions.	Electrical Vehicle charging stations Bike network study		
3.3) Implement green infrastructure and other climate change mitigation strategies through facilitation, financial investment and education.	Stormwater Management project		5.1 Climate-resilient Infrastructure

Objective 4:

Create enduring capacity in government and communities to build a sustainable and resilient future.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
4.1) Integrate sustainability measures, such as energy and water use reduction, waste management and recycling, into every Cook County department's operations.	Energy use and green-house gas emission reduction Green fleet policy		
4.2) Incentivize sustainability in Cook County purchasing.	Sustainable purchasing policy Environmental impact screening tool Combining recycling and waste removal contracts		
4.3) Partner with municipalities and community-based organizations to build regional capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	Climate resiliency plan development		5.1 Climate-resilient Infrastructure

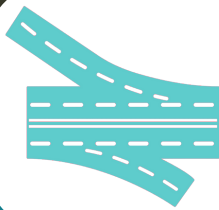
SPOTLIGHT: CHARM CENTERS

In partnership with South Suburban College, Cook County opened the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM Center), a permanent recycling drop-off facility that will divert waste and hard-to-recycle items from landfills and water systems. In addition to this disposal facility, the County also plans to set up satellite waste collection sites at K-12 schools to counteract high pollution and open dumping in the south suburbs.





Connected Communities



Connected Communities

Cook County is committed to providing innovative infrastructure programs that will connect people and communities to increase equity, support economic growth, and improve residents' quality of life. By supporting communities with drinking water, storm water and sewer projects and investing in sustainable transportation, Cook County will increase regional accessibility and connectivity while supporting an equitable and growing economy. Additionally, providing equitable and safe access to digital infrastructure, devices and skills for County residents will provide increased opportunities to connect and grow.

Goal: Provide innovative infrastructure that will connect people and communities to increase equity, support economic growth and improve residents' quality of life.

Objective 1:

Promote innovative land and water projects that support an equitable and growing economy.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.1) Prioritize equitable transit-oriented development in infrastructure investments, including through economic development incentives, ensuring access for all residents.	Policy brief on ways to encourage TOD in economic incentive development programs		4.1 Fair Transit
1.2) Invest in the improvement of undeveloped or under-developed land throughout Cook County to promote community and economic vitality.	No Cash Bid program Tax incentive programs	Vital 6.5) Reactivate previously developed land in Cook County to encourage infill, build community wealth, and improve quality of life.	CCLBA

Objective 1 continued:

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.3) Coordinate the development of water infrastructure projects to improve drinking water and stormwater management.	Stormwater Management program RainReady program		
1.4) Connect infrastructure maintenance and land use development efforts to employment and job training opportunities for Cook County residents, especially those from historically disinvested communities.			
1.5) Coordinate, support and invest in municipalities with the highest need.	Build Up Cook program	Vital 7.4) Provide capacity building assistance to municipalities and non-profits so they can better serve residents.	

Objective 2:

Provide equitable access to digital services for County residents in their homes and communities.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.1) Increase access to the internet, County online resources and high-quality devices.	Device giveaways		4.2 Digital Equity
2.2) Invest in and integrate high-speed broadband and connectivity opportunities through infrastructure projects and partnerships.	Chicago Southland Fiber Network expansion Broadband expansion at HACC properties Master infrastructure plan		4.2 Digital Equity
2.3) Promote policies and programs that improve residents' digital skills, confidence, and accessibility.	Digital Equity Planning Libraries as Digital Hubs discovery project IMPACT small grants program	Vital 7.4) Provide capacity building assistance to municipalities and non-profits so they can better serve residents.	4.2 Digital Equity
2.4) Increase awareness around digital safety so residents feel secure in digital environments and can protect themselves online.	Digital Equity Planning Determine digital safety alerts best practices		4.2 Digital Equity

Objective 3:

Increase regional accessibility and connectivity by investing in sustainable transportation throughout Cook County.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.1) Coordinate and advocate for transportation investments and reforms across jurisdictions within the region.	Advocacy to reform and fully fund the transit system		4.1 Fair Transit
3.2) Provide technical assistance and funding to municipalities to promote seamless transportation throughout the region.	Invest in Cook program expansion Coordination of timelines and selection processes for County grant programs that fund infrastructure	Vital 6.4) Build capacity of and support local governments to achieve locally desired economic and community development goals.	6.1 Equity in Grantmaking
3.3) Implement the Long Range Transportation Plan to address gaps in transportation networks to ensure equitable access for residents.	Gap filling in the bike network Invest in Cook expansion Capacity building support to transportation projects in lower capacity communities		

Objective 3 continued:

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.4) Integrate intelligent transportation technologies into public infrastructure planning and development.	Bedford Park Connect2Work program Traffic signals modernization	Vital: 6.3) Expand alternative forms of transportation to improve residents' mobility and access to jobs.	4.1 Fair Transit
3.5) Invest in public transit, bicycle, electric vehicles and pedestrian access.	Access pilot program Funding for transit capital projects Electric vehicle charging stations	Vital: 6.2) Facilitate multimodal transportation of goods and people within and beyond Cook County to encourage economic growth and community vitality. Vital 6.3) Expand alternative forms of transportation to improve residents' mobility and access to jobs.	4.1 Fair Transit

SPOTLIGHT: FAIR TRANSIT SOUTH COOK PILOT

Cook County has helped increase public transit access by making it more affordable through the Fair Transit South Cook pilot, which provided up to a 50% discount on fares for two Metra lines. The result was faster recovery of post-pandemic ridership numbers on both lines. Following the success of the two-year pilot, the program has transitioned into the Access Pilot Program, which extends discounted fare benefits to eligible income-qualifying Metra riders. It expands affordable fares beyond the Southland to the rest of Cook County and beyond.





Open Communities

Open Communities

For Cook County's policies to be effective, they must be built upon a foundation of good governance. Open Communities focuses on achieving excellence in County operations by prioritizing transparency and accountability, investing in its workforce and continuously improving the effectiveness of services. Open Communities' work is centered on ensuring that Cook County provides responsive, transparent and accessible services for residents, municipalities, organizations and businesses, attracts and retains a thriving and diverse professional workforce, and responsibly stewards taxpayer dollars through sound and innovative fiscal management practices.

Goal: Ensure Cook County provides responsive, transparent services and develops a thriving, professional workforce that reflects the communities served.

Objective 1:

Improve transparency, accessibility and responsiveness for residents, municipalities, organizations and businesses.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.1) Improve communications with residents, paying special attention to those with unique needs related to disability, language and other barriers.	Equity landscape review Community engagement planning working group Updates to web content to comply with accessibility rules		6.2 Equitable Community Outreach 6.3 Immigrant and Refugee Communities
1.2) Coordinate OUP media messaging, branding and communication, ensuring increased public awareness of initiatives and services across the County and separately elected official offices.	Shared communications materials for property tax reform group New OUP branding		

Objective 1 continued:

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
1.3) Improve community engagement by involving community members and stakeholders in an authentic way that centers them in processes and informs planning.	Community engagement planning working group Community compensation policy ARPA sustainability community engagement plan		6.2 Equitable Community Outreach
1.4) Utilize innovative practices to streamline the procurement process to make it more efficient and accessible.	Bonfire and Oracle integration		
1.5) Identify and implement best practices to help community-based organizations strengthen capacity and access County funding opportunities.	Starting Block Grants program Readiness and Capacity Building Initiative	Vital 7.4) Provide capacity building assistance to municipalities and non-profits so they can better serve residents.	6.1 Equity in Grantmaking
1.6) Ensure that access to emergency response resources and capabilities are equitably distributed throughout Cook County.	Cook County municipalities preparedness planning	Sustainable 1.1) Address communities' environmental priorities and identify their assets and vulnerabilities.	
1.7) Support digital communications and enhance digital delivery of services for residents in a multi-modal way.	Additional online content Cook County YouTube channel restructuring Cook County Works monthly television show		

Objective 2:

Attract, support, and retain a diverse, high-quality workforce to improve the delivery of services to residents by positioning Cook County as an employer of choice.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
2.1) Recruit and hire high performing talent that is reflective of the residents we serve.	Hiring fairs BHR marketing initiative		
2.2) Increase employee retention by offering professional development, training and opportunities for career progression.	Professional development policy		
2.3) Implement a uniform employee evaluation process to promote continuous improvement in support of the County's culture of equity, engagement and excellence.	Employee performance development platform Employee engagement surveys		
2.4) Ensure alignment of organizational design and job functions with the operational needs of Cook County bureaus and departments.	Job architecture and framework project		
2.5) Support a healthy workforce by prioritizing employee wellbeing in policies and practices.	Sick and wellness leave for mental health Parental leave policy		

Objective 3:

Ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars through sound and innovative fiscal management practices.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
3.1) Routinely identify revenue opportunities and areas for cost savings without sacrificing program impact.	Promotional items policy		
3.2) Ensure transparency, efficiency and accountability around budget, transactions and financial projections.	Hyperion budget and reporting system upgrade		
3.3) Continue rigorous tracking and reporting to ensure compliance with federal, state and local guidelines.	ARPA reporting and data collection refinement		
3.4) Continue improvement of grant management policies and procedures.	ARPA grant management system Grant Infrastructure Optimization project Equity in grantmaking best practices implementation		6.1 Equity in Grantmaking
3.5) Leverage County assets and capital investments to balance our financial responsibilities and maximize use.	Warehouse RFP Tririga asset management system Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system for county vehicles		

Objective 4:

Ensure security and accountability and demonstrate impact by implementing an infrastructure and culture of data-driven decision making.

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
4.1) Maintain and grow centralized, secured and integrated data systems.	Data strategy implementation DHRE case management system		
4.2) Foster a culture of data literacy, analysis and collaboration.	ARPA-related data literacy training and support		
4.3) Implement public-facing communications to share data on an ongoing basis.	Performance management platform implementation and integration to Socrata open data dashboard Annual performance plan redevelopment Medical Examiner mortality dashboard		
4.4) Provide staff support and processes for consistent performance metrics and program evaluations.	Departmental operational sessions		
4.5) Manage and maintain all the County's physical technology and data assets to ensure consistent and ready access to all applications and data.	Retire legacy environment applications		

Objective 4 continued:

Strategy	Key Projects	Related Strategies	Equity Fund Recommendation
4.6) Continue securing the County's information assets, including protecting sensitive resident data (i.e., court and health information) and the efficacy and integrity of elections.	Data masking in ESS Identity and Access Management (IAM) program Mobile device management (Intune) program		

SPOTLIGHT: JOB ARCHITECTURE AND COMPENSATION INITIATIVES

As part of a wider strategy to market Cook County as an employer of choice and retain employees, BHR implemented the OUP job architecture project and compensation changes. It aligned non-union titles to the job market, assigned job families and levels, developed promotional tracks and mapped employees to a new market-aligned non-union salary schedule. The job architecture changes were instituted to improve employee retention by fostering career growth, streamlining job descriptions and enhancing talent engagement, while the compensation changes targeted fairness, transparency and enhanced competitiveness.





Equity Fund Addendum

Equity Fund Progress Report 2024

The Equity Fund reflects Cook County's commitment to operationalizing equity. The work of the Equity Fund is a collective effort, from external partners who sit on the Equity Fund Advisory Taskforce to the leads in various departments implementing the Equity Fund report recommendations with the goal of effecting systems-level changes in the County's policy priority areas.

The bold and transformative systems-level changes that we are working to implement over time speak to the larger vision of Cook County to create safe, healthy and thriving communities by reimagining and transforming systems around justice, public safety, health, housing, economic opportunity, community development and social services to benefit Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities, and proactively investing resources in solutions and supports to achieve equitable outcomes.

In addition to the significant planning and implementation work being undertaken by our department leads, the Equity Fund Advisory Taskforce has met quarterly throughout the year and continues to play an integral role in four key priority areas that align with the Taskforce's vision and the broader work of the County:

- Provide ongoing support and advisement on the implementation of the Equity Fund recommendations.
- Assist with the development of inclusive language and how to effectively integrate it into the County's policies, practices, and communication.
- Provide input on a framework or approach to developing equity indicators/metrics that demonstrate impact.
- Provide insight into the criteria by which to evaluate future investments from the Equity Fund in alignment with the County's guiding principles and related work.

This report outlines each recommendation's progress and highlights from their year of work. Additionally, a financial report with programmatic spending through the end of Fiscal Year 2024, as well as the budget plan for Fiscal Year 2025 is included.



Equity Fund Addendum

Healthy Communities

1.1 Adopt a Health Equity in All Policies (HEiAP) approach in policymaking to ensure Cook County government factors health considerations into its implementation of policies and programs and identifies gaps to improve health outcomes for all residents and communities.

Lead Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Contracting for a vendor to support the research on and development of the assessment of municipal-level equity policies is moving forward.
- CCDPH Policy Team was awarded a technical assistance grant to support the development of Health Impact Reviews. Kick off for this grant, provided by the Network for Public Health Law, took place in October 2024.
- The CCDPH team presented on advancing health equity through epidemiology and data initiatives during Cook County's Annual Racial Equity Week.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

1.2 Create a behavioral health administration to coordinate a comprehensive, accessible and culturally responsive continuum of behavioral health services for Cook County, including preventative services, recognizing the intersections between health, housing and justice involvement.

Lead Department: Cook County Health - Office of Behavioral Health

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Convened the first ever countywide Behavioral Health Summit, which brought together nearly 800 people representing approximately 300 agencies to provide their perspectives on improving the behavioral healthcare ecosystem in Cook County.
- Awarded \$44 million in Stronger Together grants to 53 organizations to expand behavioral healthcare, particularly in historically disinvested communities.
- Presented the Cook County Behavioral Health Workforce Assessment at the Behavioral Health Workforce Symposium attended by over 250 stakeholders. The report provides details describing the worker shortage and plans to address it.

Implementation Status:

On track – substantial progress advanced



Equity Fund Addendum

1.3 Develop a countywide Community Information Exchange (CIE) System to holistically address social drivers of health outcomes, deliver whole person care and better inform and drive more equitable allocation of resources to residents across Cook County.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Hundreds of stakeholders engaged in the planning process, including people with lived experience with the homeless services system.
- Request For Qualifications (RFQ) released to select a technology vendor.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

Vital Communities

2.1 Support collaborative efforts to reform Cook County's property assessment and taxation system to promote equity and fairness and reduce the racial wealth gap.

Lead Department: Office of the President

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Conducted research with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and the University of Illinois at Chicago's (UIC) Government Finance Research Center on commercial and industrial property incentives utilized throughout Cook County.
- Conducted research examining the valuation practices and procedures for the Assessor's Office and the Board of Review.
- Hired and onboarded a Project Manager.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.2 Increase Cook County's capacity to enforce Cook County's fair housing laws to reduce unlawful housing discrimination and affirmatively further fair housing.

Lead Department: Department of Human Rights and Ethics

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Launched first ever public transportation campaign, The Right Move!, on Pace buses to inform County residents of their housing rights, in particular the Just Housing Amendment and source of income protections.



Equity Fund Addendum

- Partnered with the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA), Open Communities and Safer Foundation to provide training on the source of income protection and Just Housing Amendment.
- Partnered with Roosevelt University's Policy Research Collaborative to study the impact of the Just Housing Amendment.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.3 Build a more resilient housing and shelter system to provide dignified and reliable support to people experiencing homelessness in suburban Cook County, with the goal of achieving functional zero homelessness.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development – Department of Planning and Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Transitioned two locations used as emergency hotel sheltered to fixed-site shelters: The Margarita Inn (70-Beds) in Evanston, managed by Connections for the Homeless, and The Write Inn (85-beds) in Oak Park, managed by Housing Forward.
- Opened Broadview, a 16-unit housing development for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to long-term disabilities.
- Presented an impact summary of the Early Resolution Program component of the Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt (CCLAHD) program.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.4 Increase Cook County resources to create new units of affordable housing across Cook County to promote housing stability and affordability.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development – Department of Planning and Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Opened Otto Veterans Square, an 82-unit affordable housing development for veterans.
- Received board approval for 5 new construction or rehabilitation projects that will yield approximately 125 permanent supporting housing units.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced



Equity Fund Addendum

2.5 Provide direct financial assistance to residents to sustain and preserve homeownership, to address the racial wealth gap and prevent continued displacement.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Launched the Cook County Downpayment Assistance Program, a pilot initiative designed to assist homebuyers with downpayments, closing costs, or mortgage buydowns.
- Launched the Cook County Water Affordability Program, which provides targeted water bill relief, residential leak repair, water restoration and technical assistance for suburban Cook municipalities.
- Approved the modular housing program, which will support new construction of housing units for sale utilizing modular building techniques and downpayment assistance for qualified buyers. In partnership with the Land Bank, the pilot program will ultimately support the development of approximately one hundred new homes in up to four communities.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.6 Continue championing government's role in launching programs and policies that support residents' economic security and increase economic mobility.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Completion of the Cook County Promise Guaranteed Income Pilot.
- Research and evaluation of the Guaranteed Income Pilot by UChicago's Inclusive Economy Lab is underway.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.7 Align Cook County's workforce investments intentionally and strategically to support high quality jobs that promote residents' economic mobility and equity.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Supported training of 305 new or incumbent workers in manufacturing.
- The Bureau of Economic Development was selected as part of the Families and Workers Fund's Powering Climate & Infrastructure Careers Challenge cohort to receive guidance and support to address workforce gaps as the transition to clean energy accelerates.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced



Equity Fund Addendum

2.8 Develop the small business and entrepreneurship ecosystem, especially for Black and Latine residents, to reduce the racial wealth gap.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Awarded a total of \$50 million to 3,000 small businesses.
- Provided business advising services to more than 3,500 businesses.
- Launched a collaborative webinar series between Women's Business Development Center and the Cook County Small Business Source, which included specific sessions on government contracting to promote inclusive procurement.
- Organized a mapping session with County agencies that offer resources and services to small businesses to coordinate and amplify opportunities for collaboration.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.9 Pursue place-based investment through a community-centered approach to support a deeper and more sustainable commitment to implement locally desired community and economic development.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Launched the fifth Transforming Places network in Summit, completing the programs' total tally of community networks.
- Several networks received behavioral health grants from Cook County Health, and three networks are planning Resilience Hubs in coordination with DES and EMRS.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

2.10 Develop innovative programs to assist communities and residents that have been hard-hit by predatory lending.

Lead Department: Office of the President

Implementation Status:

This recommendation has been sunsetted.



Equity Fund Addendum

2.11 Strengthen and enforce Cook County's worker protection laws to ensure all workers receive fair compensation and protection from violations.

Lead Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Partnered with the Department of Human Rights and Ethics to deliver 13 trainings regarding the Paid Leave Ordinance, including several with partner organizations.
- Developed new materials regarding labor protections and enforcement, including a Paid Leave Employer Compliance Checklist, Paid Leave Overview handout, and Know Your Labor Rights handout, which includes information about employment related discrimination, Cook County's minimum wage, and Cook County Paid Leave Ordinance.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

Safe and Thriving Communities

3.1 Improve interagency data-sharing and public access to deidentified and disaggregated criminal legal system data to increase transparency and usefulness, with specific attention on data that identifies racial and ethnic disparities and operational challenges that contribute to barriers and collateral consequences for those impacted by the criminal legal system.

Lead Department: Justice Advisory Council

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Executed a data use agreement with Loyola University Chicago.
- Started the Safety and Justice Challenge Capstone Archiving Project that details the pre-trial reform work undertaken by Cook County from 2013-2024.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

3.2 Develop a comprehensive and coordinated countywide re-entry plan that works to support residents returning to their communities from detention, jail, and prison by removing structural barriers to housing, economic security, and opportunity, including the negative impacts of criminal and juvenile records.

Lead Department: Justice Advisory Council



Equity Fund Addendum

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Received Board approval for four new rental assistance provider agreements under the Cook County Reconnect program for returning residents.
- Renewed the Racial Equity Cohort program to begin planning for the second cohort.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

3.3 Support community-informed alternatives to policing in suburban Cook County to minimize harmful interactions between police and residents, especially Black residents, and promote community safety.

Lead Department: Justice Advisory Council

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Completed three listening sessions across the County for victims and survivors of gun violence to define safety needs and inform solutions.
- Selected a technical assistance provider for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.
- Progressing the Government Alliance for Safe Communities (GASC) performance management workgroup metric tool and analysis.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

Connected Communities

4.1 Increase access to and availability and affordability of public transportation to connect communities and ensure transit equity.

Lead Department: Department of Transportation and Highways

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Launched the Access Pilot, an income-based reduced fare program for Metra riders.
- Participated in advocacy efforts to reform and fully fund the transit system, including testifying before the Illinois General Assembly Senate Transportation Committee and House Transit Working Group.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced



Equity Fund Addendum

4.2 Increase digital connectivity and access to broadband infrastructure and digital devices for residents, particularly in communities of color.

Lead Department: Office of the President

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Delivered laptops to households countywide at device distribution events.
- Hired and onboarded a digital equity coordinator.
- Developed a digital equity implementation plan following the release of the Digital Equity Action Plan.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

Sustainable Communities

5.1 Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure to address decades of disinvestment in Black and Latine communities.

Lead Department: Department of Environment and Sustainability

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Completed Calumet City's Winchester Avenue green street design under the RainReady program to reduce negative impacts of flooding in the Calumet Corridor.
- Advanced the community planning phase of the Climate Resiliency Planning for Communities by engaging stakeholders in suburban municipalities.
- Established 13 community partnerships and engaged community members to participate in the Resilience Hubs project teams.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

5.2 Establish a Cook County Environmental Justice Policy to incorporate environmental and equity impacts in policy and program decision-making.

Lead Department: Department of Environment and Sustainability

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Created a Community Advisory Committee to help co-develop an Environmental Justice Policy.
- Published a report of the results from environmental justice survey, which received over 1,100 responses countywide.

Implementation Status:

On track – substantial progress advanced



Equity Fund Addendum

5.3 Support actions that improve both public health and environmental health for the overall well-being of residents, particularly in Black, Latine, and low-income communities.

Lead Department: Department of Environment and Sustainability

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Assessed and approved over 150 homes for energy efficient retrofits as part of the Healthy Homes program.
- Awarded \$1.4 million in grants to six businesses in suburban Cook to reduce pollution and the use of toxic chemicals under the Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) program in partnership with the Chicago Urban League.
- Completed the 100th lead service line replacement for childcare providers in suburban Cook under the LeadCare Cook County program. These replacements are providing safe drinking water for over 900 children.

Implementation Status:

On track – substantial progress advanced

Open Communities

6.1 Develop a comprehensive equity-centered grantmaking strategy to promote equitable access to resources and increase capacity to deliver services in partnership with smaller, grassroots, emerging, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led organizations anchored in marginalized communities.

Lead Department: Office of the President and Justice Advisory Council

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Awarded \$3 million in additional capacity building Starting Block Grant (SBG) funding for the second cohort of SBG grantees.
- Released an open call for capacity-building resources and technical assistance as part of the County's Readiness and Capacity Building Initiative geared towards smaller grassroots organizations.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

6.2 Establish flexible, accessible, and empowering pathways for residents of historically disinvested or marginalized communities to meaningfully participate in developing and implementing County policies and programs.

Lead Department: Office of the President and Justice Advisory Council



Equity Fund Addendum

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Released and implemented a community compensation policy.
- Convened the community engagement working group to begin formulating a community engagement strategy.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

6.3 Implement countywide best practices to measure the impact of policies and programs on immigrant and refugee communities to ensure Cook County’s work to reduce racial and ethnic inequities is inclusive and actively works to protect immigrants and refugees.

Lead Department: Department of Human Rights and Ethics

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Drafted Equity Landscape Review Recommendations.
- Presented the report findings in the “Race Origins and Immigration 101” session of Cook County’s 6th Annual Racial Equity Week.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced

Additional Recommendations

Cannabis Business Development Program: Establish a Cannabis Business Development Program to create a revolving fund to support grants cannabis-related businesses owned and operated by Social Equity Applicants who reside in Cook County, recognizing the link between the Equity Fund and cannabis tax revenue and the related history of incarceration and exclusion communities of color have faced.

Lead Department: Bureau of Economic Development

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Launched new social equity cannabis grant program.
- Awarded \$3.6 million in grants to 40 businesses.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced



Equity Fund Addendum

Cook County Land Bank Authority: Cook County Land Bank will continue working to increase naturally occurring affordable housing stock and economic opportunity in disinvested communities within Cook County.

Lead Department: Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA)

FY24 Highlighted Accomplishments:

- Acquired four properties to be offered at affordable prices.
- Offered 6% up to \$20,000 in purchase assistance for Land Bank (developer) owned inventory.

Implementation Status:

On track – meaningful progress advanced



Equity Fund Financial Reporting

FY24 Equity Fund Expenditure Report: 2nd Installment Spending Plan

Cook County invested an additional \$70 million in its second installment spending plan to support the JAC grants portfolio as well as several recommendations in addition to those in the first installment spending plan.

Department	FY 24 Allocation	FY 24 Expenditures (YTD)	FY 24 Budget Remaining	Percent of FY 24 Budget Remaining
Department of Public Health	\$ 1,537,540	\$ 262,500	\$ 1,275,040	82.9%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	100.0%
Health Equity in All Policies	\$ 437,540	\$ -	\$ 437,540	100.0%
Healthy Workers Initiative	\$ 1,050,000	\$ 262,500	\$ 787,500	75.0%
Environment & Sustainability	\$ 1,985,500	\$ 38,870	\$ 1,946,631	98.0%
Environment and Sustainability - Recycling	\$ 174,500	\$ -	\$ 174,500	100.0%
Environment and Sustainability - Resilience Hubs	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	100.0%
Environment and Sustainability - Trees	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 750,000	100.0%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 61,000	\$ 38,870	\$ 22,131	36.3%
Human Rights and Ethics	\$ 46,500	\$ 45,490	\$ 1,010	2.2%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 46,500	\$ 45,490	\$ 1,010	2.2%
Justice Advisory Council	\$ 35,250,000	\$ 8,584,595	\$ 26,665,405	75.6%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 250,000	\$ 925	\$ 249,075	99.6%
JAC Grants	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 8,583,670	\$ 26,416,330	75.5%
Land Bank Authority	\$ 6,270,000	\$ 1,875,073	\$ 4,394,927	70.1%
Affordable Housing	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ 500,000	100.0%
Expanded Homebuyer Direct (Aged Inventory)	\$ 3,200,001	\$ 1,016,259	\$ 2,183,742	68.2%
Expanded Homebuyer Direct (REO Acquisitions)	\$ 2,569,999	\$ 858,814	\$ 1,711,185	66.6%
Office of Economic Development	\$ 28,195,726	\$ 7,294,977	\$ 20,900,750	74.1%
Access to Capital	\$ 1,000,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	100.0%
Cannabis Business Development	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 3,904,743	\$ 95,257	2.4%
Community Information Exchange	\$ 10,000,000	\$ 890,234	\$ 9,109,766	91.1%
Transforming Places	\$ 13,195,726	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 10,695,726	81.1%
Office of the President	\$ 15,897,500	\$ 2,394,887	\$ 13,502,613	84.9%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 92,500	\$ -	\$ 92,500	100.0%
Equity in Grant Making	\$ 15,000,000	\$ 1,919,466	\$ 13,080,534	87.2%
Property Tax - Audit of System	\$ 150,500	\$ -	\$ 150,500	100.0%
Property Tax - Valuation Research	\$ 99,500	\$ 93,929	\$ 5,571	5.6%
Property Tax - CMAP/UIC Research	\$ 480,000	\$ 381,492	\$ 98,508	20.5%
Property Tax - Sales Ratio Study	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	100.0%
Secretary to the Board	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	100.0%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	100.0%
Transportation & Highways	\$ 7,071,500	\$ 107,007	\$ 6,964,493	98.5%
Equitable Community Outreach	\$ 71,500	\$ -	\$ 71,500	100.0%
Fair Transit	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 107,007	\$ 6,892,993	98.5%
Grand Total	\$ 96,274,266	\$ 20,603,398	\$ 75,670,868	78.6%



Equity Fund Financial Reporting

FY25 Equity Fund Financial Report: Third Installment Spending Plan

The revenue streams for the Equity Fund include the casino tax, firearm tax and cannabis tax. There is a \$75 million investment in the third installment spending plan for FY2025 to support the JAC grants portfolio and provide funding for several of the Equity Fund recommendations. New allocations are targeted at digital equity, CCLAHD and community violence intervention grants, while the spending plan continues to support the recommendations in the FY24 second installment spending plan.

Initiative	Equity Fund Recommendation	FY2024 Allocation	Carryover	New Allocation	FY2025 Total Budget
Healthy Communities					
Health & Wellbeing - Health Equity in All Policies	1.1	\$437,540	\$437,540	\$70,000	\$507,540
Community Information Exchange	1.3	\$10,000,000	-	-	-
Vital Communities					
Property Taxation - Appeals Research	2.1	-	-	\$150,000	\$150,000
Property Taxation - Audit of System	2.1	\$160,000	\$150,500	-	\$150,500
Property Taxation - CMAP/UIC Research	2.1	\$480,000	-	\$480,000	\$480,000
Property Taxation - Sales Ratio Study for Annual Report	2.1	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
Property Taxation - Valuation Research	2.1	\$90,000	-	-	-
Equitable Community Outreach - Property Taxation	2.1	\$52,500	\$52,500	-	\$52,500
Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt (CCLAHD)	2.3-2.5	-	-	\$600,000	\$600,000
Access to Capital	2.8	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$1,000,000
Transforming Places	2.9	\$13,195,726	\$4,500,000	-	\$4,500,000
Health & Wellbeing - Healthy Workers Initiative	2.11	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	-	\$1,050,000
Safe and Thriving Communities					
Community Violence Intervention (CVI)	3.1-3.3	-	-	\$20,000,000	\$20,000,000
Connected Communities					
Transit Equity - Income Based Fare Pilot	4.1	\$7,000,000	\$2,349,800	-	\$2,349,800
Digital Navigator Network	4.2	-	-	\$850,000	\$850,000
Sustainable Communities					
Environment and Sustainability - Recycling	5.1	\$174,500	-	\$158,925	\$158,925
Environment and Sustainability - Resilience Hubs	5.1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-	\$1,000,000
Environment and Sustainability - Trees	5.1	\$750,000	\$750,000	-	\$750,000
Open Communities					
Equity in Grantmaking	6.1	\$15,000,000	\$13,560,281	\$15,000,000	\$28,560,281
Equitable Community Outreach	6.2	\$419,000	\$335,000	\$93,726	\$428,726
Equitable Community Outreach - Best Practices	6.2	\$120,000	\$120,000	-	\$120,000
Additional Recommendations					
Cannabis Business Development	CBDP	\$4,000,000	\$80,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,580,000
CCLBA - Affordable Housing	CCLBA	\$500,000	\$376,094	-	\$376,094
CCLBA - Expanded Homebuyer Direct (REO Acquisition)	CCLBA	\$2,569,999	\$1,361,185	-	\$1,361,185
CCLBA - Expanded Homebuyer Direct (Aged Inventory)	CCLBA	\$3,200,001	\$1,791,119	-	\$1,791,119
Total Equity Fund Budget		\$61,274,266	\$28,989,019	\$38,977,651	\$67,966,670
Justice Advisory Council - Violence Prevention Grants		\$15,000,000	\$13,010,221	\$1,989,779	\$15,000,000
Justice Advisory Council - Building Block Grants		\$5,000,000	\$3,527,935	\$1,472,065	\$5,000,000
Justice Advisory Council - Residents Grants		\$15,000,000	\$7,190,464	\$7,809,536	\$15,000,000
Total Justice Advisory Council Equity Fund Grants		\$35,000,000	\$23,728,620	\$11,271,380	\$35,000,000
Total Equity Fund Initiative Allocation		\$96,274,266	\$52,717,639	\$50,249,031	\$102,966,670
Reserve		\$33,495,734			\$21,564,719



Toni Preckwinkle
Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President

Board of Commissioners

Tara Stamps, District 1
Michael Scott, Jr., District 2
Bill Lowry, District 3
Stanley Moore, District 4
Kisha McCaskill, District 5
Donna Miller, District 6
Alma E. Anaya, District 7
Anthony Quezada, District 8
Maggie Trevor, District 9
Bridget Gainer, District 10
John P. Daley, District 11
Bridget Degnen, District 12
Josina Morita, District 13
Scott R. Britton, District 14
Kevin B. Morrison, District 15
Frank J. Aguilar, District 16
Sean M. Morrison, District 17