



TEAMWORK  
ENGLEWOOD



ANNUAL REPORT 2020 –2022



# Health & Wellness

**The Health and Wellness Task Force and Imagine Englewood II**  
Continued with the Street Health Clinic, Heartland Housing, and other initiatives to improve the health of the community.

**The Go Green on Racine team**  
with continued support and with up funding for the initiative, helping to reduce the opening of the Englewood Fresh Market and with the acquisition of commercial space from the City of Chicago for the former Woodside Elementary School for Transitional housing.

**Partners organized**  
to support Englewood businesses with funding and business clean up after the George Floyd riots.

**With local partners**  
conducted Census outreach throughout the community.

**Continued COVID-19 assistance**  
Help over 1000 households with food and financial assistance.

**Healthy Holidays**  
Granted funds to Seniors Urban Move Network, Englewood and partnered with Public Schools to host vaccine events and advocacy for vaccinated.

Continued to support the Southeast Healthy Organization and the implementation of the strategic plan.

**Heartland Behavioral Wellness**  
Collaborated with Heartland to deliver 4 behavioral workshops to community.

**UIC Long Covid**  
Year long engagement project with UIC for a study of COVID-19 in the Black community.

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

**Health Navigator Program**  
The Navigator pilot connected with over 400 residents, training and engaging over 100 residents to become health ambassadors and street team members.

**"Health Hours"**  
Monthly hour conversations where residents and clinicians worked in collaboration to improve community health outcomes.

**Food as Medicine**  
Offered discounted healthy food and healthy eating education for 30 Englewood clients. The program was a success.

**Small Business Leadership**  
COVID-19 Support  
Provided over 100 small businesses with financial assistance.

**Strategy Development**  
Sessions Englewood Quality of Life Plan  
Englewood Quality Initiative

3 sessions held with community partners to develop strategies for COVID-19 prevention.

**Was selected**  
the Health Equity Zone leader to co-develop strategies for Englewood with Chicago.



# To our Friends & Supportors

Teamwork Englewood, like many organizations, had to pivot during the COVID-19 pandemic and serve community needs in new and deeper ways. For the Greater Englewood community, the pandemic exposed issues that already plagued our community and intensified the need for resources, collective impact, and community planning. This annual report shows how our organization partnered with other organizations and residents to lend support during the pandemic, and shows our work currently to improve the quality of life for residents.

*Cecilia D'Amico*



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To Learn More

# Englewood Quality of Life Plan to Initiative



**T**he Englewood Quality of Life Plan was paused in 2020 to assess and reprioritize the strategies identified in the plan and make necessary pivots as we restructured to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **EQLP to EQLI**

The Englewood Quality of Life Plan became The Englewood Quality of Life Initiative. The word initiative illustrates that the task forces' work can change, be updated, and re-evaluated as needed.

EQLI moved to develop additional criteria to enhance participatory planning efforts and address ownership and capacity concerns. We took a deeper dive into understanding our partners involved in the work, what they were working on, and their assets and capacity.

This all took place in strategy development sessions where we met internally and externally over several months to roll out internal programming, task force programming, and re-engagement efforts.

In these sessions we:

### **Evaluate**

Evaluated strategies post- and pre-pandemic and redesigned them to encompass emerging trends. This was done through a deep data dive, surveys, and open dialogue.

### **Create**

Created the model of change that centers research, community context, and problem-solving tools. This includes presenting historical and current data to localize context.

Doing this helps build and implement shared visions amongst participants and facilitates the EQLI space with problem-solving strategies.

### **Identify**

Identified opportunities to build leadership and development training for members, including us creating and rolling out a grant writing series and a behavioral wellness series.





### Task force Strategies

In 2022, each task force area has been meeting monthly or bi-monthly, working on various projects, programming and campaigns. The feedback we received from the strategy development sessions allowed us to develop and update a few strategies.

### Health & Wellness

In Health and Wellness we added strategies around housing insecurity and COVID-19 implications. And combined our health equity zone research in partnership with the Chicago Department of Public Health and expanded programming to chronic illness to metabolic illness education.

### Public Safety : This Is My Englewood 21:36 ( T.I.M.E 21:36)

In Public Safety we merged strategies with T.I.M.E 21:36 to include trauma and mental health support, neighborhood revitalization, Chicago Police Department relations reform.

### Jobs & Economic Development

The Jobs and Economic Development taskforce initially focused primarily on employment and small business supports. We updated our priority area to corridor development. In the strategy sessions stakeholders identified that supporting our commercial corridors can help us address both employment and small business supports.

## Education & Youth Development

In Education and Youth we added as a strategy digital literacy. The education and youth partners also worked to support youth organizations in expanding youth programming. We supported over a dozen youth groups with funding, space, and training helping to increase their work with youth during the pandemic and after, over \$150,000 in funding and more than 2,000 youth people served with the extra support.





### Capacity Building for EQLI Partners

Teamwork Englewood initiated mini-grants and professional development trainings to support partner groups that align with EQLI. The mini-grants are for partnerships from the coalition and non coalition members to provide direct services to special populations in the community. These organizations reflect the principles of the EQLI and

commit to prioritizing organizational development and information sharing in addition to the project's impact. These partnerships are governed by Memorandum Of Understanding 's and occur over a shortened period or can be one-time events. We awarded over \$200,000 to 20 Englewood organizations in public safety, youth programming, and health awareness events and programs.

### Advisory Council

In addition to the updated strategies and approach with EQLI, we also started the development of EQLI advisory council, an identified body of experts and supporters of EQLI that helps to increase the impact through resources, advocacy, and technical assistance. The Advisory Council serves as a specialized assistance body for TWE's community development efforts. It is meant to address technical expertise and extend professional networks for TWE across the city in related community development fields. The council includes subject matter leaders and residents.



# Programming During The Pandemic

## Parenting Through a Pandemic

Teamwork Englewood worked with local partners to pivot during the pandemic to provide both enrichment and academic support for young people. The youth programming in 2020 served over 100 youth participants through virtual and in-person programs. Programs included coding with After School Matters, virtual tutoring, basketball, and pop-up wellness workshops through partnerships with the park districts and MO-DOS dance company.

## 2021

In 2021, our youth participants reached more than 200 youth as we participated in an employment and public safety initiative called “Summer Kickback” where youth are paid to curate public safety events in the community and receive job training and leadership development experience. This expanded to a year-round program.

## 2022

In 2022, we grew even more with 350 youth participating in our programs; Civic Leadership development program, Kick-back planning program, basketball programming, and dance programming. Our youth programming has been able to grow through the community usage agreement for the former Harper High School, a massive deal for Teamwork Englewood youth participants and staff.

As COVID hit and in-person engagement opportunities were limited, Harper High School’s unfortunate closing provided a chance to redesign in-person interaction for Englewood youth programming. As we utilized Harper High School for week-day programming, we quickly realized the limited youth spaces in the Englewood Community. Since then, we intentionally collaborated with youth-serving organizations to expand programming available to the community.









This strategy also allows us to keep Harper High School in use and not be another abandoned school and building in the community.

In Spring 2022, Teamwork Englewood Civic Leadership program hosted a youth - developed summit at Harper High School to gain youth voice and participation to address youth issues and concerns. The Youth-Summit also sought to engage youth inclusively to be active agents of change in their community. Themes revealed at the Youth Summit include youth wanting more safe spaces to have safe fun; increased caring adult relationships; positive, engaging, and personable relationships with police; and support around social media to have more monitoring and interventions to deter the escalation of conflict and violence in schools and other spaces that youth frequent.

While Teamwork Englewood programming grew to support more young people, we acknowledged that we can not do this alone. Through support from McCormick Foundation we helped fund and provide free support training for over a dozen other youth organization's helping them reach hundreds of more youth for the last two summers. We hope to continue supporting local youth programming while growing ours and helping create positive and enriching youth programming for the youth of Greater Englewood.

## Programming During The Pandemic

Over  
**\$200,000**

Awarded to  
Englewood  
Partners



**350**  
Summer  
Youth  
Participants



# Parenting During the Pandemic

## Parent Support in Leadership during the Pandemic

In addition to youth leadership, parent leadership is an integral part of Teamwork Englewood's work and the Quality of Life Initiative. The Statewide program, "Parent Mentor", was brought to Englewood as a program that fit under the EQLI framework of increasing parent leadership at local schools. In 2022 we were in our sixth year of programming the Parent Mentor program in 10 schools, 9 of which are under Teamwork Englewood.

A parent mentor's role is to support teachers in classrooms providing additional healthy adult relationships and supporting academic performance. During the pandemic the parent mentors were key in getting information and resources to families in Englewood. They helped organize phone trees for emergency food and cash assistance, helped distribute food and Personal Protection Equip-

ment, and helped with census outreach and voter registration. Parent mentors helped sign up over 2,500 Englewood families for free internet while schools were closed, helped distribute 10,000 units of PPE, and helped feed over 750 families while still supporting teachers in schools where they could.

## The Fight for Digital Equity

Digital equity and literacy is an ongoing process to bridge the gap in the community for more affordable and reliable internet service and to train on becoming more computer savvy. Our work with parents in Englewood has showed that digital literacy work is an important area to address employment and academic opportunities for residents. Since 2021 we have organized and partnered with local groups on computer classes and distributed computer devices throughout the community. We have distributed more than 50 computer devices and trained

over 50 residents in computer literacy. We hope to grow more throughout 2023 with classes and device distribution.

In addition, Teamwork Englewood has been working with the City of Chicago Digital Equity Council to address the larger system issues around the digital literacy gap in the community. We helped uplift the voices of residents around the gap through community meetings and surveys. Showing overwhelming residents want more access for employment opportunities and feel computer literacy will help them become more gainfully employed.

## Highschool Programming

Parent advocacy and leadership is an important element to school improvement. In 2022 we created a pilot program around the general outlines of the parent mentor program to fit the needs of a high school setting. We collaborated with Englewood Stem High School administration and Englewood parents to pinpoint the areas where support was needed (lunchroom monitoring and hallway transitioning). We trained 8 parents on Restorative Justice practices, Trauma-Informed techniques, and Effective Communication and Student Engagement tools. We hope to perfect this model as a way for parent leadership in schools that focuses on culture and climate support while increasing parent leadership and participation at the High School level.

Our  
Parent Mentors  
Signed up  
2,500+  
Englewood Families  
For FREE Internet while schools were closed



### Safe Passage

Teamwork Englewood joins a number of community groups across the City that support public safety around schools. Despite the stay-at-home order essentially closing schools, Safe Passage workers continued to serve on their posts throughout the entire stay-at-home order. Safe passage team members helped with food distribution at schools ensuring families were safe as they came to schools to get meals. Once students began to return, our Safe Passage workers were and continue to be frontline workers in keeping students safe. As conflict and violence increased across the City it has been Safe Passage workers who at times have felt the brunt of this. Our Safe Passage workers have met the challenge and have gone beyond their duties to help students and work more closely with school administrations to address a rise in concerns at schools, especially high schools.

### Health and Wellness Task Force

The goal of the Englewood Quality of Life Health and Wellness strategy is to increase accessibility, availability and use of health resources including mental health supports and advocate for healthy food production and consumption. **“The vision developed with residents is to create a progressive model for health and wellness”**. We are a community committed to improving the holistic health of residents through intergenera-

tional programs and resources. Healthier lifestyle choices and access to health resources are imperative for addressing disparities in health outcomes for Englewood residents. To reverse the cycle we have been working to undertake transformative roles in directing the health of our community through education, prevention, and connection. We recognize that improving connections to mental health resources is also key to Englewood’s future.

The path we started to complete the Health and Wellness work came to a halt in March 2020. EQLI partners had to pivot to safety and reduction of the pandemic’s impact in the community. In 2020 Teamwork Englewood worked with our partners to provide PPE and COVID-19 educational materials to thousands of Greater Englewood residents. As the pandemic went on in early 2021 we began

to work with a larger coalition of Englewood and Citywide partners to help educate residents on the COVID-19 vaccine as well the vaccine throughout the community. We worked closely with St Bernard Hospital and Miles Square Clinic to help offer vaccines to Greater Englewood residents.

In 2022 we began working with the University of Illinois at Chicago to recruit residents for research on the impact COVID-19 had in our community. The RECOVER study is designed to help understand why some people experience long-term effects after having COVID-19 and what can be done to speed recovery and prevent it.

With our partners we recruited close to 100 residents to be part of the project. Their participation can help us understand what health implications community





## Health & Wellness

groups and practitioners should be prepared for.

While our work with COVID-19 education and prevention continued in 2022, our partners helped us relaunch or pilot healthy food access and education work. The Englewood Food Sovereignty Network (EFSN) is a mycelial partnership in agreement around building a local, sovereign food system for Black and Brown people. This effort is being led by Grow Greater Englewood with key partner Growing Home.

The initiative is looking at the Greater Englewood area and its various components of a food system and connecting the assets of local farms, restaurants, caterers, markets, community service organization and delivery services and housing them in a virtual space. This virtual space will give partners

the ability to feed one another by having local supply needs be met, sharing data, building relationship with vendors/suppliers, coordinating logistics and connecting directly to families both in need of services, and looking to purchase affordable, healthy food.

This year we completed the development of Eat pHresh Chi app, laying the groundwork for a virtual hub that supports a unique hyper-local food economy. We discussed what free offerings from community service organizations should be on the site. The app will also contain information on fresh produce from local farmers and healthy meal options with locally sourced produce, delivery and pick-up will be available. In 2023, the plan is officially to launch Eat pHresh Con hi website on iOS and Android.

Teamwork Englewood's food

as medicine project aims to provide programs rooted in introducing healthier food options to patients or community residents with health issues where more nutritious food will improve their quality of life and/or treat diseases and illnesses. Prior to the pandemic we piloted this initiative successfully with our partners Growing Home, Heartland Alliance, and Oak Street Health. In 2022 we partnered with - F.A.R.E. (Food Allergy Research & Education) a group committed to reducing health disparities related to food allergies. The CAP (Community Access Program) delivers health education resources and interventions to prevent and manage food allergies, particularly among under-resourced populations (Black and Latinx). In collaboration with Mobile Care Chicago and the Research Allergy Initiative, CAP will provide hyperlocal access to clinical services.





# **W**e are committed to finding long-term prevention approaches to reducing disparities and improving the quality and longevity of our resident's lives.

The CAP program was in direct alignment with the health and wellness strategies. In partnership with F.A.R.E., we created these bi-monthly workshops where attendees would receive education from a registered dietitian on healthy eating regarding food allergies. They also experienced a cooking demo and received gift bags that include literature for food allergy-related resources, Teamwork Englewood's programming, and additional resources. Attendees with food allergies will also have access to the mobile care clinic at no cost. To tie in the newly opened Go Green Fresh Market support, we provided Fresh Market gift cards to encourage resident engagement at the store. Attendees who came to the workshop received education on healthier eating, and was able to purchase healthy eating products at the Fresh Market on 63rd & Racine.

One of the most significant victories of 2022 is the opening of the Englewood Fresh Market. The Fresh Market is a new grocery store under Inner City Muslim Action Network. This new grocery store is part of the Go Green on Racine initiative that seeks to create economic development along the Englewood

Racine corridor. The grocery store features local businesses, fresh produce, community health education, and events.

Shortly after the opening of the Fresh Market we learned of the closure of Whole Foods Market Englewood. Health and Wellness partners began to discuss how we can upfit residents and stakeholder input in the next steps for a grocery store. Through the EQLI we launched a community survey to learn more about what residents wanted to see in a new operator and learn more about residents' issues with the Whole Foods Market in Englewood. We had a diverse range of residents complete the survey, ranging from 18-65+, with close to 300 responding. Out of the residents that completed the survey, 60% were current Whole Food Market shoppers. The residents who were not shoppers shared that the main reasons were price and lack of variety (recognizable products). The top 3 grocers residents were interested in replacing Whole Foods are Aldi, Walmart, and Mariano's. According to the survey, the priorities for the next operator should have included local hiring, community events engagement, and sponsorship.

Residents also want to see health education programming and local businesses with products in the store. In summary, the Englewood community wanted quality products, affordable prices, and a commitment to local hiring, and community engagement.

Teamwork Englewood is apart of the Healthy Chicago Equity Zone, (HCEZ) a city wide improvement plan to lower the life expectancy gap between black and white communities. Teamwork Englewood is part of the Near South Region which consists of 13 different communities on the south side. This was a multi-year initiative, however the first year was dedicated to COVID-19 awareness and vaccine access. In late 2021 and early 2022 we worked with EQLI partners to develop innovative and culturally sensitive approaches to COVID-19 education. We partnered with local organizations and clinics to host 13 vaccination events vaccinating 287 individuals.

The second phase of the HCEZ work included a Near South Region Survey to identify the health equity in our communities where we received over 1200 responses. In addition to the survey, we created network maps, created coalitions, and held focus groups to help identify health needs of the community. This community assessment allowed us to streamline our focus going into the new year and moving forward by deter-



## Health & Wellness Cont'd

mining exact community needs and wants based on direct input from the community. This assessment will help tailor our programming and make a bigger impact for youth, seniors, and adults. To determine our community's top priority, during our task force meetings, we looked at the top 7 indicators of health in Englewood. Based on that data, we narrowed the focus down to metabolic illness to encompass the different facets of how each illness shows up in the community and how it should be addressed.



10,000  
Units of PPE  
Distributed

287  
Vaccine's  
Given

Over  
1,200  
HCEZ Survey  
Responces



## T.I.M.E.21:36 (This Is My Englewood 21:36)

### Until the end of TIME... our Public Safety Work Continues

Teamwork Englewood's Community Based Crime Reduction grant was set to help reduce violence and crime in the Great Englewood community. T.I.M.E 21:36 (This is My Englewood,

60621 and 60636) is the initiative born under the CBCR Act to address these crimes and challenges within the community and support the larger Englewood Quality of Life Plan. Based upon data, collected community feedback, and needs within the community,

TIME 21:36 began focusing our efforts on two specific 007th District Chicago Police Beats, 712 and 725, implementing five public strategies:

# TIME 21:36

## The Five Strategies

1. Empower community members to be the change that they would like to see
2. Provide support and opportunity for disadvantaged individuals
3. Build a better community and law enforcement relationships
4. Address community trauma and substance misuse
5. Create community driven development and safe spaces

Implementation of the TIME 21:36 plan occurred just a few months before the pandemic. But much like the other work

in the community we pivoted the plans in order to facilitate the activities and continue to address the issues that were

impacting the key "hotspots" in the community.



## T. I. M. E. 21:36 cont'd

### Community Leadership in Key Hotspots

Right before the onset of the pandemic, Teamwork Englewood staff and our key strategy-led partners, Northeastern Illinois University and the Resident Association of Greater Englewood, began to develop a leadership development goal for public safety. This goal was to recruit diverse residents from the key community hot spot areas and support their leadership growth in being advocates and organizers in their community areas. While onboarding these leaders the pandemic started, and despite this these community leaders came together and began supporting other residents by helping with mutual aid efforts such as getting food, PPE, and information out to community residents.

In the spring of 2020 public safety ambassadors met with law enforcement and community organizations to discuss areas they wanted to create the most impact in crime reduction. This included community clean ups, public space beautification and activations, and sharing community resources for wrap around services for residents.

In the summer of 2020 the public safety ambassadors continued to disburse resources to their neighbors, but also participated in trainings that would help them facilitate any needed changes in their community area. The trainings included restorative justice, environmen-

tal design, and understanding trauma. The ambassadors also helped organize a number of large community events throughout the community bringing awareness to public safety issues in the community. T.I.M.E. 21:36 ambassadors also conducted small outdoor gatherings in the priority hot spot Moran Park.

In 2021 we initiated a larger community engagement environmental design project which included working with the ambassadors to lead community residents to help create and implement a new community mural on 58th and Racine near Moran Park. In addition to our local leadership development and beautification efforts we also started a community coalition around public safety.

Our coalition has over a dozen organizations, resident ambassadors, and Chicago Police Department leadership. In these we helped organize support around local efforts that could directly or indirectly help with crime in the hotspots, organize larger participation in events, and share issues directly with

the local police department.

The ambassadors helped T.I.M.E. 21:36 host over 20 Public Space Activations in Moran Park that served over 1000 diverse residents and supported over 20 additional partner activations, totaling over an estimated 5,000 residents in T.I.M.E. 21:36 direct events in two and a half years.

Collective efficacy has allowed T.I.M.E. 21:36 to have a great impact within the community over the past few years. With the goal to increase our public safety reach we supported partner organizations and their summer plans, launched the Greater Englewood Summer Support Grant, which allowed us to grant six organizations \$5000-\$10,000 each for public safety specific events in Englewood. T.I.M.E. 21:36 was also intentional about consistently hiring local businesses for our public-space activations and events including local food vendors, entertainment, and other vendors.



Over 20  
Public Space  
Activations  
in  
Moran Park

1000+  
residents  
served





### **Provide support and opportunity for disadvantaged individuals**

Our work leveraged the public space at Moran Park as an epicenter for activations, community engagement, and connecting with high-risk residents. In mid-2021 we used the same approach creating an epicenter for programming, activations, and leadership development by leasing Harper High School, a vacant school on 66th and Wood in the 725 Police beat. Teamwork Englewood entered into a special lease agreement with Chicago Public Schools for youth summer programming and activations at the school. Since this agreement we have held multiple outdoor events with hundreds of families. From there we maintained the lease until now and have serviced over 200 families with summer camp, youth employment, youth enrichment services in this location but also use the events to connect disadvantaged residents with resources. As the lack of viable employment opportu-

nities for community members involved in the criminal justice system existed in Englewood, there was a need for targeted re-entry services specializing in employment training and case management to address one of the major factors of crime, unemployment, and underemployment. T.I.M.E. 21:36 partnered with existing services to target community members who resided in the specific hot spot areas and crime beats while also expanding our own capacity.

### **Create community driven development and safe spaces**

While doing activities at Moran Park, we noticed how under-resourced the field house was to accommodate significant activations. In the fall of 2020, T.I.M.E. 21:36 leveraged state funding and purchased then donated over \$25,000 worth of play and event equipment to the field house and advocated for small interior renovations with the Chicago Park District.

Some of the accomplishments of T.I.M.E. 21:36 included training via the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design model, which engages police departments, civic leaders, and community residents in exploring design strategies to enhance blighted spaces where crime thrives. Teamwork Englewood advocated to increase lighting under the 63rd and Ashland Train station, another community hot spot. In addition to the environmental design work that was happening at Moran Park and 63rd and Ashland we also worked to support a coalition of Englewood and Citywide providers to acquire the Peace Campus on 64th and Honore. The Peace Campus was an already functioning hub of resources and activities in West Englewood that was going to close down. We worked with local partners, many in the T.I.M.E. 21:36 coalition, and acquired the property under the umbrella of a new initiative called WeGrow. WeGrow allowed a number of groups to expand our services for high

risk residents, youth and families in the community. This allowed us to again organize multiple large-scaled community events and services for those residing in these hot spots.

### **Address community trauma and substance misuse**

As we began the work of implementation and continued asset and need mapping within the community to support the five key strategies. The mental health services gap support strategy showed the need for more resources in Englewood. We recognized the consequences of trauma both inter-generational and ongoing and the need for not only mental health supports for individual counseling but also community education around the effects of trauma. Recognizing the lack of mental health providers T.I.M.E. 21:36 developed a public safety curriculum incorporating a Trauma Informed Community Building Model. The Trauma Informed Community Building Model supports our community-led efforts as there is a pivotal focus on self-direction in community building as a mechanism for addressing some effects of trauma. The Trauma Informed Community Building Model addresses the issues of residents living in low-income, marginalized communities with daily stressors of violence and concentrated poverty which stem from historic and structural conditions of racism, disenfranchisement, and isolation.



chisement, and isolation.

### **Build a better community and law enforcement relationship**

Teamwork Englewood started with key strategy leads in 2020 that partnered with us in preparing implementation as thought partners and implementation support. As they have evolved over the past year, two strategy partners were added that are key to increased impact in our work. One of those strong partner leads who supported our police and community relationship building strategy is the Neighborhood Policing Initiative (NPI). NPI is an intensive neighborhood based policing philosophy that emphasizes relationship-building and focuses on the top priorities of community members. Modeled after the Neighborhood Policing model in New York City, the Chicago Neighborhood Policing Initiative (Chicago NPI) is designed to increase positive contact between police officers

and neighborhood community members, in which there is collaborative problem solving and real accountability for addressing neighborhood concerns in a way that will establish trust and confidence in the police. With this partner in our policing strategy, T.I.M.E. 21:36 works closely with 007th District or District Coordinating Officers (DCO) to plan around co-creating public safety with an emphasis on leveraging community assets and resources to support residents. Through our partnership with NPI, the T.I.M.E. 21:36 team was called upon as thought leaders contributing to the development of a coming national grading system for healthy policing initially called the policing “Health Check”. The Policing Project at New York University School of Law developed this tool to answer critical questions — a series of 100 metrics built on a foundation of scientific research, Constitutional law, industry best practices, and community priorities, and vetted



it extensively with national and local experts - with police relationship with community being a large part of the grade. Since 2020 Teamwork Englewood has worked continually with the local police district leadership bring residents and stakeholders together in conversation on a monthly basis to discuss trends and concerns. In 2021 we held a large police department and TIME 21:36 partnership event under the banner of National Night Out at Moran Park bringing the most residents into the park that residents had ever seen. This was a larger symbolic display of law enforcement and community partnership to ascend on the park with many partners, elected officials, and park district decision makers excited and proud of the changes happening in that park/hot spot.

### City of Chicago's Community Safety Coordination Center

In order to establish city wide and community specific people-based and place-based initiatives for public safety and violence prevention, the City of Chicago's Community Safety Coordination Center (CSCC) designated Teamwork Englewood/T.I.M.E. 21:36 as the lead developing organization in Englewood. This is the public safety taskforce arm of the Chicago Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Health (CDPH).

### Teamwork Englewood Re-entry Department

Teamwork Englewood has served the Greater Englewood community for years with supports to returning citizens. As the organization continued to serve this population, we created more opportunities to enhance our program offerings and impact. The strides that Teamwork Englewood's Re-entry department has made since 2017 can be attributed to the new model, added staff, increased funding, and innovative approaches. Operating with a sense of urgency and deeper employment partnerships the Re-entry department has worked more intentionally in getting clients to work faster, allowing them to provide for their families and not contribute to a steadily rising recidivism rate. Newly implemented programs, such as a new job training program to the in-house legal clinic, have proven to be examples of what Teamwork Englewood feels should be the new standard for how a reentry service should look, feel, and

operate like. An improved vision for returning residents, as we have demonstrated these last few years, includes meeting clients where they are and helping them holistically. As Teamwork Englewood receives more funding and increased support, the Re-entry Department anticipates that it will continue to push the reentry culture in a new direction that greatly impacts clients, their families, and their communities.

As a result of our growth, we have placed ourselves in a position to retain 75% to 80% of our referrals in-house by expanding to job placement and support services.

The efforts of our staff and partners supported our growth in job placement and support services from 2017-2019. During that time we saw amazing results.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Teamwork Englewood did not stop supporting returning citizens. We shifted



## Re-Entry

to helping clients utilizing various locations in the community, using virtual tools when needed, and delivering key supports to individuals homes. Our organization received 2,756 calls and/or walk-ins and referred 1,444 for direct services. In 2021, we received 3,386 calls and referred 1,534 for employment services, counseling, and/or wrap-around services. In 2022, we received 3,385 calls and referred 1,748 of them to similar services.

### **Employment Preparation Placement (EPP):**

#### ***2020-2022-Average Pay***

#### ***\$15-\$17 per Hour***

Teamwork Englewood continued to pilot and grow ways to serve returning citizens by incubating innovative job training and apprenticeships programs through City of Chicago recovery funds. We advocated to use funds to create a number of trainings in Solar Panel industry and Shipping and Receiving. In 2021, we received another Department of Family and Support Services contract (DFSS) for federal CARES Act funding. This contract required enrollment of 300 people who were justice-involved or facing housing insecurity as well as secure employment for 100 of them by September 30, 2022. We were given 21 months to accomplish this goal and exceeded it in nine months by enrolling 374 clients and referring 152 of them to

employment. Our case management and wrap-around services assisted 76 clients with employment retention beyond the 30-day bench mark. In 2022, we far exceeded the mandated numbers by the CARES Act funding by enrolling 944 justice-involved clients for services and placing 383 of them in employment.

As part of our plan to achieve this in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, we added Cook County Jail (CCJ) to our list of providers and partners. This relationship was predicated on placing eligible, age-specific clients on Electronic Monitoring in employment positions. Since the beginning of 2021, we have received an additional 200 referrals from CCJ and placed over 70 in full-time employment who were on electronic monitoring.

One of the major barriers to job retention is lack of access to transportation for our participants. To address this problem in 2021, we utilized CARES Act funding to provide bus cards and gas cards to clients until they received their first paycheck or were able to provide their own transportation. To further increase job retention within the first 30 days, when being late or absent often resulted in clients being fired, we initiated a pilot program offering clients one-time emergency rides via the ride-share app Lyft. When clients called into work to report car trouble or a delayed

bus, the employers told them to call Teamwork Englewood for us to secure a Lyft to take them to work. This resulted in a significant increase in our 30-day retention rates. Since this pilot, Lyft has actually moved this initiative City-wide.

After reviewing our files, case notes, and anecdotal research, we discovered that many of the clients who were leaving work simply left because they were intimidated due to little or no work experience. To counter this, we partnered with TransfrVR to bring virtual reality job training headsets to Englewood. These headsets – programmed with 19 hours of Plant Safety, Construction Safety, Blueprint Reading, and other training – became the center of a new two-week training initiative that offered a stipend, a bus or gas card, and a job referral. The key component of this pilot program is that participants move at their own pace as they cover the 19 hours of content.

In September 2022, we received a \$1.5 million grant from Cook County's Justice Advisory Council (JAC) that went into effect in November 2022. This program has two goals: 1) increase employment and job retention for clients with criminal records in Cook County and 2) open our own in-house legal clinic to support clients on the South Side in their own neighborhood. When warranted, our employment program will help in the form of transportation,





# The strides made by the Re Entry Department

since 2020 can be  
attributed to  
added staff  
the new model  
increased funding  
&  
innovative approaches





## Re-Entry

obtaining legal and vital documents, work clothing, and virtual reality job training to support clients in retaining their jobs for at least 30 days, as we have learned that retaining a job is more difficult than obtaining a job.

### Job Development

In December 2021, Teamwork Englewood's Reentry department hired a new Job Developer whose focus was obtaining new employers in various industries ranging from food service to security. The desire to expand the range of employment partners was due to the increase in varying skill sets, work histories, location preferences, modes of transportation, and other variables of consideration in regard to clients' criminal backgrounds. The Job Developer also provides resume preparation for walk-in clients who participate in Teamwork Englewood's monthly hiring events, as well as for clients who attend events held at different locations with partner organizations. In addition, the Job Developer updates resumes for current clients to reflect specific roles/industries that we help place them into. Skills based resumes have also become a service for those with 1) no work history and 2) those who complete Teamwork Englewood's VR job training – these resumes reflect the manufacturing, warehouse, construction, blueprint reading, and precision measurement skills obtained during the train-

ing.

Additional supportive and wrap-around services provided by the Job Developer include screening clients for and referring them to the following: Zoom mock interviews, mental counseling, women's assistance and resources, clothing for interviews and work, transportation, and basic computer training.

### Legal Clinic

Over the past four years, Teamwork Englewood has been involved in addressing the criminal background relief afforded by Illinois legislators who advocated for sealing and expungement of criminal records in a timely manner. We started this initiative at the end of 2018 when we entered a relationship with several legal aid clinics across the Chicagoland area, wherein we referred more than 500 legal aid cases to them. Since 2018, we have assisted clients with pro se legal cases, as we did not have a licensed attorney on staff. Most

of these clients sought help with expunging and sealing their criminal records, which has been arduous because the Cook County Criminal Court only had one judge hearing cases once a week until late 2020. After months of advocacy on the part of our office and in many others across the first district, the Cook County Court's Chief Judge increased the number of judges who hear cases and the number of days on which they hear them. As a result of the disruption caused by COVID-19 restrictions, delays, and slowed waiting periods, the court and clerk's office have reverted back to the old system of delay. With the help of our newly staffed attorney, Teamwork Englewood's Legal Clinic has expedited the process on filing petitions. In addition to sealing and expungement, we have assisted 89 clients with health care waivers. Also, our in-house legal clinic will expunge and/or seal 300 cases per year.





## Community Legal Navigators

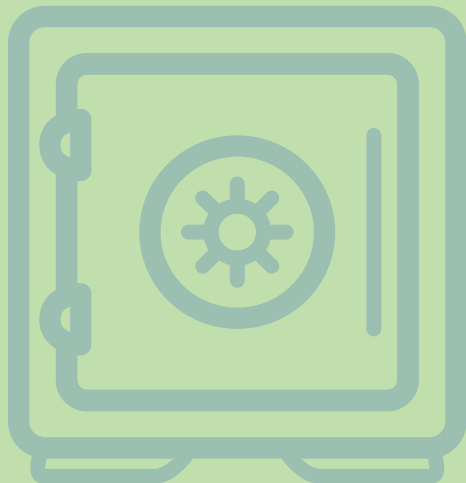
As a result of our experience and ongoing relationship with the City of Chicago Community Justice Initiative, we received a grant from Illinois Access to Justice in July, 2020 to employ Englewood residents and task them with educating their neighbors and other South Side residents on vital topics ranging from Expunging and Sealing a Criminal Record to Cannabis Rights. By the end of December, this program – Know Your Rights (KYR) – educated 450 people on their legal rights and reached 373 people through outreach. In July 2021, Access to Justice (A2J) renewed our grant and expanded our program to educate community

members on eviction prevention. For this grant, we hired barber shop and beauty salon operators as navigators because they were considered, by their community, as essential workers during the pandemic. We equipped these navigators with the most accurate eviction prevention information while the city's rental assistance and eviction prevention programs changed and stalled throughout 2021. By the end of 2021, our Know Your Rights program educated 861 people in person on their legal rights, reached 8,135 community members through outreach, and the Eviction Prevention navigators provided 3,487 people with eviction prevention information through outreach and direct legal edu-

cation. In addition to our neighborhood navigators who met with people in person and in high-traffic areas, we also hired five young navigators in July, 2021 to educate people on legal rights via social media. In late 2021 and throughout 2022, our social media navigators wrote, filmed, produced, and posted educational videos on TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram, reaching thousands.

300+

Sealings  
&  
Expungments



In 2022,  
our RCC received

3,385  
calls

&

referred  
1,748

of them to similar  
services

374

clients  
enrolled under  
cares act









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