Our Neighborhood

In 2016, United Way of Metro Chicago partnered with the Cicero Youth Task Force to create the Cicero Neighborhood Network—now renamed the Cicero Community Collaborative. Cicero has many quality partner agencies and dedicated leaders who have made a long-term commitment to create a safer community and improve the lives of their residents. Although Cicero has many advantages in economic development and public safety, local community and education leaders look to United Way to partner together on strategies to improve education attainment rates for its growing population.

Cicero is a suburban town located about seven miles west of downtown Chicago. Cicero took shape in the 1860s and 1860s, primarily serving as a manufacturing hub for much of its history. Once considered a Czech town, today most of the European-style restaurants and shops on 22nd Street have been replaced by Latiné and immigrant-owned businesses. The 1980s and 1990s saw an increase in Mexican residents to Cicero and now 90% of the town identifies as Latiné. Today, Cicero is experiencing a community revival as residents come together to continue building a stronger community around shared goals.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES:
A DUAL APPROACH IN CICERO

- Food
- Housing Assistance
- Individual Health and Wellness

LEAD AGENCY
Cicero Community Collaborative

COMMUNITY VISION
Cultivating homegrown leaders to improve lives through trauma-informed community health and safety

Responding to Immediate Basic Needs of Cicero Residents

Building Neighborhood Systems Stronger and More Equitably in Cicero

- Community Health & Safety
- Education
- Leadership Development
## Neighborhood Current Day Snapshot

### TOTAL POPULATION
85,268

### DEMOGRAPHICS
- Latiné: 87.7%
- White: 8.5%
- Black: 2.8%
- Asian: 0.4%
- Other: 0.6%

### INCOME
- Median Household Income: $58,433
- Rate of Home Ownership: 53.7%
- Poverty Rate: 17.7%

### EDUCATION
- Total Schools: 17
- Students Enrolled: 13,556
- Student Transfer Rate: 12.5%
- Adults with High School Diploma: 68.1%
- Adults with College Degree: 10.9%

### EMPLOYMENT
- Unemployment Rate: 4.1%
- Top 5 Employment Sectors:
  - Retail: 17.6%
  - Education: 16.3%
  - Manufacturing: 15.8%
  - Administration: 15%
  - Health Care: 9.5%

## Neighborhood Network in Action

The Cicero Community Collaborative was formed to include the elementary and high school districts as partners in a multi-year work plan. Research has shown that family engagement remains critical to student achievement in the American school system. To improve student academic success, Cicero is committed to increasing parent involvement in all grades.

- The Neighborhood Network recruits parents to become involved in the school system and conducts leadership trainings to cultivate sustained community.

## COALITION HIGHLIGHTS

- National recipient of the 2018 Culture of Health Prize Winner from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Youth Health Ambassadors provided vital COVID-19 health information, resources, and access to vaccines.
- 25 Parent Ambassadors worked with standing committees supporting community outreach, parent training, and classroom support.
- Parent Mentor Program was established in Cicero during second semester of 2022 school year with support of State Representative Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez.
- 24 Parent Mentors worked with local schools by volunteering two hours a day working one-on-one or in group settings with students on reading, math, writing, comprehension, and vocabulary.
- Community Assessment was conducted in partnership with Loyola University, resulting in an educational forum where schools and community organizations came together to form current standing committees of the Cicero Neighborhood Network.
- In response to food insecurity following the pandemic, provided 300+ pounds of food serving 4,000+ individuals, in partnership with Immanuel Lutheran Church, Costco North Riverside, and Project 22:9.
- Secured $50,000 in Flood Relief Assistance to help 90+ families.
- Cicero office opened in May 2023 to better assist residents by becoming a one-stop shop of community information and resources.

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Cicero stronger and more equitably. Direct your United Way gift to “Neighborhood Networks” to be a part of this critical strategy. Learn more at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks