

# NORTH LAWNDALE

## THE NEXT CHAPTER



NLCCC



North Lawndale Community  
Coordinating Council



CMAP

LISC  
Chicago



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We envision North Lawndale as a healthy, vibrant community with a diversified and innovative economy, competitive work force, engaged citizens and infrastructure that supports long-term, sustainable growth.

Our Quality-of-Life Plan is built on all the assets that our community offers. From a base for the northern civil rights movement to a hub of industry, North Lawndale is a culturally rich community area with unique architectural character and historic significance. We have a strong sense of community and an abundance of local leaders.

This is a primarily African-American community, and it has been since the 1960s, when families relocated to North Lawndale during the Great Migration. Racially discriminatory real estate practices during that era and since constrained the community, and disinvestment has taken a toll. The population is about a third of where it was at the height, and storefronts and homes have been demolished or abandoned. Several of our schools have been shuttered, and too many families live in poverty or are affected by violence and crime.

Yet North Lawndale offers so much. We have beautiful greystones and other historic buildings, wide boulevards and the 218-acre Douglas Park. Once an industrial hub, manufacturing businesses still provide 19 percent of jobs in the community. Close proximity to the Loop, University of Illinois at Chicago, and the Illinois Medical District give North Lawndale an enviable location in the city. We have excellent access to transit and the Eisenhower Expressway. Since 2000, North Lawndale has seen several new residential, commercial, and industrial developments, including the addition of nearly 800 new housing units.

None of these assets are more important than our people. Our neighborhood is home to passionate activists, community gardeners, hard-working families, committed block clubs, and focused nonprofits. We are longtime residents who have never given up on North Lawndale, and young people who are invested in building its bright future.

The process to create this Quality-of-Life Plan reflects our energy and dedication. The first Community Planning Conference, held by the North Lawndale Community Coordinating

Council (NLCCC) in partnership with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), brought out more than 300 stakeholders, including residents, clergy, community-based organizations, high school students, elected officials, and local business owners. Over two years, we created committees to address specific issues in the community, held face-to-face public workshops and key stakeholder interviews, and offered an interactive online survey.

This plan is the result of that work. North Lawndale has a rich history. We are writing the next chapter.



We will invest in our community by promoting homeownership, empowering homeowners, preserving historic architecture, tackling blight, and providing safe and affordable apartments.

STRATEGY 1

Activate homeowners and promote homeownership.

- Establish a North Lawndale Homeowner’s Association to advocate for improvements to the community and to promote homeownership.
- Inventory existing financial resources to finance the purchase or rehabilitation of homes in North Lawndale and establish a “quarterback” to help stakeholders navigate these various programs.
- Establish a program that helps residents in North Lawndale and the West Side to establish the financial requirements for homeownership.

Champions: NLCCC Housing Committee, LCDC, Financial Institutions, NHS, CHA

STRATEGY 2

Use housing resources efficiently.

- Prioritize rehab and homeownership opportunities in zones in the community with lower vacancy rates.
- Maximize the investment in infill development by building in transitional blocks near areas of strength.

- Stabilize and enhance the attractiveness of blocks in high-vacancy areas with near- and middle-term creative uses, such as community gardens or event spaces.
- Create and preserve affordable housing, especially in multifamily focus areas close to transit and other amenities.

Champions: DPD, NHS, NLCCC Housing Committee, 24th Ward Alderman’s Office, IDHA, Affordable Housing Developers

STRATEGY 3

Preserve and improve the built environment.

- Perform a survey of greystones, historic assets, and conditions of local buildings using today’s digital technologies.
- Increase number of properties protected by historic preservation rules, potentially through a greystone conservation district or targeted preservation areas.
- Seek and deploy resources for streetscape, lighting, and façade improvements on our residential blocks.
- Explore the creation of a North Lawndale Land Use Committee to advise aldermen on key development decisions.

Champions: NLCCC Housing Committee, NLHA, K-Town Historic District, CAF, Landmarks Illinois, 24th Ward Alderman’s Office

STRATEGY 4

Initiate a marketing campaign to attract investment.

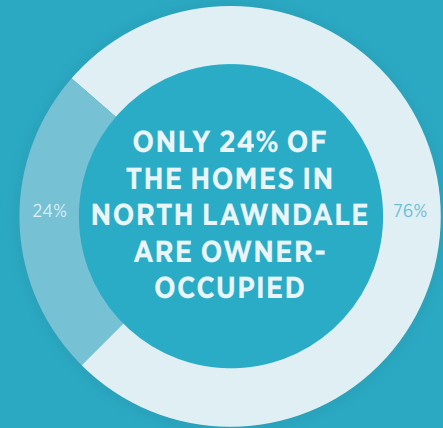
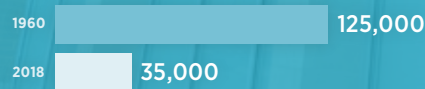
- Tell the “North Lawndale story” about our many assets, ranging from rich history to great transit access to a thick local cultural fabric.
- Seek funding to retain a marketing agency to create a targeted campaign to raise the community’s profile and attract potential buyers.

Champions: NLCCC Housing Committee, NLHA, Philanthropies

**WE WILL MEASURE OUR  
SUCCESS BY:**

1. Creation of a North Lawndale Homeowners Association
2. Increased number of owner occupants
3. Visible façade, neighborhood improvements, and fewer demolitions, especially among greystones
4. Establishment of a targeted marketing campaign
5. Rise in median home value

Approximately **35,000** people live in North Lawndale today, a drastic reduction from **125,000** in 1960



Of these owners,  
more than a third are 65  
or older



**More than 5,000 renter households** in our community **struggle to pay for rent and utilities** each month

North Lawndale is known for both its **greystones** and the **K-Town Historic District**



## ISSUE AREA I ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Diverse, sustainable economic and workforce development will enhance our access to quality jobs, goods, and services, help local entrepreneurs establish successful businesses, and improve pathways to middle-wage job opportunities and connect residents to local employers.

### STRATEGY 1

#### **Increase locally owned and high-quality retail and service businesses.**

- Establish an entrepreneurial incubator—including space for offices, classrooms, and technology resources—and increase entrepreneurship programs.
- Create new construction for commercial development throughout our commercial areas.
- Open smaller-scale demonstration businesses to stimulate activity and showcase market potential for North Lawndale.
- Attract a major grocer, as well as additional amenities like dry cleaners, healthy entertainment options, and community gathering spaces, along a walkable corridor.
- Enforce existing regulations for local businesses and adopt commercial design guidelines to ensure high standards along our commercial corridors.
- Use existing municipal incentives such as low interest loans, tax credits, and savings match to retain, expand, and attract businesses.
- Decrease the number of liquor stores in the community through tools such as code enforcement.

*Champions:* North Lawndale Chamber of Commerce, City of Chicago (DPD)

### STRATEGY 2

#### **Increase the wealth and buying power of residents.**

- Connect youth and adults to existing vocational job training and mentoring opportunities.
- Increase the impact of existing local wealth building programs to help residents.
- Encourage businesses to hire local residents and identify and address the barriers to doing so.
- Prepare residents for employment in growing sectors that offer middle-skill, middle-wage job opportunities.
- Perform frequent site visits and check-ins of clients at workforce development locations to ensure the programs' effectiveness.
- Keep in contact with alumni of workforce development programs, creating a network who can build off of each other's skills, work through challenges, and celebrate successes together.

*Champions:* North Lawndale Employment Network

### STRATEGY 3

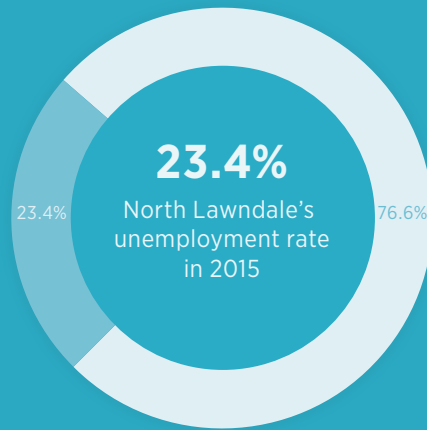
#### **Market and strengthen North Lawndale as a business hub.**

- Promote North Lawndale's assets to the business community, including promotional video, online and social media, and a "Buy North Lawndale" ad campaign.
- Set-up neighborhood tours to promote assets to prospective developers and businesses.
- Preserve and grow local employment opportunities in industrial and advanced manufacturing sector.
- Improve technology infrastructure, from basic computer proficiency to broadband Wi-Fi and fiber optic capacity, to support residents and new businesses.

*Champions:* New Covenant CDC, North Lawndale Chamber of Commerce

**WE WILL MEASURE OUR  
SUCCESS BY:**

1. Increased the number of businesses in North Lawndale, including the number that locate within targeted economic development areas
2. Increased the circulation of retail dollars spent within the community by North Lawndale residents
3. Increased number of residents who successfully obtain jobs that lead to careers
4. Increased high-quality jobs offering a living wage within our community
5. Decreased North Lawndale unemployment rate that aligns with the rate across the City of Chicago



**\$71 million:**  
amount spent annually by our residents on goods outside of the community



North Lawndale is home to the heart of Chicago's growing film industry, the city's largest brewer and major health care institutions

North Lawndale has more than **60 acres of vacant commercially zoned land**





## ISSUE AREA I TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY

We will lay the groundwork for a prosperous North Lawndale by expanding access to safe, well-designed, multimodal transportation and infrastructure and harnessing innovative green technology. From pedestrians to trucks and from manufacturing facilities to schools, we will strive to balance the needs of various infrastructure users.

### STRATEGY 1

**Improve transit and ride-share access, with bus routing and service as the top priority.**

- Pursue increased bus service along Ogden Avenue, such as a route past Mount Sinai Hospital and extended weekday service time.
- Support improvements to the Blue line stations at Pulaski and Kedzie-Homan and add a station at Kostner.
- Facilitate safer, more comfortable transfers between bus routes and between buses and trains with improvements to bus stops and shelter areas.
- Speed up popular bus routes, such as on Pulaski Road, with dedicated bus lanes, peak hour bus lanes, or transit signal priority.
- Attract residential and commercial development near transit with transit-oriented development incentives.

- Explore resident permit parking in K-Town near the Kostner Pink Line station to make local housing more attractive.
- Take advantage of mobile technology to enhance “first-mile, last-mile” connections to and from popular destinations by exploring formal partnerships with established ride-share providers.

*Champions: NLCCC, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, CDOT, CTA*

### STRATEGY 2

**Increase street safety and comfort for all users through policy changes, design upgrades, and technology investments.**

- Install and maintain or replace safety treatments to alert drivers, slow down traffic, and guide pedestrians, beginning with priority locations.
- Demonstrate the possible impact of tactical urbanism: temporary street improvements to make them more oriented toward people than motorized vehicles.

*Champions: CDOT, IDOT*

### STRATEGY 3

**Invest in innovative green technology to remake Ogden Avenue as the “Smartest Street in America.”**

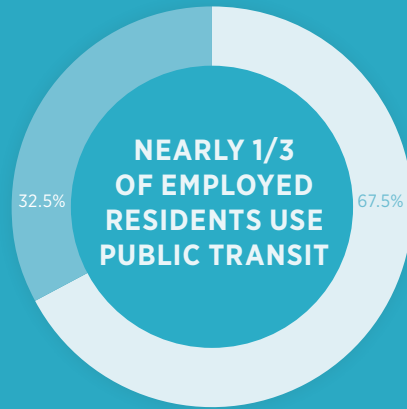
- Prioritize North Lawndale as part of city and state campaigns to install “smart” technology, such as Smart Street Lights that monitor air quality, manage traffic and parking, and charge electric vehicles.
- Invest in the latest available signal-timing technology to improve current long and unpredictable traffic signals.
- Reconfigure Ogden to the greater benefit of the local community, after a process that combines input from residents, community stakeholders, and government agencies and experts.
- Install green infrastructure in right-of-way for stormwater management, including bioswales, small native plantings, and/or permeable pavers.
- Consider designating the area between Millard and Albany as a tech corridor, using existing fiber optic lines and zoning to attract tech-related businesses.

*Champions: IDOT, CDOT*



**WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:**

1. Increased number and visibility of public transit stops to grow ridership, including two or more new developments to priority station areas
2. Initiated process to transform Ogden Avenue
3. Increased cyclist counts and bike-related employment, and reduced auto, pedestrian, and bike crashes
4. Two improved truck routes to support freight-oriented businesses
5. A new community technology center that houses job and skills training as well as a free public Wi-Fi access point



To commute to work or school  
or for other necessary daily  
trips



Ogden Avenue was once part  
of Route 66

Its wide right-of-way—  
six to eight lanes of traffic—  
is a legacy of that use



**Nearly 19 percent of all jobs held by  
North Lawndale residents are served by the  
No. 157 bus,** which only operates on weekdays

**5.4 percent:** The vacancy  
rate for industrial land in  
North Lawndale, 30% less  
than the local market

LOCAL MARKET AVERAGE: 8.8%

NORTH LAWNDALE: 5.4%



### STRATEGY 4

#### **Beautify corridors through streetscaping and historic markers.**

- Plant street trees throughout street network, prioritizing key commercial corridors: Ogden Avenue, Roosevelt Road, Pulaski Road and 16th Street.
- Install Route 66 signs and landmarks along Ogden, with Castle Car Wash a top priority for landmark restoration.
- Install gateway murals at railway bridge underpasses on neighborhood borders.

*Champions: NLCCC, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee*

### STRATEGY 5

#### **Expand biking through new routes, initiatives, and training.**

- Expand educational efforts about bike riding benefits to raise our bicycling participation rates.
- Expand both the physical and social reach of bike-sharing, such as the CTA's initiative for integration with Ventra and the Divvy for Everyone program, as well as options such as dockless electric bikes.

- Grow the on-street bike infrastructure network to connect to citywide and regional routes, starting with a further engineering study.
- Attract bike tourists to stop in North Lawndale, with emphasis on the Boulevards and Douglas Park.
- Recruit existing or cultivate a new bike shop, an important landmark and resource for the community.
- Train more residents how to repair bikes, with an emphasis on teenage students and the re-entry population.

*Champions: Equiticity, CDOT*

### STRATEGY 6

#### **Support freight-intensive businesses with roadway investment in key areas.**

- Improve truck routes that serve industrial areas, which can bring jobs and investment with new businesses such as logistics-oriented warehouse space.
- Prioritize truck routes for pavement management and maintenance.

*Champions: IDOT, CDOT*

### STRATEGY 7

#### **Develop and launch a community technology center.**

- Acquire capital assets—land, property, building, internal technology and systems—to establish a central hub of all things “tech” in North Lawndale.
- Launch and promote a computer training lab where various coding and programming classes could occur.
- Install and configure a neighborhood-wide Wi-Fi access signal that can serve as a back-up option and increase the number of internet users across the neighborhood.
- Create an online community resource portal: a website with an interactive element for residents and others in the community.

*Champions: Adivi Corp., NLCCC, Technology Committee*





Ogden Avenue: Existing Configuration



Concept A – Modify Existing Infrastructure



Concept B – Comprehensive Redesign





## ISSUE AREA I GREENING AND OPEN SPACE

We will promote greening efforts that beautify our neighborhood and also expand social and economic opportunities that encourage entrepreneurship, education, social engagement, and environmental stewardship.

### STRATEGY 1

**Utilize our available green spaces and vacant lots to promote cohesion, develop North Lawndale as a hub for the greening industry, promote healthy living, and environmental awareness.**

- Create a centralized location to provide information on gardens and parks and identify organizations to adopt and maintain existing green spaces.
- Foster the success of the North Lawndale greening industry by creating a welcoming business climate and by leveraging existing assets and the expertise of partner organizations.
- Encourage the development of larger urban agriculture enterprises on contiguous vacant parcels in high-vacancy areas.
- Continue to activate vacant lots and open spaces throughout the community by transforming them into community gardens and parks.

*Champions: Neighborspace, Homan Grown*

### STRATEGY 2:

**Empower residents and organizations to create artistic, beautifully landscaped, clean, and environmentally diverse streetscapes.**

- Create youth-led neighborhood litter and recycling campaigns.
- Place permanent, secure trash cans throughout the neighborhood that can double as public art.
- Plant trees throughout the neighborhood via the Oaks of North Lawndale community project to achieve Arboretum Status, which will highlight our community's natural assets.

*Champions: Free Spirit Media, SAIC*

### STRATEGY 3:

**Create and maintain welcoming, safe, and high-quality parks and recreation areas throughout the community.**

- Repair, maintain, and improve the facilities at Douglas Park, Franklin Park, and other public park spaces in North Lawndale.
- Transform vacant lots into playlots and identify opportunities to create a new park space to benefit underserved areas of the community, especially where infill housing development is being prioritized.
- Improve public safety and maintenance of Independence and Douglas Boulevards.

*Champions: Chicago Park District, 24th Ward Alderman's Office*



**WE WILL MEASURE OUR  
SUCCESS BY:**

1. Percent of vacant lots transformed into active community spaces or open green space
2. Number of trash cans, street lights, trees, and planters added to the community
3. Two annual environmental stewardship events
4. Number of community participants engaged in environmental programming



There are **more than 40 documented garden and agricultural spaces in our community**, including two operational urban farms and two apiaries



**Nearly 18%**  
of North Lawndale's land  
is open space



Douglas Park, considered a community gem, is one of 15 North Lawndale parks maintained by the Chicago Park District



**16.6%**

North Lawndale current tree canopy, one of the lowest in the city of Chicago

## ISSUE AREA I ARTS AND CULTURE

We will increase awareness, participation, and expression in the arts, including hosting annual events. We will continue to partner with other arts-based organizations to build a network of artists.

### STRATEGY 1

**Invest in existing spaces and create new spaces where artists can create, learn, display, and perform their craft.**

- Continue to expand arts and culture events and programming, notably the North Lawndale Arts Festival and Gallery Night, as well as new events at the Douglas Park Cultural Center and SAIC's Homan Square facility.
- Build a coalition of artists in the community to create a semi-annual networking event for North Lawndale artists, spurring collaboration amongst artists and local arts institutions and creating more arts-based business opportunities.
- Create an inventory of existing local art venues, stakeholders, and training opportunities to facilitate additional collaboration, elevate programs' profiles, and expose more residents to these resources.
- Increase participation and awareness of numerous programming opportunities for teenagers and seniors at Chicago Park District facilities.

- Create an arts district with artist live/work spaces—an art hub with studio space and artists' lofts—that creates arts programming for the community and attracts outside visitors.
- Create a multi-use art venue in North Lawndale, including gallery space and equipment to record and/or perform music, and encourage the development of other performance spaces in the community.

*Champions: NLCCC Arts and Culture committee, SAIC*

### STRATEGY 2

**Increase the influence of arts and culture in North Lawndale while expanding and building the capacity of our local network of artists.**

- Activate open spaces and vacant lots throughout the community with public art, such as commissioned art installations, pop-up exhibits and performances, rotating artwork from neighborhood schools, and performances curated by local artistic organizations.
- Curate cultural experiences in green and open spaces such as our community gardens and parks to build awareness of these community assets.

- Create gateway murals and a walking tour that teach the neighborhood's history, from Route 66 to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s push for fair housing to Cobra Records.
- Enhance the business and entrepreneurial skills of our many talented artists by hosting festivals and gallery nights to connect artists to collectors.
- Foster mentorship relationships for youth and local artists with arts-centered placements in the City's summer programs and arts and tech training and by connecting local artists with each other and artists outside the community.

*Champions: NLCCC Arts and Culture Committee, 24th Ward Alderman's Office*

**WE WILL MEASURE OUR  
SUCCESS BY:**

1. Growth of our annual public arts and cultural events: more annual installations and events
2. Number of community participants engaged in arts and culture programming
3. Number of area artists or residents hired through new arts and culture programming
4. Two additional designated exhibition spaces and the creation of a multifunctional space



**400-600**  
visitors annually attend  
Open House Chicago at  
the **Nichols Tower/Power  
House** in Homan Square

North Lawndale's arts and  
culture programming includes  
the **School of the Art Institute of  
Chicago's permanent classroom**  
and **festivals at the Douglas Park  
Cultural Center**



“In North Lawndale for years there’s been a lack  
of what I would say engaged beauty, and I think  
that art can bring some ‘engaged beauty’ into  
the community.” — Sheila McNary, Arts and Culture chair



Many residents want to  
strengthen the **sense of  
ownership and resident  
involvement in local arts  
and culture activities** and  
large-scale events such as  
The Westside Music Festival



## ISSUE AREA I HEALTH AND WELLNESS

We will address health inequities in North Lawndale by educating residents and advocating to improve the overall health and wellness of the community.

### STRATEGY 1

#### **Increase our resident's healthcare access.**

- Use community outreach to increase health insurance coverage, including an annual campaign during the Affordable Care Act's open enrollment period.
- Host health screenings at community events such as festivals and resource fairs to detect and prevent conditions from diabetes to asthma.
- Train TR4IM block leaders as community health workers: members of the community who educate local residents on health issues and connect them with health and social service resources.

*Champions: Sinai Health System, St Anthony Hospital*

### STRATEGY 2

#### **Widen the scope and increase the availability of mental health services in the community.**

- Establish West Side community-based mental health center to provide a variety of free services in the community.
- Host mental health-related outreach events to help connect social and emotional learning programs with mental health services.
- Host annual trauma conference events to educate families on how to respond to negative community events and trauma in a productive and healthy way.
- Assess resident knowledge of and interest in a holistic wellness center that would join counseling with therapeutic activities such as aromatherapy, art, yoga, and healthy-cooking classes.
- Establish a community-wide program to limit the number of youth who start smoking, and include tobacco treatment in local mental health services.

*Champions: Sinai Behavioral Health*

### STRATEGY 3

#### **Establish new programs and systems that support physical wellness.**

- Provide nutrition education to teach residents about how to find and prepare affordable, healthy foods.
- Host regular fitness events and programs, such as a walk-a-thon or yoga in the park, to publicize community resources and foster a greater sense of safety when exercising outdoors.
- Create community partnerships with local gardens and farms and expand the number of backyard gardens.

*Champions: Sinai Community Institute, The Farm on Ogden*

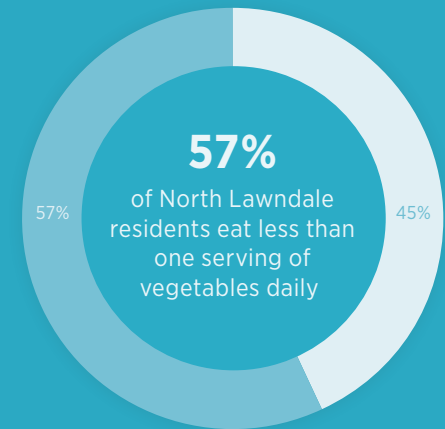


**WE WILL MEASURE OUR SUCCESS BY:**

1. Number of North Lawndale residents accessing services at a new community mental health center and fewer reporting a lack of services due to cost
2. Number of North Lawndale residents enrolled in holistic health services and in nutrition education programs
3. Number of residents participating in community fitness initiatives
4. More residents who receive a routine check up
5. More residents who report having one or more servings of fruit and/or vegetables daily and fewer adults who report no leisure-time physical activity



**1 in 4 North Lawndale adults currently have PTSD symptoms**, but fewer than 1 in 10 has been diagnosed with PTSD



That is less than a quarter of the recommended daily intake



“You can’t have somebody who has a problem take three buses for mental health services. That’s just way too much of an effort.”

— Dr. Carolyn Vessel, I AM ABLE Center for Family

Resident who had a diabetes blood test screening in the past three years:

**39% of men and 58% of women**



## ISSUE AREA I PUBLIC SAFETY

We will create and maintain trustful relationships within the community to properly engage those who are in need of support to increase peace and safety.

### STRATEGY 1

**Perform violence interventions to identify problems, decrease youth mortality, and prevent incarceration.**

- Increase street outreach and violence interruption to mediate all potential conflicts and to disrupt crime by connecting individuals to the resources they need.
- Connect at-risk members of our community to a supportive network of counseling and case management services for issues such as mental health, addiction, homelessness, and more.
- Organize the community in a public response to violence to ensure such activity does not become normalized.

*Champions:* Lawndale Christian Legal Center, St. Agatha's, UCAN

### STRATEGY 2

**Support a range of incarceration diversion tactics that limit youths' interaction with the traditional criminal justice system and reduce recidivism.**

- Promote restorative justice as a less punitive, more productive way of addressing crime that produces healing and reconciliation.
- Help formerly incarcerated individuals integrate into the community and not become repeat offenders by expanding affordable and transitional housing and workforce development services.
- Build stronger community relationships with law enforcement through expanding their participation in the Bridging the Divide program, which places officers in local schools.

*Champions:* Cook County Restorative Justice Community Court, A Safe Haven, 10th and 11th District

### STRATEGY 3

**Connect residents to existing sources of spiritual and emotional support that promote peace.**

- Identify church and spiritual resources within and outside the community and partner with them to create dialogue and promote peace.
- Create a directory of the constellation of resources and services available in North Lawndale and make it easily accessible through a mobile online app.

*Champions:* NLCCC Communications & Technology Subcommittees

**WE WILL MEASURE OUR  
SUCCESS BY:**

1. Reduction in the total number of shootings per year
2. Increase in the annual number of participants in the Bridging the Divide program
3. More violence intervention street outreach workers
4. More participants in the North Lawndale Restorative Justice Community Court and Circle Keepers in schools



North Lawndale's violent crime rate was **2.4 times higher than the city average** from 2010 to 2016

North Lawndale is served by nonprofits dedicated to helping residents find jobs, address mental illness and reintegrate after incarceration



Peace circles, restorative justice, and street intervention mediators working with the Chicago Police Department have had a significant effect on reducing violence in North Lawndale

**More than half of local adults** have had some experience with the criminal justice system, according to estimates





## ISSUE AREA | YOUTH, EDUCATION AND RECREATION

North Lawndale will be a community where all children have the opportunity to learn and play in a safe and nurturing environment. We will ensure access to high-quality education and recreational programming that equips youth to become leaders in our community.

### STRATEGY 1

**Improve school facilities and establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) education network.**

- Establish a STEAM Partnership Academy in North Lawndale, a preschool through 8th grade that incorporates research-based STEAM teaching strategies and interventions.
- Form partnerships between the Chicago Public Schools, community partners, area universities and corporations to collaborate on the design and operation of the STEAM Academy.
- Transition a local high school into a STEAM high school to serve as a pipeline for talent in local industry.
- Use future STEAM schools as venues for training and professional development for undergraduate and graduate students from local universities.

*Champions: North Lawndale CAC, CPS*

### STRATEGY 2:

**Expand resources to support parents and raise strong families.**

- Create a standalone Parent Engagement Center, an afterschool destination for students and parents to support families and student learning, complemented by home visits to families.
- Integrate mentoring and family services within future STEAM schools, from an in-school health clinic to enrichment programs such as robotics.
- Establish community dialogue forums about major decisions that affect the future of our youth between the community and Chicago Public Schools.

*Champions: North Lawndale CAC, CPS*

### STRATEGY 3:

**Develop the North Lawndale Athletic and Recreation Association (NLARA) to unify the local youth sports delivery system and to coordinate fundraising to meet the needs of all children in the community.**

- Centralize and coordinate community-driven sports and recreation programming in North Lawndale so the system is easier to navigate for youth and families.
- Build the capacity of youth recreation organizations to provide top-quality programming and create a culture of compassion amongst NLARA organizations.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of NLARA so the organization can evolve and best serve the youth of North Lawndale.
- Foster a cooperative partnership with the Chicago Park District to ensure its programs are fully utilized by the community.
- Work closely with local health care providers to promote physical wellness in North Lawndale.

*Champions: NLARA*



**WE WILL MEASURE OUR  
SUCCESS BY:**

1. More North Lawndale students enrolled at schools within the community
2. Increased academic achievement on national standardized tests and average school attendance rising to at least 96%
3. More students graduating from high school and completing post-secondary education
4. More local youth participating in a diversity of after-school athletic and recreational activities, and an equal participation of girls and boys in NLARA activities
5. More Head Start and other early childhood programs operating in the neighborhood, with more children enrolled



North Lawndale has nine traditional public schools, five schools run by the Academy for Urban School Leadership, and six charter schools

**More than a third of  
the residents of North  
Lawndale are under  
the age of 19**



“We need more activities to keep families connected and youth busy and off the streets.”

— Vernie Wilson, parent



**31 percent** of K-8 students and **69 percent** of high school students living in our community are enrolled in a school outside of North Lawndale

## NLCCC

The North Lawndale Coordinating Council (NLCCC) is a group of North Lawndale stakeholders, including community-based organizations, business owners, elected officials, clergy, residents and individuals, that have come together to guide comprehensive planning and implementation in North Lawndale (Community Area 29). We develop innovative solutions that will improve the built environment and increase the capacity of local organizations to make a positive impact on the community.

The Coordinating Council's work is led by a steering committee that guides the strategic direction of the group; develops mechanisms for decision making; provides a framework for comprehensive planning and related processes and makes policy recommendations. The “nuts and bolts” of the Coordinating Council's work is carried out by sub-committees, that are organized along various quality of life sectors. New Covenant CDC serves as fiscal agent for NLCCC and is a LISC lead agency.

## CMAP

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is our region's official comprehensive planning organization. The agency and its partners are developing ON TO 2050, a new comprehensive regional plan to help the seven counties and 284 communities of northeastern Illinois implement strategies that address transportation, housing, economic development, open space, the environment, and other quality-of-life issues.

## LISC Chicago

With residents and partners, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago forges resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity across America – great places to live, work, visit, do business and raise families.

Embedded in LISC's founding, and strengthened over the last two decades, we are committed to comprehensive community planning. This planning process is essential to building the local capacity to effectively connect to the right resources to achieve fundamental change and long-lasting results in our communities. In the late 1990s, LISC, with leadership support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, created the New Communities Program (NCP), a groundbreaking, bottom-up, comprehensive community planning effort in which LISC supports the development of Quality-of-Life Plans (QLPs) by community leaders and residents in Chicago neighborhoods.

In each neighborhood, a designated lead agency brings together a diverse group of organizations and residents to identify priorities ranging from better education, housing, broader job choices, safer streets, new economic opportunities and stronger personal finances. LISC invests in, coaches and champions each effort from the earliest building of local relationships, through plan creation, implementation and continual evaluation.

As of 2018, 27 QLPs have been created, garnering more than \$872M in new investments aligned in support of community visions in neighborhoods across the city.

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