

CHICAGO STRATEGIC ACTION COUNCIL (CSAC)



Coordinated Response — Who We Are






Our citywide workgroup brings together prevention providers, community partners, and public health stakeholders to strategize on an improved prevention ecosystem. Our purpose is to convene partners to co-design the shared infrastructure needed for coordinated, equitable prevention services across Chicago.

Why Coordinated Response Matters

While Chicago has a rich ecosystem of prevention assets, our landscape is deeply fragmented. When prevention partners are connected and aligned, this ecosystem can operate as effective services that support youth and families earlier, thereby decreasing the need for costly downstream services.



A coordinated response enables:

-  Accessible referral pathways across Chicago Public Schools, community organizations, and city agencies, increasing ability for youth to access the right support at the right time
-  Strategic use of funding that supports provider capacity, collaboration, and flexibility across organizations
-  Resource sharing, effort alignment, and wider reach of services
-  More consistent engagement with youth, including those who may not be connected to traditional prevention spaces
-  Shared data and communication practices that support collective impact

What We Are Building

Our workgroup is collaborating on a core prevention infrastructure that will enable prevention agencies, schools, and community partners to work together more effectively. We are advancing four priorities as surfaced through our workgroup discussions:

Systems Mapping

Creating a shared, visual understanding of:

- How actors in the Chicago prevention system are (or are not) connected
- Who responds to what types of harm
- Where gaps, bottlenecks, and feedback loops exist – including within Chicago Public Schools, city agencies (CDPH, DFSS), SUP organizations, law enforcement, faith-based partners, alternative schools, and more.

Shared Referral Systems

Collaborating on the development or adaptation of a cross-organization referral system to ensure these connections are:

- Simple and easily implemented
- Safe
- Equitable
- Usable across diverse neighborhoods

Data Sharing Agreements

Establishing protocols that protect the rights and safety of communities while also supporting:

- Transparent communication
- Collective outcome measurement

Shared Calendar

Implementing a shared, citywide calendar of prevention-related events, programming, and trainings to improve:

- Visibility of services
- Alignment of outreach and engagement
- Trust and warm handoffs

How We Demonstrate Impact

Funders can expect consistent, meaningful indicators that reflect both systems-level change and community-driven outcomes. Outcomes and impact measures include:

- ▶ A partner-developed, visual map of the Chicago prevention ecosystem to highlight gaps in coordination and inform response strategies across city agencies
- ▶ Coordination and infrastructure metrics, such as the number of cross-agency referral pathways and shared agreements
- ▶ Engagement indicators that reflect trust and partnership across agencies, e.g., increased participation in shared events and cross-org collaborations
- ▶ Reduced fragmentation, as shown by clearer hand-offs, lessened duplication, and strengthened links between Chicago Public Schools, city agencies, and community organizations

Resources Needed

Funding for data-sharing and measurement, including access to high-quality data sources, research expertise, and shared evaluation tools

Flexible, multi-year funding that reflects the true cost of prevention services and timelines of building a cross-agency coordinated response

Investment in shared backbone functions, including data infrastructure and referral technology

Support for workforce pipelines, including sustainable compensation for community partners doing coordination work without dedicated funding

