The Ford Heights/Chicago Heights Neighborhood Network was launched in June 2023 in partnership with Cook County through the Transforming Places Program, with support from Nicor Gas Foundation. Cornerstone Community Development Corporation serves as the “community quarterback” for the Network. Over the next three years, Cornerstone will build its coalition and refine its community vision for the Ford Heights/Chicago Heights Neighborhood Network.

Once a transportation and industrial hub, Chicago Heights was known as the “Crossroads of the Nation” after the first transcontinental highway was established through the city in 1916. Known as East Chicago Heights until 1987, Ford Heights’ small population, with little commercial activity, has limited the financial base for local government initiatives. While the populations of both Chicago Heights and Ford Heights have also declined since the 1980s, both communities have taken steps to strengthen their future and embrace transformative change through the Neighborhood Network.

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN FORD HEIGHTS/CHICAGO HEIGHTS

- Food
- Housing Assistance
- Individual Health and Wellness
- Education & Youth Development
- Community Health & Wellness
- Economic Development

Responding to Immediate Basic Needs of Ford Heights/Chicago Heights Residents

Building Neighborhood Systems Stronger and More Equitably in Ford Heights/Chicago Heights

LEAD AGENCY
Cornerstone Community Development Corporation

COMMUNITY VISION
As a new Neighborhood Network in 2023, Ford Heights/Chicago Heights is developing and refining its community vision over the next three years.
Neighborhood Network in Action

The Ford Heights/Chicago Heights Neighborhood Network has promising plans and vision for strengthening their local community. Over the next three years, Cornerstone Community Development Corporation will build its coalition and refine its community vision for the Network.

UNITING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

With local community partners, United Way hosts Uniting for the Holidays, a festive drive-through food and basic needs donation event that takes place in November and December. Uniting for the Holidays addresses food insecurity facing our neighbors in suburban communities, including Ford Heights/Chicago Heights. Hundreds of families receive a holiday meal, toys, health and wellness resources, and other essential items.

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Ford Heights/Chicago Heights 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

The launch of the Ford Heights/Chicago Heights Neighborhood Network will strengthen our vital programs addressing issues of homelessness, hunger, unemployment, and poverty that affect residents in our surrounding communities.

ANGELIA SMITH
Executive Director,
Cornerstone Community Development Corporation