



Community Perspectives on COVID-19 Recovery: A Report on 2021 Community Conversations



Dear Reader,

The Chicago Community Trust and We Rise Together: For an Equitable and Just Recovery were pleased to collaborate with New America Chicago to commission BECOME to facilitate Community Conversations in fall 2021, and to share through this report what we learned. The voices of our communities are powerful and play a central role in shaping our work.

At The Trust, we are working to close the Chicago region's racial and ethnic wealth gap at the household, neighborhood, and community levels. We recognize that all communities will be stronger when local residents are able to tell their own stories and their voices are included in the decision making that affects their lives. Focusing resources on community-centered, community-led initiatives results in lasting impact.

We Rise Together is accelerating an equitable economic recovery to help ensure Chicago's Black and Latinx communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 crisis are not left behind. We understand that for the economy to recover, people must recover. Community Conversations shaped our strategy to invest in disinvested neighborhoods, strengthen Black and Latinx businesses, and increase resilient employment opportunities. We will continue to facilitate Community Conversations, as well as consult with community-specific Working Groups to provide feedback on priorities, adapt to meet challenges, and build on successes.

Participants' comments in these sessions helped us to better understand the social, emotional, and economic experiences of community residents in Chicago's hardest hit communities. Participants also provided recommendations about how best we can work together to solve challenges and build a stronger future.

The findings of this report will help inform our work, including:

- The Trust's efforts to understand and respond to urgent community needs such as health, well-being, and job readiness;
- The Trust's and We Rise Together's individual and collective efforts to help fund community investments that bring new economic opportunities to communities and contribute to community well-being; and
- The Trust's and We Rise Together's policy and advocacy efforts to remove barriers that too often stymie investment and opportunity in communities.

While our work will help to meet some of the needs raised in this report, we commit to sharing these findings with funders and external partners to identify further opportunities to align initiatives with community needs. By working together, we will accomplish more for Chicago than if we worked independently. We invite you to apply relevant findings from this report to your own journey creating an equitable Chicago region.

Sincerely,

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Director
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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a tremendous loss of life around the world with the number of confirmed deaths surpassing 5 million as of late December 2021 (World Health Organization, 2021). Within the state of Illinois, there have been over 2 million total COVID cases, with over 350,000 (18%) confirmed cases in Chicago (Bauer, 2021). What's more is that over 30,000 have died since the pandemic began in Illinois, which includes over 6,000 (20%) Chicagoans dying from the virus (Bauer, 2021). While the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly changed how we all live, work, learn, and socially interact, it has disproportionately impacted the most marginalized and vulnerable in our society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt the Chicago region a devastating set of interrelated health, economic and social crises. Nowhere are its effects felt more deeply than in Black and Latinx communities, where disparate financial and health outcomes were already the norm after decades of disinvestment, systemic racism and structural inequities. Further, many frontline workers reside in these communities and have been providing essential services, putting themselves at risk, while others are able to remain at home. As emphasized by Dr. Geraldine Luna, medical director of the COVID-19 Response Bureau at the Chicago Department of Public Health: *"Our marginalized and segregated communities face the harshest conditions based on the social determinants of health working against us. Our communities are in the middle of health care deserts, food deserts, limited access public transportation or no access at all"* (Nelson & Friedman, 2021). Without adequate resources and a coordinated response, the damage to these individuals and neighborhoods—and therefore, to the region as a whole—could be irreversible.

We Rise Together (WRT): For an Equitable and Just Recovery is an initiative created to harness the Chicago region's commitment, energy, and generosity to tackle the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 and the deep-seated economic inequities amplified by the pandemic. Hosted at the Chicago Community Trust, WRT unites partners across philanthropy, business, government, nonprofit, and communities to build back better, stronger, and more just following the crises of 2020. In particular, the goals of WRT are to:

- 1) Accelerate equitable economic recovery for Black and Latinx communities by pooling and distributing philanthropic resources.
- 2) Reform and re-envision business practices and policies to ensure the Chicago region invests more equitably moving forward.
- 3) Advance equitable policies and public sector practices that ensure the economic recovery does not leave Black and Latinx households behind.

WRT aims to provide financial support to solutions that address the three priorities below, which are essential to meeting the initiative's shared vision. WRT will support the policies and practices necessary to amplify and sustain results.

- Spark catalytic development in underinvested neighborhoods.
- Strengthen businesses of color.
- Increase quality, resilient employment opportunities.

Because WRT is committed to grounding the initiative's efforts in the lived experiences of Chicago's marginalized and oppressed communities, the initiative decided to begin hosting community conversations across Chicago neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. In hosting and learning from these community conversations, the initiative aims to:

- Identify economic needs in communities not identified in large datasets, media outlets, or in existing networks/tables.
- Inform strategies and recommendations for recovery process across communities.
- Address gaps in knowledge about the impacts of COVID and the economic recovery in Chicago and Cook County.

Methodology

This research study was led by BECOME, a nonprofit organization located in Chicago. BECOME is an innovative movement building organization that boldly facilitates authentic grassroots community leadership and co-creates strategies and solutions to help communities actualize their collective liberation. Our organizational mission is to make community transformation possible by unlocking the cultural strengths and intrinsic wisdom of the people. To that end, we partner with nonprofit community organizations, community members and groups, faith-based institutions, universities, and foundations.

The goal of this research was to provide an in-depth, contextualized understanding of how individuals living in neighborhoods that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic were affected by the pandemic, with a focus on economic toll. Because a qualitative approach was taken (i.e., community conversations), findings should be viewed as insights from community members and not as representative statements of each neighborhood.

The project began in March 2021 with data collection running from August to November of 2021.

BECOME worked with the Chicago Community Trust and New America Chicago to plan for eight community conversations. Together, we developed bilingual recruitment materials (i.e., interest forms for local organizations and participants, recruitment flyers) and the community conversation protocol, identified eight neighborhoods/ areas for the conversations, and co-created a running list of organizations from each of the eight selected neighborhoods to track which organizations had the capacity and interest to extend recruitment support.

WRT identified a set of neighborhoods to engage residents in conversations based on a range of social and economic indicators e.g., social vulnerability index, rental assistance index, rates of unemployment, density of essential workers, race and ethnicity of the residents. Public health and economic impacts of COVID-19 also were indexed for each of the city's neighborhood areas and Cook County municipalities. In addition, current and past investments (e.g., Neighborhood Opportunity Fund, Invest South West, Chicago Prize, Quality of Life plans) were mapped to communities to inform where there is a history of investment/disinvestment. Collectively these factors were indexed, and a subset of representative neighborhoods significantly impacted by COVID, social and economic challenges, and systemic disinvestment were identified.¹

Community conversations were held virtually via Zoom rather than in-person due to the pandemic between September and November of 2021 with residents living in Cicero, Austin, South Lawndale, Chicago Lawn/West Englewood, Dolton/Harvey, Humboldt Park, and

¹ For more details on the process of neighborhood selection, please contact Jennifer Axelrod, Senior Director of Learning and Impact for the Chicago Community Trust, at jaxelrod@cct.org.

Roseland/Pullman/Riverdale/Altgeld.² The primary goals of the conversations were to: 1) Understand how the pandemic has economically influenced the lives of Black and Latinx communities in Chicago; 2) Hear from residents what their neighborhoods need to recover and prosper; and 3) Support relationship building among community members. In addition to receiving a \$65 Visa gift card, participants were provided with a list of resources, in Spanish and English, in the spirit of supporting healing and recovering from this pandemic (See Appendix E for resources provided).

Limitations of the Data:

- Recruitment of local organizations and participants was a complex process that impacted the timeline and influenced participant registration.
- Some organizations recruited online and via social media (e.g., Twitter, Craigslist, Facebook, email), which opened the door to a number of spam sign-ups and over-representation of residents sharing a common identity.
- While efforts were made to gather a diverse representation from each neighborhood, participation in community conversations depended on who signed up, who confirmed, and who showed up to the conversation.
- Virtually hosting the community conversations provided greater access to participation while also representing a set of challenges. For most of the conversations, participants preferred to engage via chat, limiting immediate follow-up to responses and the ability for participants to build on each other's responses. In addition to using the chat, most participants were off camera, and thus, facilitators were unable to watch for behavioral cues and responses/nodes. Participants were strongly encouraged to be on camera and unmute to participate.

Demographics of Community Conversation Participants

We worked to recruit enough participants to make the groups fairly similar in demographics to the neighborhood, although it was difficult in some cases. Fifty-six individuals participated in total. Close to half of participants (49%) identified as African American/Black, cisgender women (44%) and as being between the ages of 18 and 30 (45%). About one-third (36%) identified as Latinx/Hispanic. There was a variety in terms of household income with the highest percentage (24%) in the bracket of \$50,000 to \$74,999. Similarly, there was a variety in educational level with the highest percentage being participants with a bachelor's degree (38%) or those with a high school diploma or equivalent (24%). A detailed breakdown of participation by cultural or ethnic heritage, gender, age, household income, and educational level is provided in Appendix B.

Further details on the process taken for the selection of neighborhoods and recruitment, coding of transcripts, project timeline, and dates for each community conversation are provided in Appendix A.

² Due to concerns about the representativeness of the volunteers who signed up for the North Lawndale community conversation and the already delayed project timeline, the decision was made to focus on 7 of the 8 planned community conversations.

Findings Note: In discussing participants' perspectives and observations, we refrained from using numbers or percentages in keeping with the spirit of qualitative research. We focused on highlighting the views, perspectives, and opinions of participants without quantifying responses. We also made this decision given the limitations faced in facilitating community conversations virtually in that we were unable to gauge behavioral reactions to what each participant shared (e.g., most participants had their cameras off and would engage via chat only). Because of the overall small sample size for each community conversation, findings should be considered insights from community members, and not fully representative of each neighborhood.

Community Conversation Findings

Several of the findings were similar across neighborhoods. Consistently, we heard that people were struggling economically and emotionally as a result of the pandemic and continue to struggle. Fortunately, many of the participants had also found unexpected positives in the midst of the pandemic. The following six findings are organized by how prominent or intense each was across all community conversations.

Finding #1: The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly affected the emotional and mental well-being of participants across all neighborhoods. In particular, participants expressed worrying about the unknown that came with the pandemic, physical safety, emotional stability, the well-being of loved ones and neighbors, finances, providing for the family, and changes to their employment that significantly impact their way of living.

From the start of the pandemic, the prevalence of anxiety and depression has increased. For example, 42% of people in the U.S. reported symptoms of anxiety or depression in a December 2020 survey, which was a noticeable increase from the 11% recorded in 2019 (Sandoiu, 2021). This increase in negative psychological effects were heard loud and clear throughout all seven community conversations. Participants shared feeling a range of negative emotions, in addition to anxiety and depression, such as fear, paranoia, panic attacks, helplessness, desperation, and pure sadness. Representative stressors tied to these negative emotions included: stay-at-home orders, at home and virtual learning for children, balancing working from home and taking care of children, seeing the impact of the pandemic in the community, fear of infection and one's health, physical isolation, not knowing what was going to happen next with the pandemic, unemployment or changes in work, loss of income, and sudden loss of friends, neighbors, or loved ones. Participants stated:

I lost my aunt to COVID, and it was a very emotional moment for us. Losing someone very close to you, during the moment, it was draining. And I had to adjust to many other things like to train my children from the house, I had to teach them...and I had to work from home...So COVID was really a trying moment (Chicago Lawn).

Having to experience both seeing what's happening to people around you, people losing their life, in retrospect was the hardest issue...It was a period of uncertainty, and I was badly depressed by the thought of that. I never knew what was going to happen to the people I knew...I missed having close contacts with my friends and family and getting out...Just being tied up and staying in the house all day was just miserable for me, and I was so worried about losing people (Austin).

Participants also voiced the mental and emotional distress the pandemic caused among youth and talked about how difficult it has been for them to adjust to the abrupt changes to their routines. The ability to socialize and the opportunities offered via attending school are key for the development and well-being of children. As one participant reflected:

It did affect him a lot to be alone. He couldn't go outside to play with the neighbors anymore. He doesn't have any cousins here in Chicago or close to his age, so he couldn't play with kids his age. The stress affected him a lot, it gave him a lot of anxiety. The pace of school, he was getting good grades and with the online school his grades went down (South Lawndale, English Translation).

Participants highlighted the stress and anxiety children are feeling as a result of limiting their social interactions and how changes to their routine have affected their school performance.

Last but certainly not least, participants also talked about how they've seen people coping with the pandemic by using drugs and alcohol and turning to crime. The following captures what participants reflected on when asked about how the pandemic has affected their neighbors and neighborhood:

I guess it was due to the fear. This became one main problem in the community. Basically, increase the use of drugs, cannabis and pills (Dolton/Harvey).

My neighbor went into crime and was arrested; he is cooling in jail. I guess, his mental health was affected because he lost his job (Roseland).

The pervasiveness of this finding across residents in communities highlights that recovery of any kind in the Chicago region must prioritize the mental and emotional well-being of people. While the pandemic has been primarily described as a public health crisis, the stressors, and mental/emotional outcomes will need to be addressed in order to be able to holistically recover and thrive moving forward.

Finding #2: The COVID-19 pandemic rocked the financial stability of participants. In particular, participants talked about experiencing a high level of stress and anxiety due to job loss, reduction in work hours or work status, and having to find ways to supplement their income to make ends meet during the ongoing pandemic.

Participants discussed experiencing a variety of changes in their employment status: temporary or permanent job loss, reduction in work hours, cuts in salary (either personally and/or within the household), and/or change from full to part-time positions. For participants who experienced unemployment or job loss during the pandemic, they talked about how stressful, demoralizing, and traumatizing the experience was. However, participants did what they could to make ends meet: depleted their savings, took out high-interest bank loans, applied for rental assistance from the government, asked family members for loans, worked multiple jobs, worked at low-paying jobs, switched job roles (e.g., working at the airport to then working at a grocery store), or made fundamental shifts in their lifestyles and spending habits in order to accommodate their current financial situations. Still, participants felt the funds just did not go far enough to cover existing expenses and the rising cost of groceries and utilities. Additionally, participants felt that while receiving the stimulus was helpful, it was not enough. Participants shared the following:

First of all, I appreciate my wife she has been trying her best to keep the financial aspect of the house flowing and the rest of it. But for now, I'm doing multiple jobs in the bar and

trying to gather some money so I could save for... so that I could also be a part of the financial struggle and the rest of it (Chicago Lawn).

The pandemic has really affected coming up and paying bills when [they are] due. I experienced a hike in my water bill as well as my electricity tariff. Considering the fact that I don't even get more from my job because I don't work more as I used to before the pandemic, it's quite difficult meeting up with these bills when the wages are not sufficient (Humboldt Park).

Unfortunately, in my immediate family we were affected financially when my husband's hours were reduced and because we wanted to keep up with all the expenses we had to go into debt with relatives (Cicero, English Translation).

In addition to the economic concerns, participants expressed fear when it came to taking on certain jobs during the pandemic. As an example, one participant explained that: “some people are quitting being home care providers because they're scared to go into people homes” (Dolton/Harvey). Similar sentiments were heard when it came to going back to work and taking on jobs that require social interaction, such as bus drivers, home care providers, or restaurant servers -- all jobs that have an increased risk for contracting COVID. In addition to needing employment opportunities, participants need jobs that are flexible and that prioritize their economic needs when unexpected contextual factors happen, such as this unprecedented health crisis.

Finding #3: Participants acknowledge some learnings and positives from living through the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, participants reflected on the importance of being united as human beings to survive the pandemic, opportunities that came with the expansion of technology platforms, and being able to reconnect and bond with family or neighbors.

Throughout the community conversations, participants reflected on the various silver linings they have experienced or heard about. Participants emphasized how important it is for people to come together and support one another in response to the various challenges brought on by the pandemic. The strong commitment for survival and unity that participants observed was encouraging and something that they hoped would continue. Participants shared the following:

I think when you see your brother suffering, and there is a way you can help, you find that the sympathy from the others...it brought out the humanity in people. And you find that after all, there is sunshine at the end of it all (Roseland).

I saw an increase in food drives, sheltering, and just help from the community...I think that's one of the big things that the pandemic did for us, it helped bring a lot of people together, even if we didn't know each other. I noticed that grocery stores were even offering help to feed the kids during the summer...just a lot of good stuff that actually tried to help a lot of people in the community stay afloat as much as possible (Dolton/Harvey).

During the conversation with Cicero residents, a participant, who worked for a local organization, talked about how local organizations realized that in order to meet the rising needs of the community, they would have to collaborate; something not very common before the pandemic.³

Innovative uses of technology and the general digital landscape gave rise to positive community responses, which include local businesses shifting to more flexible models that helped them stay afloat and/or profitable (e.g., delivery of groceries and/or meals). Participants' personal digital behaviors shifted, particularly in how they purchased products and used services (e.g., banking, telehealth, delivery services). Participants also acknowledged how leaning on technology not only allowed people to continue to connect, socialize, and work (e.g., Zoom, Facebook Messenger, Facetime), it also helped some businesses cut down on costs as meetings were done virtually and employees were asked to work from home.

Finally, the pandemic allowed participants to carve out time to reconnect and deepen relationships with their family members and neighbors, something that had taken a backseat during the pre-COVID hustle and bustle of daily life. One participant shared: "My family have been my source of inspiration, being able to connect with them more helped me pulled through this difficult moment." (Chicago Lawn). Another stated the pandemic was a,

Good time to spend with the neighbors during the weekends because we can't go to the cinemas, we can't go to watch the football games. We'll just meet as a community. We do have some football, basketball. Yeah, we have fun also within the community itself (Dolton/Harvey).

Finding #4: Basic needs of participants, such as food and housing security, was and continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In losing financial stability, participants, or people that they knew, had to make tough choices to make ends meet. To start, participants talked about the constant worry that loomed with seeing an increase in electricity and gas, regularly feeding the family, explaining to children that there was not enough food, or coping with the increased food expenses to feed children during the day due to virtual learning. One participant shared: "When you were at home, the children are expecting maybe to eat something for lunch, for dinner. And as a parent, you can't just let them know. There's not a better explanation maybe to tell them there's no money." (Dolton/Harvey)

Participants further described stories of neighbors who would go without meals or experienced malnourishment due to a lack of access to food. This situation was made worse by an existing lack of local grocery stores in the neighborhood or local grocery stores closing and limited access to quality food. Participants shared the following:

³ It's important to note that while this was something shared during the Cicero conversation, it does not mean that the other neighborhoods who participated in this research did not experience or observe something similar within their communities.

I'll say food resources because you have to eat. Everybody deserves to have quality food and not have to go to a different town to grab some quality food (Austin).

I volunteer to give food, and during the pandemic [distribution of food] increased to 6,000. From 2,000 it increased to 6,000 per family per week. There have been many people who have lost their jobs and it is very sad when they come here and say, "I lost my job, we don't have food"...we give 6,000 food pantries per week. It doesn't go down, it doesn't go down (South Lawndale, English Translation).

Participants did not feel alone in this struggle as they reflected on how some local organizations and churches were working hard to meet the need for food via food drives or food distributions, such as in Cicero, South Lawndale, and Austin. In Austin, one participant talked about working towards putting up fridges in the neighborhood and that through these efforts,

we've been able to help a lot of people...I remember seeing people with their bags ready while I'm stocking the fridge so they can get some food for themselves and their family...we launched more than a year ago and the demand is still there. We have 20 something fridges now (Austin).

In regards to housing security, participants talked more about observations within their neighborhood, such as people moving in with family members, going from house to house, or moving outside of the city. An increase in evictions, landlords taking advantage of renters, and homelessness was also noted. In Austin, housing development has paused and overall, the cost of living has increased across every neighborhood. Participants anticipated an increase in homelessness given that the eviction moratorium expired, making it harder for people to recover.

Finding #5: The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted local businesses and neighborhoods' sense of safety.

Participants highlighted how local businesses, especially small-owned businesses, were one of the most impacted areas in their neighborhoods. At the time of the conversations, businesses were slowly recovering from the curfew, lockdown, restrictions, and change in shopping habits (e.g., online shopping and use of delivery services). A participant stated that, "In Little Village, people are losing their businesses, it looks like a ghost town" (South Lawndale, English Translation). Another highlighted that,

My neighborhood has been greatly, greatly been affected by COVID-19, especially small-scale businesses that are owned by entrepreneurs...I can tell you average of five businesses owned by small-scale businessmen or women have closed down because of the financial capability to run the business is no longer there (Chicago Lawn).

Participants also talked about how social life has changed due to the restrictions, stay-at-home order, and fear of getting COVID. When it comes to going to the theater, football games, bars or clubs, church, malls, or local parks, people are more cautious or fearful of being out. Participants also talked about seeing an increase in local crime (e.g., burglary, carjacking), drug use/activity, and gun violence.

In my neighborhood, life has changed from the social standpoint, because quite a number of social activities that has been going on prior to this COVID-19 period has stopped, the crowd and the population we used to have in the malls have reduced, in the cinemas have reduced, even in churches. And I would say, communication has reduced in terms of physical communication (Roseland).

There was also the perception that unemployment contributed to an increase in crime in the neighborhood, as highlighted by the following participant comment: “Things have gotten worse because they don't have a job. They're doing more looting, more robberies, more shooting. I mean, it's just not drugs, they're even drinking and just hanging out more because they don't have anything to do” (Dolton/Harvey). One participant shared,

My neighborhood was a lot more peaceful, and the rate of crime was quite low. But due to the pandemic, I could see a lot of changes in terms of insecurity. People get robbed on their way, and a lot of people, there was a lot of carjacking (Humboldt Park).

Finding #6: Being an undocumented immigrant in the U.S. intensified the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Cicero and South Lawndale community conversation participants.

Residents living in Cicero and South Lawndale talked about the extra layer of difficulty being undocumented added in trying get through the pandemic. Undocumented individuals live with the constant fear of being deported or detained and as a result, are often afraid of speaking up or asserting their rights. This was apparent in what Cicero and South Lawndale participants shared. For example, some businesses that closed due to the pandemic didn't pay workers who were undocumented. As one participant explained,

They lost their jobs because businesses closed, they did not pay them the time, according to their boss, he did not have the means to pay them. From my point of view that was an abuse by the boss...as I had my business, I had insurance and the insurance covered employees. There you can see that unfortunately for not having a document [referring to being undocumented] we always lose out.

More and more, employers are also asking for citizenship status, which is impacting employment opportunities for people who are undocumented, and thus impacting their ability to survive. As shared by one participant, “These two people are now out on the streets... What hurts the most is that they have not been able to get money, work because of their immigration status, [employers] are asking for that.” There was also this perception that a job is a job, regardless of the low pay:

I know that when you don't have a piece of paper to back you up for a job you get paid less, but there are times when I tell the person, ‘It's this or nothing’...Yes, they are paid less, but at least it's a job.

In addition, immigration status drastically impacted how much, if any, relief people received. Due to being undocumented, participants shared how some people in the community couldn't receive stimulus funds or other resources. Being undocumented is also impacting people's housing security as

landlords are taking advantage by raising rent or threatening eviction, again, knowing that undocumented residents have little recourse to fight back. As shared by one South Lawndale participant:

[As a health promoter, I got a call from a man], 'I need you to help me with my bills, my rent, because I just lost my job, and I was paying \$850, I was only giving \$500 and I owe \$3,500 [in rent]. Now the owner is charging me \$4,500, he is going to kick me out, and he told me that if I don't pay in three days, he is going to burn my credit. They won't rent to me anywhere.' There have also been many injustices by landlords.

Cicero has the most estimated undocumented immigrants of any township with about 18,000 and about 90% of the population identifies as Hispanic/Latino (Chicago Tribute, 2017; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2021). Similarly, South Lawndale, also known as La Villita/Little Village, has a 20,000 immigrant population and about 83% of the population identifies as Hispanic/Latino (Chicago Tribute, 2017; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2021). While this finding only came up within two of the neighborhood conversations, it's still crucial to attend to in thinking about equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Chicago.

Participant Recommendations

It's very important that everyone put their heads together to help and see where they can help build back the community (Austin)

Employment Opportunities

Participants noted how employment is a primary need in order to be able to support family, access health care, reduce crime, boost the economy, and support local businesses. One participant highlighted that an:

Important aspect that could be focused on would be in terms of jobs, because people need to get back on their feet and they need to work in order to bring incomes to the home and also support the family to pay bills and settle some sort of problems. So I'd say job would be important because if people get back their jobs and they become employed, it'll also reduce crime rates, which has been on the increase in those communities. So I think the best bet to focus on will be in the area of jobs (Humboldt Park).

The government/city could provide incentives or tax reductions to get people back to work. A participant suggested that:

Maybe if the government or the state can find some injection into the economy, such as maybe incentives so that the people can have a speedy return to work, maybe a return-to-work formula so that they have that kind of little support maybe to boost them, to get back to normal, so that they can pick it up very fast because as you know, we're running on an economy which we need to really move fast to catch up with it. Over the past two years, we have gone down, the economy has really fallen. But through some incentives, some tax reduction, I think it can help a lot (Chicago Lawn).

Fear of the pandemic and/or vaccination is something that also needs to be addressed to help people return to work amidst the ongoing pandemic and risk of contracting COVID.

I had to take my grandchild to school because the bus company said, people are scared. They're hiring, but people don't want to work because some people are afraid to get vaccines (Dolton/ Harvey).

Some people are quitting being home care provider because they're scared to go into people homes. So that's where some seniors or people with disabilities are going to lose out on because a lot of workers are in fear to go there (Dolton/Harvey).

Participants noted the importance of providing access to accurate and rapid information on and awareness of the pandemic, COVID-19 vaccination, and safety procedures. In particular, participants from Cicero, Roseland, and South Lawndale voiced their frustration over how not everyone wants to get vaccinated or believes in getting vaccinated. "There is very little information and there is very little

willingness from members of this community who want to go and get informed and think about getting vaccinated." (Cicero, English Translation) By providing access to accurate information, participants believed it could help fight against misinformation about COVID.

Some participants noted how local businesses people frequent could help get accurate information and resources out in their neighborhoods "because the moment you step out of the house, you find a grocery store, supermarket. Most of the things it's the business, so they [can] create awareness about the pandemic" (Roseland). Businesses can support their communities by raising awareness and leading by example on the importance of following safety procedures. As one participant recounted,

I feel that sometimes not all people do their part because even in that particular restaurant we went to, we arrived, and they didn't even have a mask on. They can't--how am I supposed to know that they are vaccinated? Then others had their phone in their hand and with their phone they were going to make my sandwich. I just left. (South Lawndale, English Translation)

Support for Local Businesses

When asked about what businesses could do to support the economic recovery of the neighborhood, participants talked first about what businesses needed to recover and how supporting local businesses would, in turn, support employment opportunities. Below are some suggestions from participants for supporting local businesses:

- Provide tax breaks to ease financial burdens from the pandemic
- Government could provide advisory services to businesses at zero cost
- Government could offer grants to businesses that offer the vaccination
- Provide relief packages
- Provide grants for businesses, which can promote entrepreneurship
- Relaxation on taxation policy, such as grace periods for businesses
- Business should keep premium rates and there should be no unnecessary hiking of services provided

Support with Meeting Basic Needs

Participants also mentioned the need to support people with meeting basic needs, such as with paying rent and utilities. South Lawndale, Cicero and Austin participants talked about needed help with paying utilities such as gas and electricity. Participants from Cicero and Roseland voiced the need for rental assistance:

One of the things that I'd like to mention is when it comes to rental assistance, [the city] should try and give a priority to emergency rental assistance to keep the renters in their homes by mapping the neighborhood where the low-income people are at a greater risk of being homeless (Roseland).

Participants also noted how faith-based institutions can help “in giving alms” and providing relief materials, such as tents, for members of their community who have “been affected hugely by the pandemic.”

The following were **additional recommendations** voiced throughout the community conversations:

- a. Invest in efforts that provide **temporary financial support** for people who are at risk of losing their employment stability.
- b. **Staffing support** for local organizations to meet the various needs of the community and to ensure follow-up is done as we continue to live through the pandemic (Cicero):
I was helping families to refer them emotionally, but it did collapse because there were too many...I know that maybe the organizations did not have so many staff, it was a momentary thing from one day to the next, all the work. What I would like is that the organizations that put these people to work, there are times when they change personnel and then the person is left floating, in their case there is no continuity” (Cicero, English Translation).
- c. **Provide financial counseling and guidance** on how to save money: *I will say creating platforms and seminars to teach people how to invest, reevaluate spending, and know the difference between what they want and what they need* (Roseland).
- d. **Childcare** as parents return to work amidst the ongoing pandemic:
The other thing that has affected me a lot, I am a single mom with two girls...The pandemic started, I had to go out and I had to leave them in the van because I didn't want to go into the store with them. Or I would leave them here at home...Now it worries me a lot. They went back to school [and] on the 31st [the school] sent me a message that in the oldest girl's classroom someone tested positive, so it was very difficult, the little one at school, the older one at home, me working (Cicero).
- e. **Assistance with food distribution** fees and transportation of food distribution, especially given the upcoming winter season (Cicero).
- f. Consider **compensating individuals that get vaccinated** to encourage others to get vaccinated.
- g. Support and resources for **youth** such as apprenticeships or scholarships by local businesses or organizations.
- h. **Highlight local businesses** to support in their recovery and growth:
I know that Mayor Lightfoot did a shop Black for Black Friday campaign. So highlighted a lot of coffee shops, Black owned business, just getting that exposure, getting in front of the right people can be helpful. I've seen with everything going on with George Floyd, there were a lot of people supporting a lot of Black owned businesses. I've seen one business go from 2,000 followers to 15,000 over night because people were sharing and supporting (Austin).
- i. Invest in **local businesses coming together** to problem solve and support one another:
Local businesses can form systems for themselves to share ideas on how to figure this out. The support system for them would be really helpful where they can come together,

- pull resources together, deliberate on ideas, and think of other ways to better their businesses and help the environment (Humboldt Park).*
- j. Support with raising **awareness about the available local resources**. Participants talked about the need for information about existing resources in their neighborhood and city as well as access to health services including vaccines and COVID-19 testing:
- Many people did not know about all the resources that fortunately we have in La Villita...Many people did not know that there were food pantries, what the address was, and we as promoters, took on the task of informing the community where the food pantries are, what days they are distributing, what their schedule is, what their address is (South Lawndale, English Translation).*
- k. Focus on the **advancement of technology** for different facets of life by providing resources to educate and train Chicagoans on how to stay employed and/or how to digitize their work and avoid significant negative financial impacts moving forward: *You teach people a couple of digital skills, freelancing, digital marketing, stuff like that, so people could work from home and also make money without going into debt or facing financial challenges because of pandemic (Chicago Lawn).*

Summary

Individuals in Chicago's Black and Latinx communities have been profoundly impacted by the pandemic. The loss of life and challenges of cobbling together work and paying for basic necessities while the cost-of-living rises has taken a toll on people all over the city and suburbs. No one should have to decide on whether to feed their family or pay rent, regardless of employment status, especially during this trying and unprecedented time. While living through this pandemic has been traumatizing and demoralizing, communities have responded with compassion and resilience, strengthening family and neighborhood bonds and helping each other survive.

For Chicago to recover equitably, the mental and emotional well-being of people must be prioritized. While the pandemic has been primarily described as a public health crisis, the impact on mental and emotional health will need to be addressed in order to be able to holistically recover and thrive moving forward. Furthermore, the city and business leaders must recognize that the pandemic is far from over and the impact will last for years. Fortunately, together we can make a significant difference in the lives of Chicago's hardest hit communities.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Research Study Methodology

Recruitment Process

For the first half of the recruitment process, we relied heavily on nonprofit organizations who signed up to support with recruitment. These organizations reached out to community members they provide direct services to and posted digital recruitment flyers on their respective social media accounts. All organizations that assisted with this process received either a \$200 or a \$400 stipend, depending on their recruitment efforts. Once interest forms from community residents began flowing in, we created a running list of participants per neighborhood and scheduled community conversations based on diversity of who signed up and availability provided. We emailed, called and/or texted (based on communication preference) to confirm community members' participation. All participants who attended received a \$65 visa gift card (via email or postal mail).

It's important to note that both BECOME and the We Rise team wanted to ensure that the recruitment plan and community conversations were non-extractive and restorative. First, we were intentional about the language we used when engaging with participants. For example, instead of using research language (e.g., focus groups), we decided to use "community conversations." Second, we developed and provided each participant a list of healing resources, which is listed in Appendix E. Third, we limited the presence of the Trust in the process for recruitment of both organizations and community members to avoid any potential feelings of distrust or expectations for funding associated with funder-nonprofit/funder-community dynamics. Fourth, we plan to share this report via a presentation to community members who participated in the conversations.

Research Timeline

This research study began in March of 2021 with data collection completed in November. Before community conversations began in September of 2021, the focus was on collaboratively developing the community recruitment flyer, email communication for organizations, community and organization interest forms, and the community conversation protocol. Time was also dedicated to identifying organizations in each neighborhood to reach out to for recruitment support. BECOME facilitated seven community conversations between September and November of 2021. The Cicero conversation was conducted in Spanish and the South Lawndale conversation was conducted in Spanish and English. The rest of the conversations were conducted in English. Due to a lack of diversity in demographics of individuals who signed up for a North Lawndale conversation (the eighth identified neighborhood), the decision was made to focus on seven of the eight identified neighborhoods/areas.

The following is a breakdown of when each community conversations was held via Zoom and the number of individuals that attended. Each community conversation lasted about 90 minutes.

Neighborhood/Area	Date of Community Conversation	Number of Attendees
Cicero	9-9-2021	11
Austin	9-12-2021	7
South Lawndale	9-14-2021	11
Chicago Lawn/ West Englewood	9-20-2021	8
Dolton/Harvey	10-25-2021	4
Humboldt Park	10-28-2021	7
Roseland Pullman Riverdale Altgeld	11-9-2021 & 11-16-2021*	8

**The 11-16-2021 conversation for the Roseland area was with two community members and lasted 60 mins.*

The cleaning of conversation transcripts took place concurrently with the facilitation of the conversations and data analysis occurred in November, followed by two sensemaking sessions in early December.

All audio recordings were transcribed verbatim by Rev, a transcription company, and each transcript was then edited for clarity. The seven conversations were divided across three BECOME team members to read over and code. Each coder first read each transcript to get a sense of the conversation and identify phrases, sentences, or paragraphs that stood out as potentially relevant to the focus of this study. Next, a code list was developed based on what was asked in the conversation protocol and from the initial review of transcripts. Coders then used Dedoose, a web-based data analysis application, to code each transcript based on the developed code list. After the initial round of coding, the code list was further revised to capture emerging themes more effectively.

Appendix B

Demographic Breakdown of Community Conversation Participants (Total of 56)⁴

Cultural or Ethnic Heritage	Count/ Percentage
African American / Black	27 (49%)
Latinx/ Hispanic	20 (36%)
Native American / Alaskan Native	3 (5%)
White	2 (4%)
Latinx/ White	2 (4%)
Asian American	1 (2%)
Gender	Count/ Percentage
Cisgender Woman	24 (44%)
Cisgender Man	13 (24%)
Transgender Man	10 (18%)
Transgender Woman	5 (9%)
Prefer not to answer	2 (4%)
Non-binary / Genderqueer	1 (2%)
Age	Count/ Percentage
18 - 30 years old	25 (45%)
31 - 40 years old	15 (27%)
41 - 50 years old	6 (11%)
51 - 60 years old	7 (13%)
61 - 70 years old	2 (4%)
Household Income	Count/ Percentage
Under \$15,000	8 (14%)
\$15,000 to \$24,999	6 (11%)
\$25,000 to \$34,999	9 (16%)
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9 (16%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	13 (24%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	5 (9%)
\$100,000 to \$149,000	3 (5%)
\$150,000 to \$199,999	0
\$200,000+	1 (2%)
Prefer not to answer	1 (2%)
Educational Level	Count/ Percentage
No formal educational credential	2 (4%)

⁴ One participant joined due to another participant inviting her. Efforts to collect demographic information for this participant were unsuccessful.

High school diploma or equivalent	13 (24%)
Some college, no degree	2 (4%)
Associate's degree	9 (16%)
Bachelor's degree	21 (38%)
Master's degree	4 (7%)
Professional degree	3 (5%)
Doctoral degree	1 (2%)

Appendix C

Community Conversation Quotes by Findings

Community Conversations Finding #1: The COVID-19 pandemic profoundly affected the emotional and mental well-being of participants across all neighborhoods. In particular, participants expressed worrying about the unknown that came with the pandemic, physical safety, emotional stability, the well-being of loved ones and neighbors, finances, providing for the family, and changes to their employment that significantly impact their way of living.

- *Another thing is the constant fear. As one with anxiety issues. I think it kind of escalated and the paranoia that comes with it. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *You feel sad, you don't know what's going to happen, if you're going to stay sick, if you're going to die, you don't know. You keep thinking about what's going to happen to my children, what's going to happen with my life, what's going to happen if all this falls apart. (Cicero, English Translation)*
- *So another challenge also is that since the onset of the pandemic, those people who lost jobs, those people maybe their only source of earning was cut off, they have had some mental depression. You find that people are really suffering out there, they don't have what to eat, they don't have what to pay for the education of their children now that we are going to online. So again, so much therapy is needed there. Some guys, maybe some find pleasure in drinking, so it's not a good way if maybe people are living down the streets. (Chicago Lawn)*
- *...my neighbors were affected mentally. She was losing out to the point she wanted to commit suicide due to the anxiety and depression...She also felt isolated. (Roseland)*
- *...the change that has been depicted as high cases of emotional stress due to the misfortunes that came with it such as people losing their jobs, others succumb to the pandemic. (Roseland)*
- *Mental health went through the roof for many people, as well as for children. It really affected the children too, because they had to be inside for a whole year, taking classes and not being able to go out at all. (South Lawndale, English Translation)*
- *The scarcity of it kind of made a lot of people that I know do unpleasant jobs and stay in toxic work environments because they were the backbones of their families. And a lot of people couldn't do rents and loans and rental assistance and stuff, so they were, I wouldn't say forced, but kind of like the scarce of everything and people losing their jobs, getting laid off, they were forced to be grateful to have certain jobs that they weren't really pleased with. And it was very bad on their mental and physical health. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *It did affect him a lot to be alone. He couldn't go outside to play with the neighbors anymore. He doesn't have any cousins here in Chicago or close to his age, so he couldn't play with kids his age. The stress affected him a lot, it gave him a lot of anxiety. The pace of school, he was getting good grades and with the online school his grades went down. (South Lawndale, English Translation)*
- *Even though I don't have any kids or any kids in my house, I read articles about how online is affecting kids...They're used to going outside and playing around and talking to kids and being kids and that was just snatched away from them. I know that has to be very hard for them in just learning. If your parents are busy working, how can they focus on both making money and making sure I'm supporting you in school?...Then I'm thinking long term, I'm in school but I'm at home, how about high school, will I be*

behind now because I wasn't able to get that type of effective, quality education when I was smaller?
(Austin)

- *I suffer from a lot of depression during the pandemic. Having to experience both seeing what's happening to people around you, people losing their life, in retrospect was the hardest issue. You never knew what would fall in next or go in next. What is going to happen to your friend? What is going to happen to your family member? It was a period of uncertainty, and I was badly depressed by the thought of that. I never knew what was going to happen to the people I knew. It impacted my relationships and my altered ability to engage with friends and family... I was so worried about losing people. People I messaged would still want to interact. So, I was losing people which meant a lot to me. That was a hard thing for me.* (Austin)
- *I think it was during April, that was when I lost my friend and that was result of the old pandemic and the old COVID issue. That was the issue that I found really, really hard to confront... I don't know what word I should use, but I found it had a great impact on my life, because my friend was really close to me and that's when the pandemic really affected me. I felt that was the end of everything. That was the end of the world I guess that everyone was eventually going to die. That's how I felt, it was traumatic and losing my job, it was not a very good experience. I'm still trying to recover from everything...* (Austin)
- *Some people in the neighborhood now, I see them acting very strange, talking to themselves. One particular person, I see drinking more, walking with no shoes and stuff. That's why I think it's a mental impact and we need places for them to go for mental illness or therapy or get someone to talk to. Yeah, I see a lot of more mental issues now. And I know this because I'm retired, so I'm at home so I can see.* (Dolton/Harvey)
- *I thought they were lies and still to this day I don't understand, I do not understand. Thank God, my husband, me and my children have not gotten it, but I did not believe, but now I do.* (Cicero, English Translation)
- *Living with the insecurity that anything may happen. I think that was worse than any kind of torture. And I think the insecurity that was caused by health vulnerability led to a kind of mental health issue. And I just think that COVID affected us mentally because number one, was the health insecurity. And I think number two was the fact that a number of my family members lost their jobs.* (Humboldt Park)

Community Conversations Finding #2: The COVID-19 pandemic rocked the financial stability of participants. In particular, participants talked about experiencing a high level of stress and anxiety due to job loss, reduction in work hours or work status, and having to find ways to supplement their income to make ends meet during the ongoing pandemic.

- *My work hours were cut back. Financially I tried not to stop paying my rent, everything I had to pay, but it was difficult because... Until now it has been more difficult because now everything is more expensive.* (Cicero, English Translation)
- *We were going into our savings so basically our savings diminished. It made us go borrow some loans. And during that time, the loan system was really high. You are borrowing money, but...the banks [themselves], they were not sure if you're going to return the money that you're borrowing.* (Dolton/Harvey)
- *During the onset of the pandemic, we didn't know for how long the pandemic could go on. We don't know what tomorrow might bring, so you find that you use up the planned finances. After some period of time as the year went on, we had to go into the savings. And that was strenuous for the family, and also there was that tension, the stress that comes with it. Knowing that you're using up your savings, you*

don't know how you're going to recover that savings. You don't know how you're going to finance your family, finance everything, like the bills, electricity. (Roseland)

- *The pandemic has really affected coming up and paying bills when [they are] due. I experienced a hike in my water bill as well as my electricity tariff. Considering the fact that I don't even get more from my job because I don't work more as I used to before the pandemic, it's quite difficult meeting up with these bills when the wages are not sufficient. (Humboldt Park)*
- *You're trying to feed your family with the little money you've got. If you had no savings, you then maybe borrow from a friend, taking loans. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *A lot of relief package given by the government to the community. Although it was great, it didn't really go a long way to satisfy the needs because at that time I think I needed a lot more help than what I was receiving. (Humboldt Park)*
- *First of all, I appreciate my wife she has been trying her best to keep the financial aspect of the house flowing and the rest of it. But for now, I'm doing multiple jobs in the bar and trying to gather some money so I could save for... so that I could also be a part of the financial struggle and the rest of it. (Chicago Lawn)*
- *Unfortunately, in my immediate family we were affected financially when my husband's hours were reduced and because we wanted to keep up with all the expenses we had to go into debt with relatives. (Cicero, English Translation)*
- *You are forced to take a pay cut. And when you take a pay cut, the lifestyle you've been living tends to change...because you're trying to focus [on] the money. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *Unfortunately, my husband could no longer stand up. Now I am the pillar of the household. I am the one who is taking care of all the expenses, bills, everything. I have the hope that there will be a time when all this passes, when maybe [my husband] will get out of that depression that he got because of unemployment, because of the fear of seeing me in the hospital, of my son too, because of the pandemic. Thank God he did not get the COVID because if he had gotten it he would not have been able to stand it. (Cicero, Translation)*

Community Conversations Finding #3: Participants acknowledge some learnings and positives from living through the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, participants reflected on the importance of being united as human beings to survive the pandemic, the opportunities that come with technology, and being able to reconnect and bond with family or neighbors.

- *I think when you see your brother suffering, and there is a way you can help, you find that the sympathy from the others...it brought out the humanity in people. And you find that after all, there is sunshine at the end of it all. (Roseland)*
- *People realized that they had to support each other in order to survive. (Austin)*
- *I think the society needs to come together and then also find a way in which we could all be together and provide for each other's needs...Don't just blame the government and then telling the government to do everything, we also have our own parts to play. (South Lawndale)*
- *I saw an increase in food drives, sheltering and just help from the community. I saw more togetherness. I think that's one of the big things that the pandemic did for us, it helped bring a lot of people together, even if we didn't know each other. I noticed that grocery stores were even offering help to feed the kids during the summer, as well as CPS for a while in some schools, and just a lot of good stuff that actually tried to help a lot of people in the community stay afloat as much as possible. (Dolton/Harvey)*

- *I also feel that something positive is that many of our community organizations began to work more together, more united, for the common goal...of our community, which is the need of the people. We kind of started to realize that much more, that it is not necessary or beneficial to work individually as organizations, but to come together and work for the good of the community... Something that may not have been so common before the pandemic. (Cicero, English Translation)*
- *This pandemic has left us with a lot of pain but also a lot of learning that we have to be united. The truth is our community has to be united regardless of race. This pandemic was global so we must all be united and continue to encourage people to get vaccinated. (South Lawndale, English Translation)*
- *It came also with some technological advancement in that most of the companies did move to the delivery system...so you got the goods at your home. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *I learned about the world of telehealth because during this COVID era, and then you already know it's accessing healthcare on a virtual platform like this, I think it's a good one because it's one of the plus that technology comes with. It helps to have your regular appointments, your regular meetings with your healthcare provider, helps to make sure that you don't skip appointments. But personally, I really don't think it's as effective as meeting your provider in person. But it does a great job at bridging a gap in terms of meeting up with appointments. So I think that's a positive too, from the COVID pandemic and it should be worked on and be maintained. (Humboldt Park)*
- *You also look at the lifestyle, when it comes to payment, shopping, you tend to move toward the technological path like digital banking. We don't use the cash nowadays when making payments. (Roseland)*
- *I was able to adjust my working space, like how I work. I can't believe that my job, I would have done it from home, understand? (Chicago Lawn)*
- *I would say the one thing that I'd really like to continue that is currently taking place is there's this charity-based organization that they're giving out food to the less fortunate families...So I think that maybe the solution is to keep on with that spirit, even after the pandemic because it really serves humanity. And I really feel happy and relieved when I find those people that are less fortunate in our midst getting supported to their best level. (Humboldt Park)*
- *Platforms were created for people to socialize online, and also pandemic help cut a whole lot of costs running a business and attending meetings were done online. (Roseland)*
- *My family have been my source of inspiration, being able to connect with them more helped me pulled through this difficult moment. (Chicago Lawn)*
- *Good time to spend with the neighbors during the weekends because we can't go to the cinemas, we can't go to watch the football games. We'll just meet as a community. We do have some football, basketball. Yeah, we have fun also within the community itself. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *But in a way also maybe I would say there's been a blessing in disguise because I've had to have a good time with my family and the neighborhood. (Roseland)*
- *We have had some good times with my neighbors. Initially, it used to be everyone goes to job in the morning, come back late. So you find that people tend to socialize, you get to know your neighbor, you get to know each other with their families because each time maybe you are spending indoors, maybe you find them to play with them because you're not allowed to move outside of the neighborhood. (Chicago Lawn)*
- *I also believe that this pandemic has taught us to value each day. Every morning is a new opportunity that God is giving us, an opportunity for a new day, because we don't know, now we are [living on the strength of a string] with this pandemic. (South Lawndale, English Translation)*

Community Conversations Finding #4: Basic needs of participants, such as food and housing security, was and continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Food insecurity quotes:
 - *I'll say food resources because you have to eat. Everybody deserves to have quality food and not have to go to a different town to grab some quality food. (Austin)*
 - *When you were at home, the children are expecting maybe to eat something for lunch, for dinner. And as a parent, you can't just let them know. There's not a better explanation maybe to tell them there's no money. (Dolton/Harvey)*
 - *I volunteer to give food, and during the pandemic it increased to 6,000. From 2,000 it increased to 6,000 per family per week. There have been many people who have lost their jobs and it is very sad when they come here and say, 'I lost my job, we don't have food'...we give 6,000 food pantries per week. It doesn't go down, it doesn't go down. (South Lawndale, English Translation)*
 - *I think that the day we go to the doctor and start going out a little bit more, we are going to get diabetes, hypertension because of food. Because of that anxiety and stress, many people start eating...Then, with all that at the beginning they gave so much food... I say this because I also worked in a pantry in Pilsen, in San Pío, and there was a lot of bread...they were fighting because they wanted bread and bread and sweet bread. That stress was causing them that sweet craving and that is going to lead to a series of diseases and to being overweight...Apart from the fact that we as Latinos do not want to change our diet. Our food is very rich, but in carbohydrates. I say this because in my house it happens. If I make a salad, they eat very little, but if there is something else that attracts more attention in terms of carbohydrates, they eat that more than the salad...We, there in San Pío, there are people who leave our boxes outside--they take out all the fruit and vegetables. They take one fruit or two, but they leave it all there. Because what do they want? Pure carbohydrates, meat and bread. That's what they like. With that kind of diet and without exercise, how can we not have diseases if we have spent a year and a half locked up? (South Lawndale, English Translation)*
 - *You barely can find a good price package of water now. And it's like, these neighborhoods are left with scraps. (Dolton/Harvey)*
 - *The pandemic has affected me financially, I had to work from home and it wasn't enough to feed my family. (Chicago Lawn)*
 - *I think people in my community started experiencing malnourishment because there was a lack of food resources. (Austin)*
 - *Many grocery stores stopped work. (Roseland)*
 - *I am a volunteer for Love Fridge, so basically we get fridges and place them in cities, neighborhoods in Chicago and fill it up with food five times a week. We also collab with Black and Brown businesses and they will make preowned meals so we can actually put those in the refrigerator as well. My focus since last July was to get a fridge in the Austin community. Well, fridges, because we need more than one because of how big the neighborhood was. But that was a fail, unfortunately, we are a mutual aid so we just kind of go by volunteers and just asking for money. We've been able to help a lot of people with those. I remember seeing people with their bags ready while I'm stocking the fridge so they can get some food for themselves and their family, which was very fulfilling just to see that, that we knew we were having such an impact. We launched more than a year ago and the demand is still there. We have 20 something fridges now. (Austin)*

- *One church, Hope Church, has been doing food drives the entire time, since I can remember, since last year. I still get their text messages every Friday, if you know somebody, do you need food? Pull-up 11-2 at Hope Church. They've been doing that. And my old job also, Coming Together, we had a food drive all summer long last year. So we was able to give out financial, I don't know how much money, I think a couple thousand to people and we were giving boxes for food too. (Austin)*
- *There are many food pantries in our community. (Cicero)*
- *Also came the partnership between Youth Crossroads and Inner-City Impact that now we are, I think we are the organizations that give along with Salvation Army that give the largest food distributions...In the beginning it was District 99 that did a phenomenal job in giving meals, these food distributions, working with different organizations. (Cicero)*
- **Housing security quotes:**
 - *What I can say from the neighbors and friends and how it has affected them, you find that some people had to move back to their parents' home since they couldn't afford the rent. And you find that sometimes the cost of living became so hard to the point that the only option they had was to go back home. You also find that most of the people moved from the cities to up countries. And also, they had to sell their stuff to manage at least going forward. (Roseland)*
 - *They were hardworking people... These two people are out on the street right now, they are walking around to see who will give them a taco, to see where they can sleep... (Cicero)*
 - *As a health promoter, you receive a lot of calls, and a lady called me about a very sad situation. She lost her husband to COVID and [her husband had a rent contract.] When her husband died, they took away her lease, they raised her rent, and they took away the refrigerator that she had in her apartment. Crying, she tells me, 'Why? I lost my husband and all those injustices.' (South Lawndale)*
 - *He called me and said, 'I need you to help me with my bills, with my rent, because I just lost my job, and I was paying \$850, I was only giving \$500 and I owe \$3,500. Now the owner is charging me \$4,500, he is going to kick me out, and he told me that if I don't pay in three days he is going to burn my credit. They won't rent to me anywhere.' There have also been many injustices by landlords and those situations hurt you. They hurt and you feel terrible helplessness. (South Lawndale)*
 - *Some folks had to be evicted from their homes, they could not afford to pay rent, so they became homeless. (Chicago Lawn)*
 - *We noticed that a lot of the housing that was supposed to get new construction was on pause. A lot of the homes are still not quite up there for anyone to rent out or buy because of the pandemic slowing that process down. Affordable housing and getting more families in have stopped. And even when we do get any new housing, it's extremely expensive. They will build the house ground up again, and then who in Austin can afford it? Having those types of situations happen. I want to stay in my community, I want a nice house, but now I have to spend suburbs money when we're living in the hood. (Austin)*

Community Conversations Finding #5: The COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted local businesses and neighborhoods' sense of safety.

- *My neighborhood used to be a very busy one. With the pandemic, the hustle and bustle, as well as business activities has reduced. (Humboldt Park)*

- *In Little Village, people are losing their businesses, it looks like a ghost town. (South Lawndale, English Translation)*
- *We could see that a lot of businesses were affected by it and they had to shut down and while some have to cut down on their expenses, I mean, the time of services. And that has really affected their income as well and also led...I know a lot of products in our particular shop got expired and it was a really sad. (Humboldt Park)*
- *Most of the businesses as we know, it's always up to the customer. So when the pandemic came and those restrictions; the curfew, the lockdown, you find that most businesses were affected. (Roseland)*
- *Local businesses mostly for me because a lot of shops we're closed down because of the covid 19 pandemic. (Austin)*
- *My neighborhood was a lot more peaceful, and the rate of crime was quite low. But due to the pandemic, I could see a lot of changes in terms of insecurity. People get robbed on their way, and a lot of people, there was a lot of carjacking. (Humboldt Park)*
- *In my neighborhood, life has changed from the social standpoint, because quite a number of social activities that has been going on prior to this COVID-19 period has stopped, the crowd and the population we used to have in the malls have reduced, in the cinemas have reduced, even in churches. And I would say, communication has reduced in terms of physical communication. (Roseland)*
- *To me, in my community in Calumet Park, it's about the same. Things have gotten worse because they don't have a job. They're doing more looting, more robberies, more shooting. I mean, it's just not drugs, they're even drinking and just hanging out more because they don't have anything to do. But it's been going on, but we see it more now because of the social platform. I wouldn't just blame marijuana or the condition we're in when it's been starting, it just got worse. (Dolton/Harvey)*
- *My neighborhood is particularly a very commercial region and the outbreak of the pandemic reduced commercial activities and this directly affected the financial flow within the neighborhood. And not just that, regular societal activities, the reduce of these kind of activities also affected the financial flow one way or the other in my neighborhood. (Chicago Lawn)*
- *My neighborhood has been greatly, greatly been affected by COVID-19, especially small-scale businesses that are owned by entrepreneurs. They have, on the range of 1 to 10, I can tell you average of five businesses owned by small-scale businessmen or women have closed down because of the financial capability to run the business is no longer there. I think it has affected so much financially in my neighborhood. And I don't know if there's something that government can do to support small-scale businesses, so they can be able to have their feet, that will really, really go a long way. (Chicago Lawn)*

Community Conversations Finding #6: Being an undocumented immigrant in the U.S. intensified the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Cicero and South Lawndale community conversation participants.

- *They lost their jobs because businesses closed, they did not pay them the time, according to their boss, he did not have the means to pay them. From my point of view that was an abuse by the boss...as I had my business, I had insurance and the insurance covered employees. There you can see that unfortunately for not having a document [referring to being undocumented] we always lose out.*
- *These two people are now out on the streets, they are walking around to see who will give them a taco, to see where they can sleep. What hurts the most is that they have not been able to get money, work because of their immigration status, [employers] are asking for that, wherever there is food, they go.*

- *I didn't receive anything from the government. Immigration status is part of the problem in our community.*
- *[As a health promoter, I got a call from a man], 'I need you to help me with my bills, my rent, because I just lost my job, and I was paying \$850, I was only giving \$500 and I owe \$3,500. Now the owner is charging me \$4,500, he is going to kick me out, and he told me that if I don't pay in three days, he is going to burn my credit. They won't rent to me anywhere.' There have also been many injustices by landlords.*
- *I know that when you don't have a piece of paper to back you up for a job you get paid less, but there are times when I tell the person, 'It's this or nothing'...Yes, they are paid less, but at least it's a job.*

Appendix D

Community Conversations Protocol

1.5 hours (90 mins)

- **Welcome/ Overview**
- **Introductions and Check-in with community members present**
- **Identify community agreements**
- **COVID-19 Impact**

We know that we've all been through a lot with the pandemic and that it has affected all of us in different ways. And we'll again emphasize how much we appreciate you signing up and being willing to share your story of how the pandemic has impacted you, your family, and your neighborhood. So to start, we want to start by asking:

1. In what ways has the pandemic affected you and your family?
 - a. Look for responses related to financial situation and ask, In what ways has the pandemic financially affected you or your family's daily life? (e.g., ability to work, being able to pay for necessities, bills, putting money away for savings, etc.)?
2. In what ways has the pandemic affected you and your family?
 - a. In what ways has the pandemic financially affected you or your family's daily life? (e.g., ability to work, being able to pay for necessities, bills, putting money away for savings, etc.)?
3. In what ways has the pandemic financially affected people that you know in your neighborhood? (e.g., ability to work, being able to pay for necessities, bills, putting money away for savings, etc.)
 - a. What have your neighbors shared with you about how this pandemic has affected them?
4. In what ways have you seen the pandemic influence where you live (referring to their neighborhood)?
 - o In what ways have you seen the pandemic affect the way of life in your neighborhood?
 - o In what ways has life in your neighborhood changed because of the pandemic?
5. **(POLL)** Because we're trying to understand how the pandemic has financially affected Chicago neighborhoods, we want to take a couple of minutes for you all to take the following poll: Which of the following areas has the pandemic impacted the most in your neighborhood?
 - a. Housing, Employment opportunities, Local businesses, Neighborhood organizations, Community infrastructure, religious institutions, Other: Please specify
 - b. Does anybody want to elaborate on the responses provided for the poll? Or are there any other areas that have been most affected by the pandemic that are not listed in this poll?
6. Are there any other challenges or hurdles that your neighborhood is facing right now as a result of the pandemic?

- **Neighborhood Recovery**

7. As we learn to live with COVID-19, what, if anything, is happening in your neighborhood that you would like to see continued?
 - a. What, if anything, is happening in your neighborhood that you want to see grow and keep going?
8. What would your neighborhood need from businesses, the city, and nonprofit organizations to financially recover from this pandemic?
 - a. What could local business, the city, and nonprofit organizations do to help your neighborhood thrive financially?
 - b. Probe for these buckets: jobs, types of businesses in your area, small business support, investments in your neighborhood, internet/broadband
9. We are all working on healing, recovering and moving on from this pandemic, and there are so many different things we could focus on, like jobs, education, businesses, health, and so on. What is the thing that ties them altogether for you? What is most important to focus on now in the collective recovery of Chicago?
 - a. An example of this are family services (jobs for parents, education support for kids simultaneously).
 - b. With that example, in what ways does education relate to business, how does health relate to jobs, how do they all affect one another?

- **Thank you and close**

Appendix E

Resources for People, Parents, Students, Families, Nonprofits, Funders, Community Groups. (English and Spanish)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline: This help line is a free, nationwide peer-support service providing information, resource referrals and support to people living with a mental health condition, their family members and caregivers, mental health providers and the public.

(Spanish) **NAMI** es la organización comunitaria de salud mental más grande de la nación, y su propósito es que las millones de personas afectadas por condiciones de salud mental tengan una vida mejor. Encuentra tu [afiliado local](#).

COVID-19 (English)

- [Managing coronavirus anxiety \(1-pager\)](#)
- [Helping Your Family Cope \(2-pager\)](#)
- [Decolonizing Community Care in Response to COVID-19 \(article\)](#)
- [Collective Care is our Best Weapon against COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Healing and Resource Directory](#)
- [Chicago COVID-19 Resource Repository](#): Northwestern University's Center for Community Health & Alliance for Research in Chicagoland Communities (ARCC) have initiated this resource repository to support community organizations and members in the Chicagoland Area.
- [COVID 19 Resources - CIS of Chicago Resource Guide](#)
- [Resources for Chicago residents dealing with a loss due to COVID-19](#)

COVID-19 (Español)

- [Illinois Unidos](#): IllinoisUnidos.com sirve como el portal de Illinois Unidos, un consorcio de más de 100 funcionarios latinos electos y nombrados, junto con profesionales de la salud y representantes de organizaciones comunitarias. La iniciativa tiene como objetivo presentar una voz unida para detener el crecimiento de COVID-19 en nuestras comunidades al tiempo que aborda los problemas de salud pública relacionados y el devastador impacto económico de COVID-19. Tienen recursos para salud, vivienda, alimento, y inmigración.
- [Actualizaciones de COVID-19, recursos de la comunidad, empleo y negocios pequeños, comida, salud y bienestar, viviendas, servicios de Casa, y acceso a Internet, para padres y transportación](#)
- [Recursos de COVID-19 \(English and Spanish\)](#)
- [Recursos para personas, padres, estudiantes, familias, organizaciones sin fines de lucro, financiadores, grupos comunitarios.](#)

GETTING ACTIVE

- [Anxiety Reducing Yoga](#)

- [Accessible Yoga Class](#) (for beginners)
- [5 minute yoga for kids](#)

MANTENGANSE ACTIVO(A)

- [Yoga para principiantes \(relajante\)](#)
- [15 minutos de salsa](#)
- [Yoga para niños](#)
- [Respirando con la mariposa en 3 minutos](#)
- [Meditación en 5 minutos](#)
- [Ansiedad Meditación para Niños en 3 minutos](#)

HEALING JUSTICE

- [What is healing justice and why do we need it? \(report\)](#)

LATINX LIBERATION

- [Chingona Guide To Self-determination In Healing \(booklet\)](#)
- [Kindling: Writings On The Body \(book\)](#)

BLACK LIBERATION

- [Healing Justice Is How We Can Sustain Black Lives \(article\)](#)
- [Healing, Health, And Resilience During Covid-19 \(video\)](#)

Appendix F

Neighborhood Summaries

City of Chicago

Although not felt in the same ways by all people or all community areas, every neighborhood within the city of Chicago has been impacted by certain demographic trends, racist policies and practices, and socioeconomic forces. The seven neighborhoods included within this research have unique histories and populations, but structural racism, housing discrimination and segregation, and patterns of disinvestment and inequitable funding have impacted the inequitable distribution of resources across the neighborhoods of Cicero, Austin, Chicago Lawn/West Englewood, Humboldt Park, South Lawndale, Dolton/Harvey and Roseland/Pullman/Riverdale/Altgeld.

Redlining, racially restrictive covenants, blockbusting, discriminatory loan practices, and exclusionary zoning laws carried out by real estate groups, policy makers, and community leaders ensured that Chicago's neighborhoods would remain segregated into the modern day. Racially restrictive covenants once covered most of the city. These covenants specified which races or ethnicities housing units in a neighborhood could be sold to, with the express purpose of cementing segregation. While the creation of racially restrictive covenants was outlawed in 1968, many of Chicago's covenants remained in place until their expiration in 1980. Redlining is the practice of mapping out a residential region based on race or ethnicity and denying home loans to residents of areas that are majority Black, non-white, or poor. In Chicago, this was especially carried out against the Black population, and has contributed to a lack of generational wealth among Black families in Chicago. Blockbusting was carried out by real estate agents who would convince white homeowners to urgently sell their homes at low prices because the neighborhood would soon be 'infiltrated' by Black families. Before 1962, blockbusters helped 'change' an average of two to three Chicago city blocks per week. Exclusionary zoning laws, which policy makers continue to use today, make it extremely difficult for certain types of housing to be built in certain neighborhoods and concentrate public housing and lower-quality housing in certain areas.

Suburbanization in Chicago occurred along racial lines. Beginning in the 1960s, anti-Black racism, suburbanization, the construction of highways, and the perception of high crime rates led much of the city's white population to move into surrounding suburbs. From the 1960s to the 1990s, a third of Chicago's community areas transformed from being majority-Black to majority-white. As suburbs expanded, industrial powerhouses followed the white labor force. This departure of industry decreased the availability of jobs within many Chicago neighborhoods and led to a cycle of disinvestment in these areas. While the history of each neighborhood is unique, segregation, lack of generational wealth, and inequitable funding have continued to cement unequal access to resources across the city today.

Cicero

Cicero began as a majority-white center of industry, with several rail lines servicing the town. In the 1950s, Black families were met with hostile, violent racism as they attempted to move into Cicero. In 1951, a Black family planned to move into an apartment in the town, but white rioters destroyed the building, throwing out the family's furniture and burning it. The riot forced the family to leave the town. Civil rights marches moved through Cicero in the mid-1960s protesting the segregation enforced by Cicero's residents; it was known to have an informal policy preventing Black people from residing in the town or being present after dark. The population

remained majority-white until the 1980s. In the 1980s, factories began to move out of the town, and the community's supply of jobs began to deplete.

With these economic shifts, the racial and ethnic makeup of the town quickly transformed. By 2000, Hispanics and Latinos, mostly Mexican and Central American, comprised 77% of the population; in 2019, the Hispanic and Latino population reached almost 90%. In 2020, 33% reported speaking English less than 'very well' (CMAP Community Data Snapshot). A large portion of the town, 39%, is foreign-born. Educational attainment is lower than the Cook County average, with 70% of the adult population having attained a high school diploma or less.

2020 Cicero Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Hispanic or Latino	73,846 (90%)
White	5,175 (6%)
Black	2,467 (3%)
Asian	534 (0.6%)
Other/Multiple Races	308 (0.4%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	5,098 (6%)
5 to 19	21,258 (26%)
20 to 34	19,834 (24%)
35 to 49	17,340 (21%)
50 to 64	12,268 (15%)
65 to 74	4,025 (5%)
75 to 84	1,717 (2%)
85 and Over	790 (1%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>30.5</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	17,066 (35%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	16,443 (34%)
Some College, No Degree	8,007 (17%)
Associate's Degree	2,355 (5%)
Bachelor's Degree	3,576 (7%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	737 (2%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	50,405 (61%)
Foreign Born	31,925 (39%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
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English Only	12,716 (17%)
Spanish	63,300 (82%)
Slavic Languages	389 (0.5%)
Chinese	23 (0%)
Tagalog	249 (0.3%)
Arabic	--
Korean	13 (0%)
Other Asian Languages	252 (0.3%)
Other Indo-European Languages	269 (0.3%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	21 (0%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	64,516 (84%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	25,362 (33%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	4,209 (19%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	7,076 (32%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4,780 (21%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2,554 (11%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,762 (12%)
\$150,000 and Over	965 (4%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$49,367</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	19,201 (86%)
Smartphone(s) Only	3,633 (16%)
No Computing Devices	3,145 (14%)
Internet Access	18,866 (84%)
Broadband Subscription	17,087 (76%)
No Internet Access	3,480 (16%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	22,346 (91%)
Owner-Occupied	11,100 (50%)
Renter-Occupied	11,246 (50%)
Vacant Housing Units	2,295 (9%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	40,219 (66%)
Employed	38,076 (95%)
Unemployed	2,142 (5%)

Not in Labor Force*	21,202 (35%)
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**All people 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, homemakers, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).*

Austin

Austin began as a predominantly white, middle class residential community in the late 19th century. From 1960 to 1990, the population of Austin went from being 99.8% white to 86.8% Black. Beginning in the late 1960s, white flight into the suburbs, anti-black real estate practices, and racist policies created conditions of cyclical poverty within the neighborhood. In recent decades, Austin has witnessed significant population decline. From 2000 to 2020, Austin’s population shrank 17.8%.

The neighborhood continues to experience the effects of these inequities today, including through disparities in income, education, and health outcomes. Currently, the neighborhood's population is 78% Black, 15% Hispanic or Latino, and 6% white. The median income in Austin is almost \$25,000 lower than the city's median income and \$40,000 lower than the median across Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties. The cost of housing in the area has not adjusted to residents’ incomes; housing in Austin takes up a much larger percentage of residents' total income on average than in the city overall. 27% of Austin households earning less than \$20,000 annually spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent, and 24% of those earning between \$20,000 and \$49,999 do so. Even without the impact of the pandemic, 85% of the neighborhood's discretionary income is spent outside of Austin.

2020 Austin Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	72,886 (78%)
Hispanic or Latino	14,113 (15%)
White	5,288 (6%)
Asian	440 (0.5%)
Other/Multiple Races	1,000 (1%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	6,537 (7%)
5 to 19	18,270 (20%)
20 to 34	20,566 (22%)
35 to 49	17,713 (19%)
50 to 64	17,275 (18%)
65 to 74	8,141 (9%)
75 to 84	4,008 (4%)
85 and Over	1,217 (1%)
Median Age	36.2

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	11,584 (19%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	22,218 (36%)
Some College, No Degree	14,416 (23%)
Associate's Degree	4,431 (7%)
Bachelor's Degree	6,097 (10%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	3,242 (5%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	87,942 (94%)
Foreign Born	5,785 (6%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	74,519 (86%)
Spanish	10,884 (13%)
Slavic Languages	487 (0.6%)
Chinese	-
Tagalog	116 (0.1%)
Arabic	146 (0.2%)
Korean	15 (0%)
Other Asian Languages	120 (0.1%)
Other Indo-European Languages	530 (0.6%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	373 (0.4%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	12,671 (15%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	<i>4,139 (5%)</i>

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	12,869 (39%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	8,222 (25%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	4,375 (13%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	2,503 (7%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	3,177 (10%)
\$150,000 and Over	1,514 (5%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$33,515</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	25,463 (78%)
Smartphone(s) Only	4,365 (13%)
No Computing Devices	7,197 (22%)

Internet Access	22,856 (70%)
Broadband Subscription	21,083 (65%)
No Internet Access	9,804 (30%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	32,660 (86%)
Owner-Occupied	13,488 (41%)
Renter-Occupied	19,172 (59%)
Vacant Housing Units	5,470 (14%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	27,368 (50%)
Employed	24,977 (91%)
Unemployed	2,391 (9%)
Not in Labor Force*	27, 678 (50%)

South Lawndale

South Lawndale was first settled by Germans and Czechs (Bohemians) (Reed, 2004) and became mainly blue-collar by the 1920s. The growth of industrialization in the area and the construction of the Cook County courthouse and jail complex created a robust supply of jobs in the neighborhood through the 1950s. Beginning in the 1960s, however, the closure of two large industrial factories led to major economic dislocation in the community. In part to separate the neighborhood’s identity from majority-Black North Lawndale, white community leaders renamed the area Little Village beginning in 1964. By the 1970s, the expansion of the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) campus and urban renewal efforts in neighboring Pilsen began pushing Hispanic/Latino populations into South Lawndale (Little Village Community Portal, 2022; Maldonado, 2020). In response to the changing South Lawndale population, most of the European immigrants moved into Chicago’s suburbs. By 1980, Latinos represented 47% of the South Lawndale population with Mexicans as the dominant ethnic group, which was a dramatic increase from only 4% in 1970 (Enlace Website; Reed, 2004). Little Village, or La Villita in its Spanish translation, is now known by its residents as the Mexico of the Midwest. The site has been dubbed "Mexican Magnificent Mile" because it is second to the high-end Chicago downtown shopping area (Maldonado, 2020).

The population has dropped over 20 percent in the last twenty years. As of 2020, the majority of the population identified as Hispanic/Latino (83%) while a small number identified as Black (12%). Close to half (49%) of the South Lawndale population was young (between the ages of 5 and 34) and had less than a high school diploma (45%). Over three fourths (76%) spoke Spanish at home. The median income for South Lawndale of \$34,705 is significantly below the city of Chicago’s median income of \$58,247. In 2020, 25% of the neighborhood’s population did not have computing devices and 30% did not have internet access, which is significant as we move to a more virtual way of living during the ongoing pandemic.

2020 South Lawndale Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Hispanic or Latino	59,873 (83%)

Black	8,898 (12%)
White	3,112 (4%)
Other/ Multiple Races	179 (0.2%)
Asian	95 (0.1%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	5,228 (7%)
5 to 19	16,243 (22%)
20 to 34	19,607 (27%)
35 to 49	14,491 (20%)
50 to 64	9,896 (14%)
65 to 74	4,245 (6%)
75 to 84	1,943 (3%)
85 and Over	504 (0.7%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>31</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	19,584 (45%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	13,574 (31%)
Some College, No Degree	5,004 (11%)
Associate's Degree	1,761 (4%)
Bachelor's Degree	3,171 (7%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	766 (2%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	45,027 (62%)
Foreign Born	27,130 (38%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	15,840 (24%)
Spanish	50,812 (76%)
Slavic Languages	82 (0.1%)
Chinese	-
Tagalog	8 (0%)
Arabic	54 (0.1%)
Korean	9 (0%)
Other Asian Languages	46 (0.1%)
Other Indo-European Languages	70 (0.1%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	8 (0%)

TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	51,089 (76%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	24,630 (37%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	6,210 (34%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	5,990 (33%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,960 (16%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,305 (7%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,071 (6%)
\$150,000 and Over	542 (3%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$34,705</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	13,495 (75%)
Smartphone(s) Only	2,855 (16%)
No Computing Devices	4,583 (25%)
Internet Access	12,650 (70%)
Broadband Subscription	11,622 (64%)
No Internet Access	5,428 (30%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	18,078 (87%)
Owner-Occupied	6,526 (36%)
Renter-Occupied	11,552 (64%)
Vacant Housing Units	2,777 (13%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	27,368 (50%)
Employed	24,977 (91%)
Unemployed	2,391 (9%)
Not in Labor Force*	27, 678 (50%)

Chicago Lawn/West Englewood

Through the 1960s, Chicago Lawn was a predominantly white neighborhood that excluded people of color through redlining and restrictive covenants. It sits in the heart of the Bungalow Belt, a historically white, blue-collar region of the city. White flight and the departure of industry encouraged Black and Latino families to purchase homes in the neighborhood beginning in the 1960s. In 2019, 51.6% of the Chicago Lawn population was Hispanic or Latino (of any race), 43.2% was Black, and 3% was white. Trends show an increase in the Latino population over the past two decades in tandem with a decrease in the Black and white populations. Language barriers among the Hispanic population exacerbated the impact of the 2008 mortgage crisis within the

community. Large numbers of businesses in the real estate sector left the neighborhood, and many families faced foreclosure.

Chicago Lawn has experienced a renaissance across the last decade, due mostly to the community's investment in improving housing. In 2012, the neighborhood had more than 665 abandoned homes and apartment buildings. By the end of November 2019, more than 300 of those units were occupied. The city of Chicago has begun funding these community-backed housing rehabilitation initiatives, including an allocation of \$12 million in 2019. Since the 2008 mortgage crisis, violence and property crimes in Chicago Lawn have decreased by 45%. As of 2020, the total population of Chicago lawn was 55,931. Regardless, inequities persist. In 2017, 22% of Chicago Lawn adults were unemployed. 91% of men in the neighborhood report that racial profiling by police is common, and nearly half of men in Chicago Lawn have been arrested. A much higher than average proportion of the low- and middle-income population contributes 30% or more of their income to housing. Health disparities persist as well; nearly half of the adult population is obese, and 18% have a diabetes diagnosis.

2020 Chicago Lawn Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Hispanic or Latino	26,481 (52%)
Black	22,177 (43%)
White	1,525 (3%)
Other/ Multiple Races	904 (2%)
Asian	265 (0.5%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	4,343 (9%)
5 to 19	11,320 (22%)
20 to 34	12,190 (24%)
35 to 49	9,481 (19%)
50 to 64	7,692 (15%)
65 to 74	3,911 (8%)
75 to 84	1,946 (4%)
85 and Over	469 (1%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>32.1</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	8,208 (26%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	12,955 (41%)
Some College, No Degree	6,138 (19%)
Associate's Degree	1,740 (6%)
Bachelor's Degree	1,886 (6%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	749 (2%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
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Native	39,578 (77%)
Foreign Born	11,774 (23%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	24,587 (52%)
Spanish	21,836 (47%)
Slavic Languages	16 (0%)
Chinese	60 (0.1%)
Tagalog	131 (0.3%)
Arabic	52 (0.1%)
Korean	--
Other Asian Languages	12 (0%)
Other Indo-European Languages	261 (0.6%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	54 (0.1%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	22,422 (48%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	<i>9,122 (19%)</i>

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	6,013 (37%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	4,945 (30%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,552 (16%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,117 (7%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,219 (7%)
\$150,000 and Over	522 (3%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$34,273</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	13,139 (80%)
Smartphone(s) Only	2,008 (12%)
No Computing Devices	3,229 (20%)
Internet Access	12,490 (76%)
Broadband Subscription	11,298 (69%)
No Internet Access	3,878 (24%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	16,368 (86%)
Owner-Occupied	7,080 (43%)
Renter-Occupied	9,288 (57%)
Vacant Housing Units	2,660 (14%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	24,108 (62%)
Employed	19,469 (81%)
Unemployed	4,628 (19%)
Not in Labor Force*	14,734 (38%)

Dolton/Harvey

By the 1890s, Dolton became a major agricultural production hub for the city of Chicago, leading to the start of its packing industry. Throughout the following decades, the multi-industry hub attracted an ethnically diverse workforce looking for work in factories. However, in the late 20th century, as the number of Black residents looking to Dolton as a place of opportunity rose substantially, long-standing white residents who called Dolton home feared that they would soon become the minority. This fear, coupled with the early stages of deindustrialization and a decrease in industry jobs, led to a sharp decline in the white population. As of 2021, Black residents account for 92.5% of Dolton’s population and the median salary sits at \$46,614. Despite new investment initiatives, the city is still deeply plagued with decreased housing values, increased tax revenues and foreclosures, and political mismanagement.

Similar to Dolton, Harvey was envisioned as a model industrial suburb. With the help of advertisers, the town was promoted as a temperance community upheld by strong Christian values that offered skilled labor workers steady work. To solidify this vision of Harvey as a blue-collar, religious haven, the town’s real estate association provided high-quality city services and built ample factories. In addition, potential residents were offered a variety of housing plans in efforts to encourage home ownership. While Harvey continued to see industrial growth, the sixties ushered in the beginning era of shifting demographics like those that took place in Dolton around the same time. Fueled by the racial fears of Harvey’s white residents, race riots erupted in 1969 followed by the restructuring of the town’s steel industry. This white flight caused a financial ripple effect felt by those who stayed in Harvey. Folks with housing loans were no longer able to pay their mortgages, which then led to foreclosures and abandoned homes. Unsurprisingly, unemployment and crime rose as a result. In 2018, the state of Illinois garnished the city’s revenues to pay off its pension liabilities, making Harvey the first city in the state to undergo this process. Today, over two-thirds of Harvey is home to Black Chicagoans, followed by 25% Latino residents and 21% White residents. As of 2019, Dolton’s median household income sits at \$30,306.

2020 Dolton Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	20,909 (92%)
Hispanic or Latino	407 (2%)
White	872 (4%)
Asian	121 (0.5%)
Other/Multiple Races	428 (1.9%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	1,269 (6%)
5 to 19	5,246 (23%)

20 to 34	4,315 (19%)
35 to 49	4,286 (19%)
50 to 64	4,658 (21%)
65 to 74	1,926 (9%)
75 to 84	818 (4%)
85 and Over	219 (1%)
<i>Median Age</i>	36.6

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	1,724 (12%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	3,898 (27%)
Some College, No Degree	4,771 (33%)
Associate's Degree	1,279 (9%)
Bachelor's Degree	1,853 (13%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	919 (6%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	22,077 (97%)
Foreign Born	660 (3%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	20,751 (97%)
Spanish	184 (1%)
Slavic Languages	4 (0%)
Chinese	-
Tagalog	121 (0.6%)
Arabic	37 (0.2%)
Korean	-
Other Asian Languages	-
Other Indo-European Languages	173 (0.8%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	198 (1%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	717 (3%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	144 (0.7%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	2,134 (27%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	2,002 (26%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,351 (17%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	995 (13%)

\$100,000 to \$149,999	984 (13%)
\$150,000 and Over	394 (5%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$46,614</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	7,085 (90%)
Smartphone(s) Only	984 (13%)
No Computing Devices	775 (10%)
Internet Access	6,599 (84%)
Broadband Subscription	6,293 (80%)
No Internet Access	1,261 (16%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	7,860 (87%)
Owner-Occupied	5,161 (66%)
Renter-Occupied	2,699 (34%)
Vacant Housing Units	1,224 (14%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	11,220 (63%)
Employed	9,244 (82%)
Unemployed	1,976 (18%)
Not in Labor Force*	6,558 (37%)

2020 Harvey Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	16,184 (66%)
Hispanic or Latino	6,130 (25%)
White	1,024 (4%)
Asian	497 (2%)
Other/Multiple Races	551 (2%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	1,454 (6%)
5 to 19	5,773 (24%)
20 to 34	4,912 (20%)
35 to 49	4,695 (19%)
50 to 64	4,296 (18%)
65 to 74	1,959 (8%)
75 to 84	1,008 (4%)

85 and Over	289 (1%)
<i>Median Age</i>	35.2

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	3,248 (22%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	5,668 (38%)
Some College, No Degree	3,937 (26%)
Associate's Degree	723 (5%)
Bachelor's Degree	1,059 (7%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	386 (3%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	21,366 (88%)
Foreign Born	3,020 (12%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	17,875 (78%)
Spanish	4,347 (19%)
Slavic Languages	22 (0.1%)
Chinese	54 (0.2%)
Tagalog	8 (0%)
Arabic	9 (0%)
Korean	15 (0.1%)
Other Asian Languages	163 (0.7%)
Other Indo-European Languages	395 (1.7%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	44 (0.2%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	5,057 (22%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	1,829 (8%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	3,406 (41%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	2,248 (27%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,268 (15%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	654 (8%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	440 (5%)
\$150,000 and Over	255 (3%)
<i>Median Income</i>	\$30,306

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
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One or More Computer Devices	6,830 (83%)
Smartphone(s) Only	1,334 (16%)
No Computing Devices	1,441 (17%)
Internet Access	6,219 (75%)
Broadband Subscription	5,938 (72%)
No Internet Access	2,052 (25%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	8,271 (75%)
Owner-Occupied	4,408 (53%)
Renter-Occupied	3,863 (47%)
Vacant Housing Units	2,749 (25%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	10,820 (53%)
Employed	9,187 (85%)
Unemployed	1,633 (15%)
Not in Labor Force*	8,049 (43%)

Humboldt Park

In the late 19th century, Humboldt Park was home to mostly blue-collar European immigrants and white Americans. The population peaked at 80,000 in the 1930s, and the neighborhood economy thrived through the 1950s. Fueled by the construction of freeways, larger amounts of low-cost suburban housing, and racist housing policies, the manufacturing industry began moving out of Humboldt Park and Chicago in favor of following the newly suburban white labor force. The exodus of industry and the white population created vacant spaces in the neighborhood and decreased property values and investment in the community. Black Americans and Latino immigrants, mainly from Puerto Rico and Mexico, became the majority, but the population was not able to recover from decades of emigration. In August 2021, 58.4% of the neighborhood population was Hispanic or Latino, 32% was Black, and 7.7% was white. The neighborhood also has a large population of members from oppressed groups such as seniors, day laborers, and undocumented immigrants, who face unique barriers to wellbeing.

A lack of investment in the Humboldt Park neighborhood has continued to shape health, housing, and economic outcomes in the community through 2021. Humboldt Park has a per capita income of \$18,513, significantly lower than the overall per capita income of \$37,103 in the city of Chicago. Food access, in terms of both quantity and quality, mental health, and the impacts of stress all contribute to higher rates of obesity and diabetes. 47% of adults in Humboldt Park are obese, and 13% have a diabetes diagnosis. Nationwide percentages are 13 and 9, respectively. In 2018, almost half of Humboldt Park households were food insecure, compared to 13% of households throughout the country. 27% of adults in the neighborhood have symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, and 18% have symptoms of depression. These already high rates of mental and physical illness are likely low estimates given the lack of access to comprehensive medical care within the neighborhood.

2020 Humboldt Park Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	4,265 (8%)
Hispanic or Latino	32,318 (58%)
White	17,697 (32%)
Asian	347 (0.6%)
Other/Multiple Races	737 (1%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	4,045 (7%)
5 to 19	12,362 (22%)
20 to 34	13,249 (23%)
35 to 49	11,344 (21%)
50 to 64	9,066 (16%)
65 to 74	3,191 (6%)
75 to 84	1,592 (3%)
85 and Over	515 (1%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>32.8</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	10,043 (29%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	9,862 (28%)
Some College, No Degree	7,115 (21%)
Associate's Degree	2,076 (6%)
Bachelor's Degree	3,563 (10%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	2,015 (6%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	44,041 (80%)
Foreign Born	11,323 (20%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	24,512 (48%)
Spanish	26,013 (51%)
Slavic Languages	260 (0.5%)
Chinese	11 (0%)
Tagalog	44 (0.1%)
Arabic	35 (0.1%)
Korean	33 (0.1%)

Other Asian Languages	132 (0.3%)
Other Indo-European Languages	222 (0.4%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	57 (0.1%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	26,807 (52%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	11,147 (22%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	5,583 (32%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	5,009 (29%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,670 (15%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,815 (10%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,687 (10%)
\$150,000 and Over	754 (4%)
<i>Median Income</i>	\$39,492

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	12,650 (84%)
Smartphone(s) Only	2,054 (12%)
No Computing Devices	2,868 (16%)
Internet Access	13,240 (76%)
Broadband Subscription	11,955 (68%)
No Internet Access	4,278 (24%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	17,518 (88%)
Owner-Occupied	6,577 (38%)
Renter-Occupied	10,941 (63%)
Vacant Housing Units	2,369 (12%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	27,466 (66%)
Employed	24,312 (89%)
Unemployed	3,154 (12%)
Not in Labor Force*	14,458 (35%)

Roseland/Pullman/Riverdale/Altgeld

With the development of rail lines in the 1850s, the river going through this group of neighborhoods on the Far Southeast side of the city became an important industrial hub within Chicago. Pullman was previously one of the most well-known and architecturally significant company towns in America. It also was the starting point for a national labor strike that led to the creation of Labor Day and the first African American union chartered by the

American Federation of Labor. Decline in the 1920s and 1930s led to the neighborhood being slated for destruction to allow the construction of the Bishop Ford Freeway. The community protested this decision, and parts of the area were marked for historic preservation. In recent years, the neighborhood has worked to bring investment and restoration of historic buildings. The area is now 81% Black, 5% Hispanic or Latino, and 10% White.

Redlining and anti-Black real estate covenants were common in primarily white Roseland as early as the 1920’s despite a small pocket of Black residents and its history as one of the stops on the Underground Railroad. Anti-Black actions were common as the community fought over integration throughout the middle of the last century. As industrial changes took place, the area lost jobs and slowly residents leading to a major change in racial composition between 1965 and 1975. Inflation, the collapse of the steel industry, and the loss of local resources with white flight meant new Black residents, many from the South, were left without jobs, struggling to pay mortgages. As a result, the area became known for high HUD repossessions and became designated as an urban homestead area in the 1980s. More recently, many shops have closed during the pandemic and the area does not have a grocery store or sit-down restaurant. The area is over 95% Black and around 60% of the population have received some college education. The median household income is \$40,786.

The swampy area of Riverdale was primarily a business and industrial area until the end of World War II. In 1945, the Chicago Housing Authority opened the massive Altgeld Gardens housing project in the area, followed by the Phillip Murray Homes in 1954. The growth from a tiny population of 1,500 in the 1940s to over 12,000 by the 1960s overwhelmed the limited services available to the area, a problem that persists to this day. Racist policies at local hospitals in the midcentury made it difficult for Black residents to access basic medical care. Sharing services and integrated school busing with the nearby white area of Roseland increased anti-Black outcry and white flight. The neighborhood reached its population peak in 1970 with the construction of Eden Greens, one of the first majority Black owned and operated apartment and townhouse developments in the country. Since that time, the population has dropped significantly. The area is now 95 percent Black and over half of the community has received at least some college education. However, the median household income is only \$15,396.

2020 Roseland Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	37,280 (95%)
White	557 (1%)
Hispanic or Latino	459 (1%)
Other/Multiple Races	701 (1%)
Asian	165 (0.4%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	2,365 (6%)
5 to 19	7,488 (19%)
20 to 34	7,659 (20%)
35 to 49	6,837 (18%)
50 to 64	7,728 (20%)
65 to 74	3,648 (9%)

75 to 84	2,489 (6%)
85 and Over	948 (2%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>39.6</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	3,943 (15%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	6,518 (25%)
Some College, No Degree	8,537 (32%)
Associate’s Degree	2,353 (9%)
Bachelor’s Degree	3,247 (12%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	1,951 (7%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	38,485 (96%)
Foreign Born	677 (2%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	38,485 (98%)
Spanish	405 (1%)
Slavic Languages	85 (0.2%)
Chinese	42 (0.1%)
Tagalog	8 (0%)
Arabic	28 (0.1%)
Korean	-
Other Asian Languages	65 (0.2%)
Other Indo-European Languages	340 (1%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	210 (0.6%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	1,183 (3%)
<i>Speak English Less than “Very Well”</i>	<i>287 (0.8%)</i>

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	4,627 (33%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	3,528 (25%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	2,364 (17%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,442 (10%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,469 (10%)
\$150,000 and Over	573 (4%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$40,786</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	11,608 (83%)
Smartphone(s) Only	1,910 (14%)
No Computing Devices	2,395 (17%)
Internet Access	10,355 (74%)
Broadband Subscription	9,872 (71%)
No Internet Access	3,648 (26%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	14,003 (79%)
Owner-Occupied	7,423 (53%)
Renter-Occupied	6,580 (47%)
Vacant Housing Units	3,701 (21%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	18,232 (58%)
Employed	14,532 (80%)
Unemployed	3,700 (20%)
Not in Labor Force*	13,458 (43%)

2020 Pullman Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	5,544 (81%)
Hispanic or Latino	377 (6%)
White	682 (10%)
Other/Multiple Races	228 (3%)
Asian	9 (0.1%)

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	508 (7%)
5 to 19	873 (13%)
20 to 34	1,516 (22%)
35 to 49	1,416 (21%)
50 to 64	1,457 (21%)
65 to 74	563 (8%)
75 to 84	360 (5%)
85 and Over	147 (2%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>40.7</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
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Less than High School Diploma	512 (10%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	1,174 (24%)
Some College, No Degree	1,515 (31%)
Associate's Degree	494 (10%)
Bachelor's Degree	830 (17%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	449 (9%)

Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	6,541 (96%)
Foreign Born	298 (4%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	5,824 (92%)
Spanish	385 (6%)
Slavic Languages	-
Chinese	-
Tagalog	-
Arabic	-
Korean	-
Other Asian Languages	-
Other Indo-European Languages	85 (1%)
Other/ Unspecified Languages	38 (0.6%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	508 (8%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	271 (4%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	933 (30%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	921 (29%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	456 (15%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	446 (14%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	289 (9%)
\$150,000 and Over	102 (3%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$43,539</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	2,776 (88%)
Smartphone(s) Only	283 (9%)
No Computing Devices	371 (12%)
Internet Access	2,601 (83%)

Broadband Subscription	2,394 (76%)
No Internet Access	546 (17%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	3,147 (88%)
Owner-Occupied	1,369 (44%)
Renter-Occupied	1,778 (57%)
Vacant Housing Units	423 (12%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	3,983 (70%)
Employed	3,377 (85%)
Unemployed	606 (15%)
Not in Labor Force*	1,691 (30%)

2020 Riverdale Neighborhood Demographics

Race or Ethnicity	Count (Percentage)
Black	6,990 (95%)
Hispanic or Latino	258 (4%)
White	89 (1%)
Asian	22 (0.3%)
Other/Multiple Races	-

Age	Count (Percentage)
Under 5	960 (13%)
5 to 19	2,298 (31%)
20 to 34	1,947 (27%)
35 to 49	1,080 (15%)
50 to 64	721 (10%)
65 to 74	222 (3%)
75 to 84	69 (1%)
85 and Over	62 (0.8%)
<i>Median Age</i>	<i>23.1</i>

Educational Attainment	Count (Percentage)
Less than High School Diploma	531 (16%)
High School Diploma or Equivalent	1,028 (30%)
Some College, No Degree	1,403 (41%)
Associate's Degree	233 (7%)
Bachelor's Degree	126 (4%)

Graduate or Professional Degree	64 (2%)
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Nativity	Count (Percentage)
Native	7,253 (99%)
Foreign Born	106 (1%)

Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English	Count (Percentage)
English Only	6,201 (97%)
Spanish	157 (3%)
Slavic Languages	10 (0.2%)
Chinese	15 (0.2%)
Tagalog	-
Arabic	-
Korean	-
Other Asian Languages	-
Other Indo-European Languages	-
Other/ Unspecified Languages	16 (0.3%)
TOTAL NON-ENGLISH	198 (3%)
<i>Speak English Less than "Very Well"</i>	74 (1%)

Household Income	Count (Percentage)
Less than \$25,000	1,671 (63%)
\$25,000 to \$49,999	688 (26%)
\$50,000 to \$74,999	89 (3%)
\$75,000 to \$99,999	52 (2%)
\$100,000 to \$149,999	97 (4%)
\$150,000 and Over	44 (2%)
<i>Median Income</i>	<i>\$15,396</i>

Household Computer and Internet Access	Count (Percentage)
One or More Computer Devices	2,218 (84%)
Smartphone(s) Only	790 (30%)
No Computing Devices	423 (16%)
Internet Access	1,997 (76%)
Broadband Subscription	1,900 (72%)
No Internet Access	644 (24%)

Housing Occupancy and Tenure	Count (Percentage)
Occupied Housing Units	2,641 (83%)

Owner-Occupied	188 (7%)
Renter-Occupied	2,453 (93%)
Vacant Housing Units	548 (17%)

Employment Status	Count (Percentage)
In labor Force	2,755 (60%)
Employed	1,917 (70%)
Unemployed	838 (30%)
Not in Labor Force*	1,825 (40%)

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