Our Neighborhood

The South Chicago Neighborhood Network is currently composed of 20 community groups that include local block club members, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, and higher education institutions. United Way partnered with Claretian Associates, a faith-based community development organization, as the backbone organization for the Network.

South Chicago is one of Chicago’s 16 lakefront neighborhoods. Located 10 miles south of downtown, the burgeoning neighborhood was established during the 1893 World’s Fair as many immigrants were drawn to Chicago, the fastest growing city in America. The neighborhood’s population grew as residents found work in the plants along the Calumet River, most notably the South Works of North Chicago Rolling Mill Company. The U.S. Steel Corporation acquired South Works in 1901 and provided steel for many high-profile construction projects, including the Willis (Sears) Tower. The plant was shuttered in 1992, and deindustrialization has left the once booming industrial center with a 61% low-income rate. However, the City of Chicago and community organizations are championing ambitious redevelopment plans with the announcement of the New Southworks, a 440-acre mixed-use development.
Neighborhood Current Day Snapshot

TOTAL POPULATION
27,300

INCOME
Median Household Income .................. $40,004

EDUCATION
Total Schools .................. 12
Students Enrolled ........... 4,208
Student Transfer Rate ...... 22%

EMPLOYMENT
Unemployment Rate .......... 16.3%
Top 5 Employment Sectors
Health Care ................... 41.3%
Retail .......................... 13.6%
Construction ................. 10.1%
Education ..................... 7.6%
Accommodation & Food Service ........ 6.3%

DEMOGRAPHICS
Black .................. 72.6%
Latiné .................. 21.6%
White .................. 4.2%
Asian ................... 0.4%
Other .................. 1.1%

EDUCATION
Total Schools .................. 12
Students Enrolled ........... 4,208
Student Transfer Rate ...... 22%
Percentage of Homeless Students ... 9.8%
Adults with High School Diploma ... 80.6%
Adults with College Degree .... 20.4%

INCOME
Median Household Income .................. $40,004
Rate of Home Ownership ............ 43%
Poverty Rate .................. 30.1%

Neighborhood Network in Action

Through advocacy, education, and self-sufficiency, the South Chicago Neighborhood Network seeks to promote mental health and trauma-informed care. In partnership with local schools and nonprofit agencies, the Network's mission is to establish a trauma-informed community that promotes wellness, including physical and mental health, in order to enhance quality of life.

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like South Chicago 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

COALITION HIGHLIGHTS
Partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to provide pop-up food banks during the pandemic.
Provided CPS students with e-learning devices such as laptops and tablets.
Created Mental Health hotline that connected residents to mental health services and resources.
Member of the City of Chicago Racial Equity Rapid Response.
2020 Pritzker Traubert Foundation Chicago Prize Finalist.
Partnered with Advocate Aurora Health to provide health and wellness screenings within the community.
Offered ACEs training to 177 Chicago Public School teachers and safe passage workers.
Held First Responders training to teach residents how to provide help and support until police and paramedics arrive after incidents of violence.

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