

# Great Cities Institute Healthy City Collaborative Fact Sheet



1. The Healthy City Collaborative (HCC) is a multidisciplinary workgroup that engages university researchers, external partners and community leadership in conversations and research to benefit the Health of Chicago.
2. The HCC research agenda is derived from the broadest definition of health, which acknowledges interrelationships among individual, social, environmental, political and economic contributors to the health of the City. In coordination with its partners, the HCC develops and promotes a responsive, mutually accepted research agenda.
3. The HCC collaborates with research centers and administrative units across the UIC campus to enhance the work of university and community scholars. These collaborations maximize the benefits of coordinated community involvement in research.
4. The HCC fully embraces principles of community-based participatory research including:
  - a. Recognizing community as a unit of identity
  - b. Building on strengths and resources within the community
  - c. Facilitating collaborative, equitable involvement of all partners in all phases of the research
  - d. Integrating knowledge and intervention for the mutual benefit of all partners
  - e. Promoting a co-learning and empowering process that attends to social inequalities
  - f. Involving a cyclical and iterative process
  - g. Addressing health from both positive and ecological perspectives
  - h. Disseminating findings and knowledge gained to all partners
  - i. Fostering long-term commitment by all partners.<sup>1</sup>
5. The HCC creates and sustains systems that facilitate the translation of knowledge acquired through research to practical application to improve the health of the city.
6. Using processes such as critical analysis, collaborative assessment, consensus building and partnership-driven planning, the HCC promotes research that is relevant to communities and facilitates policy development that is responsive to input from communities.
7. Products of the HCC will be developed through authentic partnerships among units of the university, community and public partners. The attributes of these partnerships will be defined by all engaged partners. This approach acknowledges that each partnership has unique characteristics and processes that evolve over time.

---

<sup>1</sup> Israel B, Schulz A, Parker E and Becker A. (1998). Review of community-based research: Assessing partnership approaches to improve public health. Annual Review of Public Health, 19, pp. 173-202]