

# Happy New Year From TEECH!

The Start Of A New Year Is More Than The Turning Of A Calendar Page—it Is A Moment Of Renewal, Hope, And Recommitment To The Communities We Serve. At TEECH, It Offers An Opportunity To Reflect On The Lives Touched, The Barriers Broken, And The Progress Made Alongside Individuals And Families On Chicago's Far South Side. Each Step Forward—whether In Recovery, Stability, Or Healing—represents Resilience, Courage, And The Power Of Community.

The New Year Provides A Fresh Canvas To Deepen Our Impact. It Calls Us To Dream Boldly, Strengthen Recovery Pathways, And Continue Meeting People Where They Are With Compassion, Dignity, And Care. As We Move Forward, We Remain Committed To Expanding Access To Recovery Support, Mitigating Overdose Risk, Reducing Stigma, And Addressing The Inequities That Continue To Affect Our Neighborhoods. Together With Our Partners, Peers, Faith Leaders, And Community Members, We Will Continue Building Systems That Prioritize Wellness, Opportunity, And Hope.

As We Enter This New Chapter, We Carry Deep Gratitude For The Trust Placed In TEECH And For The Collective Effort That Makes This Work Possible. With Optimism For The Future And Determination In Our Mission, We Step Into The Year Ahead Knowing That Every Connection, Every Act Of Support, And Every Life Impacted Brings Us Closer To Stronger, Healthier, And More Resilient Community.



# ***Teech 2025 Highlights And Community Impact***

## ***TEECH Recovery Support Program***

In 2025, 98 Individuals Participated In The TEECH Recovery Support Program.

### **Participant Outcomes**

- 72 Individuals Successfully Completed The Program And Continue To Be Gainfully Employed, In Recovery, And Residing In Safe Housing
- 10 Individuals Relocated Out Of State
  - 9 Remain In Contact
  - 1 Lost Contact
- 4 Individuals Returned To Active Addiction
- 2 Individuals Entered Treatment Facilities
- 2 Individuals Returned To The Penal System
- 3 Individuals Had Social Security Benefits Reinstated And Remain In Recovery And Safe Housing
- 2 Individuals Sought Additional Job Training And Were Referred To Partner Organizations
- 1 Individual Required Medical Services Outside Of TEECH
- 1 Overdose Occurred

### ***Overview And Community Reach***

TEECH Continues To Expand Recovery Support And Community Wellness Across Chicago's Far South Side, Serving The Following Communities: West Englewood, Auburn Gresham, Beverly, Washington Heights, Mount Greenwood, Morgan Park, Roseland—northeast, Calumet Heights, Pullman, South Deering, Hegewisch, Oak Lawn, Evergreen Park, Robbins (Southwest), And Hammond, Indiana.

Through Community-based, Person-centered Care, TEECH Increases Access To Recovery Support, Mitigates Overdose Risk, And Addresses The Needs Of Individuals And Families Disproportionately Impacted By Substance Use, Recidivism, And Longstanding Health Disparities. By Meeting People Where They Are—homes, Hospitals, Faith Institutions, And Community Spaces—TEECH Ensures Services Are Accessible, Responsive, And Rooted In Local Needs.

### ***Expansion Of Recovery Support Services***

Recovery Services Expanded Significantly Throughout 2025:

- Two New Recovery Homes Were Opened, Creating 20–36 New Recovery Housing Slots
- Youth Recovery Programming Expanded Across Far South Side Neighborhoods, Engaging Approximately 100–150 Young People Through Recovery Support, Referrals, And Sustained Engagement

# ***Mitigating Overdose Risk And Community Health***

## ***Efforts Intensified In 2025:***

- Nearly 900 Community Members Trained In Overdose Recognition And Naloxone Administration
- Over 10,000 Naloxone Kits Distributed Across Far South Side Communities
- 48 Narcan Boxes Installed In Accessible Locations, Including Senior Residential Buildings
- 4,680 HIV Self-testing Kits Distributed
- In Partnership With Alliance Care 360, A Mobile Outreach Unit Provided Overdose Mitigation, HIV/STI Education, Supplies, And Referrals To Approximately 1,000 Individuals During The Second Half Of The Year
- Distribution Of 1,200 COVID-19 Test Kits And 4,500 Face Masks, Prioritizing Seniors, Individuals With Substance Use Disorders, And People Experiencing Housing Instability

## ***Peer Leadership Remained Central To TEECH's Model:***

- 20–25 Peer-led Educators Provided Navigation And Direct Support
- Over 150 Connections To Recovery Meetings
- More Than 100 Employment Referrals
- 75 Housing Placements Or Referrals

## ***Recovery Coaches Were Embedded In Three***

### ***Hospitals Serving The Far South Side:***

- Approximately 100–150 Individuals Received Immediate Recovery Engagement
- Same-day Referrals Were Provided To Treatment, Recovery Housing, Or Peer Support Services

## ***TEECH/FSSRI Strengthened Partnerships With***

### ***Faith Communities:***

- Collaborated With 10–15 Faith-based Organizations
- Established Six Recovery-certified Congregations
- Trained More Than 50 Faith Leaders And Volunteers To Support Recovery And Reduce Stigma

# **Targeted Support Was Provided To 67 Returning Citizens:**

- 10 Individuals Remained In Safe Housing Or Structured Programs
- 10 Individuals Were Diverted From Deeper Involvement In The Penal System
- 28 Individuals Completed Programming While Maintaining Stability
- 13 Individuals Did Not Complete Programming
  - 2 Returned To The Penal System
  - 2 Lost Contacts
- Additional Outcomes Included 1 Overdose And 1 Individual Relocating Out Of State

## **Community Impact And Systems Collaboration**

Through Intentional Collaboration With Community Organizations, Hospitals, Faith Institutions, And Local Law Enforcement, TEECH/FSSRI Strengthened Coordinated Pathways To Recovery Across The Far South Side. These Partnerships Enabled Real-time Information Sharing, Warm Handoffs, And Rapid Response For Individuals In Crisis. Hospitals And First Responders Worked Alongside Recovery Coaches And Peer Specialists To Connect Individuals To Immediate Care, While Faith Institutions Served As Trusted Access Points For Outreach, Education, And Stigma Reduction. Collaboration With Law Enforcement Supported Diversion Strategies That Prioritized Treatment And Recovery Over Incarceration.

While These Efforts Have Produced Meaningful Impact, TEECH/FSSRI Recognizes That Critical Challenges Remain. Persistent Inequities, Rising Overdose Risk, Housing Instability, And Gaps In Access To Care Continue To Affect Far South Side Communities. Continued Investment, Expanded Partnerships, And Deeper Service Integration Are Essential To Ensure Recovery Pathways Remain Accessible, Culturally Responsive, And Sustainable.

## **Mitigating Overdose Risk: Mobile Unit Making Strides On The Far South Side**

Launched Midyear In 2025, The Mitigating Overdose Risk Mobile Unit, Sponsored By alliance Care 360, Has Become A Vital, Life-saving Presence On Chicago's Far South Side. The Mobile Unit Delivers Critical Resources, Education, And Compassionate Care Directly To Neighborhoods Most Impacted By The Opioid Crisis, With A Particular Focus On Individuals Who Are Unhoused Or Experiencing Housing Instability.

Through Consistent Outreach, Narcan Distribution, HIV And STI Education And Testing, And Hands-on Training, The Mobile Unit Has Empowered Community Members With The Tools And Knowledge Needed To Prevent Overdoses And Respond Effectively In Moments Of Crisis. Beyond Services, The Unit Has Built Trust And Visibility In Historically Underserved Communities.

More Than A Program, The Mitigating Overdose Risk Mobile Unit Has Served As A lifeline—reducing Overdose Risk, Saving Lives, And Strengthening Community Resilience. By Meeting People Where They Are And Leading With Compassion, This Initiative Continues To Break Down Barriers To Care And Advance A Safer, Healthier Future For The Far South Side. TEECH/FSSRI Is Deeply Grateful To alliance Care 360 for Their Partnership And Commitment, Which Made This Critical Work Possible.



# ***Looking Ahead:***

## ***TEECH & ROSC Priorities For 2026***

As We Enter 2026, TEECH And The Far Southside ROSC Remain Committed To Strengthening Recovery-oriented Systems Of Care And Deepening Community Impact Across The Far South Side. Building On The Progress Of 2025, Our Focus For The Year Ahead Includes Expanding Recovery Pathways, Increasing Access To Life-saving Resources, And Strengthening Community-led Solutions.

In 2026, TEECH Will Continue To Strengthen And Expand Its recovery Support Services (RSS) Program, Ensuring Individuals Receive Consistent, Person-centered Support As They Navigate Recovery, Housing Stability, Employment, And Reentry. Through RSS, TEECH Will Deepen Individualized Coaching, Peer Navigation, And Follow-up Care To Improve Long-term Outcomes And Reduce Relapse And Recidivism. TEECH Also Plans To Expand Recovery Housing And Stability Supports While Enhancing Wraparound Services That Promote Sustained Recovery, Employment, And Housing Security. Overdose Prevention Efforts Will Continue To Grow Through Expanded Mobile Outreach, Naloxone Distribution, Narcan Box Installation, And Peer-led Community Trainings—prioritizing Individuals At Highest Risk. Together With ROSC Partners, TEECH Will Deepen Community And Faith-based Engagement By Growing Recovery-certified Congregations, Reducing Stigma, And Expanding Culturally Responsive Recovery Spaces. Continued Investment In Peer Leadership And Workforce Development Will Strengthen Outreach And Navigation While Creating Sustainable Employment Opportunities For Individuals With Lived Experience. TEECH And ROSC Will Also Advance Hospital-based Recovery Support And Justice-system Diversion Partnerships, Ensuring Rapid Engagement, Warm Handoffs, And Recovery-focused Alternatives To Incarceration. Monthly ROSC Council Meetings And Community Forums Will Remain Central To Coordination, Collaboration, And Elevating Community Voice. Guided By Gratitude, Purpose, And Partnership, TEECH And ROSC Move Into 2026 With Optimism And Resolve—focused On Building Stronger, Healthier, And More Resilient Communities Across The Far South Side.

# ***2026: Kicking Off With Positive Energy!***

The New Year Burst Onto The Scene With Optimism, Fresh Momentum, And A Renewed Sense Of Purpose For Our Community. Together, We're Embracing New Opportunities, Celebrating Achievements, And Setting The Stage For Another Year Of Growth And Connection.

## ***Celebrating 1st Graduate Of 2026***

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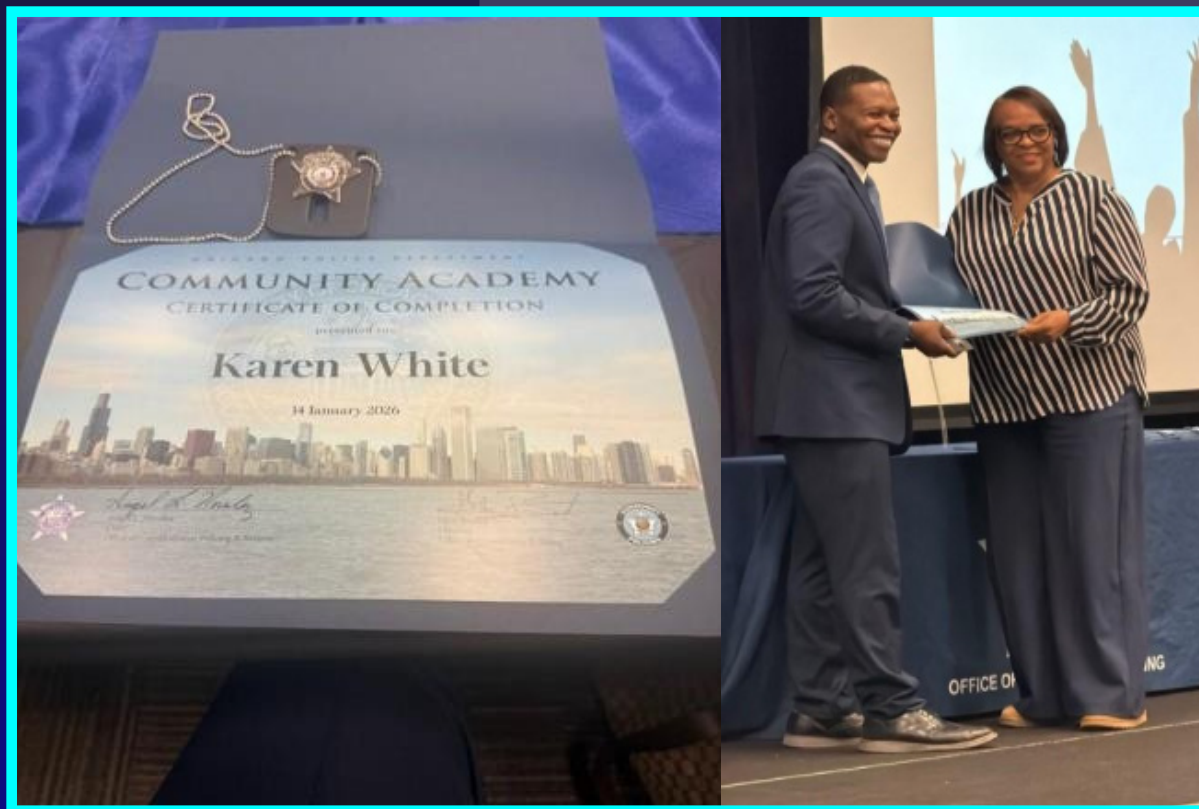
We Are Thrilled To Announce That The Very First 2026 Graduate Of The TEECH RSS Program. 2026—a Groundbreaking Moment That Marks The Beginning Of Countless Success Stories To Come. This Achievement Reflects Dedication, Perseverance, And The Transformative Power Of Education And Community Support.



# **Celebrating Community Leadership: Congratulations**

## **To Dr. Karen White And De'shara Shells**

Dr. Karen White For Graduated From The Chicago Community Police Academy. This Accomplishment Brings Valuable Expertise To Our Team, Strengthening Community-police Relations And Supports Safer, More Connected Neighborhoods.



De'shara Shells Completed The State Of Illinois Circuit Court Of Cook County Restorative Justice & Peace Circle Training. This Accomplishment Empowers De'shara Shells To Facilitate Peace Circles At The TEECH Foundation, Further Strengthening Our Commitment To Restorative Practices And Community Healing.



# ***Upcoming Events: Be The Change***

This Month, We Invite You To Step Forward And Be Part Of A Movement That Ignites Hope, Builds Connections, And Empowers Every Member Of Our Community. Our Upcoming Events Aren't Just Dates On A Calendar—they Are Opportunities To Learn, Grow, And Transform Together.

By Joining Us For Hands-on Workshops, Skill-building Training Sessions, Vibrant Community Meetings, And Impactful Outreach Programs, You'll Gain More Than Just Information. You'll Walk Away With Practical Tools, New Perspectives, And Meaningful Relationships. Whether You're Seeking Personal Growth, Professional Development, Or Ways To Contribute Your Talents, Collaborate With Others, Or Make A Lasting Difference, There's Something Here For Everyone.

- TBD – Returning Citizens Reunification
- TBD – Resource Fair

## ***Each Event Is Designed To Offer You:***

- Valuable Resources to Support Your Journey—whether You're Returning To The Community, Seeking New Opportunities, Or Looking For Guidance.
- Practical Skills you Can Use Right Away, From Job Readiness And Wellness Strategies To Leadership And Advocacy.
- A Supportive Network of Peers, Mentors, And Community Leaders Who Are Committed To Your Success.
- The Chance To Be Part Of A Supportive Community And Play An Active Role In Shaping Our Neighborhood's Future.

Don't Let These Moments Pass You By. Stay Tuned To Your Email And Our Social Media Channels For The Latest Updates And Details. Your Participation Is The Spark That Fuels Positive Change—your Presence, Your Voice, And Your Energy Matter.

We Can't Wait To See You There, Working Side By Side To Create A Brighter Future For All.



# ***Become A Certified Recovery Congregation:***

## ***Illinois Faith @ Recovery Collaborative***

### ***Celebrating Recovery Champions:***

**This Month Marks An Extraordinary Milestone!** We Are Proud To Celebrate Five Congregations Achieving Certified Recovery Congregation Status In A Single Month—a Powerful Accomplishment That Highlights The Growing Momentum Of The Recovery Movement Within Faith Communities.

**We Proudly Recognize:**

- **Greater New Hope MB Church**
- **Total Deliverance Church**
- **New Vision MB Church**
- **Iglesia de Dios Juan 3:16**
- **Mosaic Church**



Each Of These Congregations Has Taken An Important Step Forward, Demonstrating Outstanding Leadership In Promoting Community Wellness And Supporting Recovery.

By Reaching This Milestone, Each Of These Congregations Has Made A Bold And Meaningful Commitment To Advancing Mental Health And Recovery Support. Their Efforts Affirm The Value Of Multiple Pathways To Recovery And Ensure That Individuals And Families Are Met With Compassion, Dignity, And Choice As They Navigate Their Personal Journeys Toward Healing. These Churches Are Doing More Than Opening Their Doors—they Are Creating Safe, Informed, And Stigma-free Spaces Where Recovery Can Take Root, Grow, And Be Sustained.

Faith Institutions Play A Critical Role In Community Health, And In Recognition Of That Role, We Continue To Offer Comprehensive Training And Technical Support To Help Congregations Become Recovery Certified. Through This Process, Churches Are Equipped With Practical Tools, Educational Resources, And Ongoing Guidance To Connect Individuals To Recovery Services And To Build Long-term, Community-centered Support Systems. The Momentum Is Undeniable. With Many Churches Across Illinois Already Certified And Even More Eager To Join, This Five-in-one-month Achievement Reflects A Deepening, Statewide Commitment To Hope, Healing, And Recovery.

Congregations That Become Certified Recovery Congregations Are Eligible For Additional Training Opportunities, Printed Materials And Recovery Resources, Participation In Advisory And Collaborative Groups, Local Support Program Development Toolkits, And Ongoing Technical Assistance From The Center For Community Engagement. All Training And Supplies Are Provided At No Cost.

If Your Congregation Is Ready To Make A Lasting Difference, We Invite You To Join This Transformative Movement. To Learn More About Free Training And Resources, Please Contact Rev. **Dr. Karen White At (224) 406-3798 Or Drkwhite@teechfoundation.net.** Together, We Can Continue Building A Strong, Compassionate Network Of Faith Communities That Empower Recovery, Foster Inclusion, And Create A Brighter, Healthier Future For All.

## ***What You Should Know***

### ***Far Southside: Community Health & Empowerment***

Did You Know That The Far Southside Of Chicago Is Leading The Way In Community-driven Health And Safety? Organizations Like The TEECH Foundation Became The Official Narcan (Naloxone) Distributor For The Southside, Making It Easier Than Ever For Residents To Access Life-saving Overdose Reversal Medication—no Appointment Needed! Supplies Can Be Picked Up, Mailed, Or Even Dropped Off At Your Door, And Free Training Is Available For Anyone Interested. This Grassroots Approach Is Helping Save Lives And Build A Stronger, More Resilient Community Every Day.

Even More Encouraging, Chicago Saw A 13% Decline In Opioid-related Emergency Responses And A 36% Reduction In Homicides And Nonfatal Shootings During The Summer Of 2025, Outpacing National Trends. These Improvements Are The Result Of Coordinated, Community-based Strategies And Partnerships Across The City, Showing What's Possible When Neighbors, Organizations, And Local Government Work Together.

### ***Empower The Mission: Stand With TEECH And FSSRI***

The Need In Our Community Continues To Grow—and So Does Our Unwavering Commitment To Serve. To Keep Our Vital Programs Running And Expand Our Reach, We Are Calling On You—our Community—for Urgent Support. Your Donation Is More Than A Gift; It Is An Investment In Hope, Healing, And Opportunity For Those Who Rely On Our Services.

**We Gratefully Accept All Forms Of Support—not Just Financial Gifts, But Also Donations Of Goods, Services, And Time. Whether You Contribute Funds, Essential Supplies, Professional Expertise, Or Volunteer Hours, Every Act Of Generosity Strengthens Our Mission And Directly Benefits Those We Serve.**

### ***Your Gift Makes a Tangible Difference***

Because Of Supporters Like You, We're Able To:

- Host Drives For Unhoused Individuals, Providing Essential Supplies And Support.
- Organize Back-to-school Drives, Ensuring Children Start The Year With Confidence.
- Distribute Winter Coats And Warm Clothing To Families In Need.
- Facilitate Family Reunification Events, Strengthening Community Bonds.
- Hold Job And Health Fairs, Connecting People With Opportunities And Resources.
- Offer Trainings And Technical Assistance To Empower Individuals And Organizations.
- Provide Ongoing Community Support, Ensuring Help Is Available When Needed.
- Launch New Initiatives To Address Emerging Needs In Our Neighborhoods.

Each Gift—no Matter The Size Or Form—helps Us Build A Stronger, More Compassionate Community Where Everyone Can Flourish.

As We Move Forward, Let's Celebrate The Impact Your Support Is Making And Discover New Ways To Uplift Our Neighbors And Create Lasting Change. Every Contribution—monetary, Material, Or Through Service—empowers Us To Build A Community Where Everyone Has The Chance To Succeed.

## How To Give

**Online:** <http://www.teechfoundation1.org>

**Zelle:** Drkwhite@teechfoundation.net

**Mail:** TEECH, 1750 W. 103rd St, Chicago, Illinois 60643



If You Would Like To Donate Goods, Offer Services, Or Volunteer Your Time, Please Contact Us Directly (224) 406-3798 Or Visit Our Website ([www.teechfoundation1.org](http://www.teechfoundation1.org)) For More Information On How You Can Make A Difference.

## Essential Community Resources: Supporting Our Neighbors Together

Access To Reliable Information And Supportive Services Is Vital For The Well-being Of Our Community, Especially During Times Of Change And Uncertainty. Whether You're Seeking Health Care, Legal Guidance, Emergency Assistance, Or Support, There Are Trusted Resources Available To Help. Below, You'll Find A Curated List Of Organizations And Hotlines Dedicated To Meeting The Diverse Needs Of Our Community—ensuring Everyone Has A Place To Turn For Help, Hope, And Connection.





# SNAP EMERGENCY GROCERY DISTRIBUTIONS



Department of Family  
and Support Services

In partnership for the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, Top Box Foods is helping to provide free emergency grocery boxes for Seniors impacted by the recent SNAP cuts.

Location	Address	Date	Distribution Time
Southeast (Atlas)	1767 E. 79th Street, Chicago, IL 60649	January 8th	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Central West	2102 W. Ogden Ave, Chicago, IL 60612	January 9th	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Renaissance Court	78 E. Washington St, Chicago, IL 60602	January 15th	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Northeast (Levy)	2019 W. Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60625	January 22nd	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Southwest	6117 S. Kedzie Ave, Chicago, IL 60629	January 23rd	1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Please note: Distributions are first come first served, while supplies last.

EAT GOOD DO GOOD EAT GOOD DO GOOD







# SNAP Rules Are Changing

Advocacy Toolkit

Requirements for SNAP, our nation's most effective food assistance program, will change significantly on February 1, 2026. Thank you for sharing information and resources with your community. Your voice matters. Together, we can keep our neighbors informed and connected to critical nutrition and grocery benefits.

## SHARE THIS INFORMATION BY FEBRUARY 1

### SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Use the designs and sample captions to share important information regarding the upcoming SNAP changes across your social platforms.



**DOWNLOAD SAMPLE CAPTIONS & GRAPHICS**

### NEWSLETTERS BULLETINS WEBSITES

Use the designs and sample copy to communicate the upcoming SNAP changes with your community.



**DOWNLOAD SAMPLE COPY & GRAPHICS**

### POSTERS | FLYERS | POWERPOINT SLIDES

Use these files to print and distribute materials in your community. Post information to screens or create your own presentations.

**DOWNLOAD FILES**

### REQUEST A PRESENTATION OR EVENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The Greater Chicago Food Depository will come to your next event or gathering to speak about the new SNAP changes and provide one-on-one support for neighbors.

**COMPLETE THE REQUEST FORM**

Together, we are greater. Together, we can end hunger.  
Questions? Need more materials? Contact us at [publicpolicy@gcfd.org](mailto:publicpolicy@gcfd.org).

OUR MISSION IS TO END HUNGER

[chicagosfoodbank.org/snap](http://chicagosfoodbank.org/snap)



**ALDERMAN DERRICK G. CURTIS ANNUAL**

STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**LISA  
DAVIS**  
32ND DISTRICT

STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE  
**DR.  
MICHAEL  
CRAWFORD**  
31ST DISTRICT

18TH WARD  
ALDERMAN  
**DERRICK  
G. CURTIS** HOST

# **EASTER EGG HUNT**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 04, 2026**

**12NOON – 2:00PM**

**DOOLEY PARK**

**3402 W. 77TH ST.**

**CHICAGO, IL 60652**

**THE HUNT IS ON 1:30PM**

PLEASE BRING YOUR CHILDREN OUT TO  
ENJOY LIMITED GAMES, SNACKS, EASTER  
BASKET GIVEAWAY

(FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS)  
CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT



**It's time to take your FREE GED Class.  
Enrollment is open.  
Scan the QR code to register and learn more.**



SCAN ME TO REGISTER

**CLASSES ARE  
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS  
9 AM – 12:30 AM**

**839 WEST 79<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60620**

**TEXT OR CALL (312) 843-0921  
TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE DETAILS**

## **STATEMENT FROM CDPH**

### **ON HHS' NEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CHILDHOOD VACCINATION SCHEDULE**

This week, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced it will recommend fewer vaccinations for American children. HHS leadership made this sudden and unilateral decision, ignoring decades of scientific research and bypassing a long-established process for creating US immunizations schedules that protect the health and wellness of millions.

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) remains committed to evidence-based practices and cannot support these changes by HHS leadership to the United States Childhood Immunization Schedule. CDPH will continue to collaborate and align with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois Immunization Advisory Committee for data-driven immunization recommendations to keep our children healthy and safe.

## ***Emergency Help & Crisis Support***

When Safety Or Stability Is At Risk, Knowing Where To Turn Can Make All The Difference. The Following **National And Local Hotlines** Offer Immediate Assistance, Advocacy, And Confidential Support For Individuals And Families Experiencing Crisis, Violence, Or Distress. These Organizations Are Staffed By Trained Professionals Who Can Provide Guidance, Resources, And A Listening Ear — 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week.



### ***Emergency Assistance***

911 Is For Life-threatening Emergencies (Police, Fire, Medical).

311 Is For Non-emergency Local Government Services (Potholes, Trash Pickup, Noise Complaints).

211 Is For Community And Social Services (Housing, Food, Mental Health, Financial Aid).



### ***Support & Advocacy***

**988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** — 988 — 24/7 Support For Suicidal Thoughts Or Emotional Distress

**National Domestic Violence Hotline** — 1-800-799-7233 — Help For Domestic Violence Survivors

**Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline** — 1-800-422-4453 — Crisis Intervention And Child Abuse Prevention

**The Trevor Project** — 1-866-488-7386 — LGBTQ+ Youth Crisis And Suicide Prevention

**RAINN Sexual Assault Hotline** — 1-800-656-4673 — Support For Sexual Assault Survivors

**National Runaway Safe Line** — 1-800-786-2929 — Help For Youth At Risk Of Running Away Or Homelessness

**HUD Housing Counseling** — 1-800-569-4287 — Guidance On Housing Stability And Foreclosure Prevention





# Upcoming Events: Be The Change



This Month, We Invite You To Step Forward And Be Part Of A Movement That Ignites Hope, Builds Connections, And Empowers Every Member Of Our Community. Our Upcoming Events Aren't Just Dates On A Calendar—they Are Opportunities To Learn, Grow, And Transform Together.

By Joining Us For Hands-on Workshops, Skill-building Training Sessions, Vibrant Community Meetings, And Impactful Outreach Programs, You'll Gain More Than Just Information. You'll Walk Away With Practical Tools, New Perspectives, And Meaningful Relationships. Whether You're

Seeking Personal Growth, Professional Development, Or Ways To Contribute Your Talents, Collaborate With Others, Or Make A Lasting Difference, There's Something Here For Everyone.

## Each Event Is Designed To Offer You:



- Valuable Resources To Support Your Journey—whether You're Returning To The Community, Seeking New Opportunities, Or Looking For Guidance.
- Practical Skills You Can Use Right Away, From Job Readiness And Wellness Strategies To Leadership And Advocacy.
- A Supportive Network Of Peers, Mentors, And Community Leaders Who Are Committed To Your Success.
- The Chance To Be Part Of A Supportive Community And Play An Active Role In Shaping Our Neighborhood's Future.

Don't Let These Moments Pass You By. Stay Tuned To Your Email And Our Social Media Channels For The Latest Updates And Details. Your Participation Is The Spark That Fuels Positive Change—your Presence, Your Voice, And Your Energy Matter.

We Can't Wait To See You There, Working Side By Side To Create A Brighter Future For All.

## Upcoming Events

TBD – Returning Citizens Reunification  
TBD – Resource Fair

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



# **Become A Certified Recovery Congregation:**

**Illinois Faith @ Recovery Collaborative**

**Celebrating Recovery Champions:**

## **Kingdom Connection Ministries International Achieves Certification!**

We Are Thrilled To Celebrate Kingdom Connection Ministries International For Officially Becoming A Certified Recovery Congregation! This Milestone Marks A Powerful Step Forward For The Mental Health And Recovery Community, As We Now Support Multiple Pathways To Recovery—empowering Individuals, Families, And The Broader Community To Choose Their Own Journey To Healing.

Recognizing The Vital Role That Faith Communities Play, We Are Excited To Offer Training For Congregations To Become Recovery Certified Congregations. This Equips Churches With The Essential Tools And Resources To Support Those Seeking Recovery Services. The Momentum Is Growing Numerous Churches Across Illinois Have Already Earned Their Certification, And Even More Are Eager To Join This Transformative Movement!

If Your Congregation Is Ready To Make A Difference, Reach Out For Free Training And Resources. Please Contact Rev. Dr. Karen White At (224) 406-3798 Or [drkwhite@teechfoundation.net](mailto:drkwhite@teechfoundation.net). All Training And Supplies Are Provided At No Cost—let's Continue Building A Network Of Hope And Support Together!

### **Special Eligibilities: Certified Recovery Congregations Qualify For**

- Additional Training Opportunities
- Printed Materials And Resources
- Engagement In Advisory And Collaborative Groups
- Local Support Program Development Toolkits
- Technical Assistance And Support From The Center For Community Engagement



Join Us In Making A Positive Impact And Empowering Our Community! By Becoming A Certified Recovery Congregation, You Will Play A Crucial Role In Supporting Individuals On Their Recovery Journey, Providing Them With The Resources And Encouragement They Need To Succeed. Your Involvement Will Help Create A More Inclusive And Supportive Environment For Everyone, Fostering A Sense Of Unity And Collective Progress. Together, We Can Make A Lasting Difference And Build A Brighter Future For All.

# ***You Are Not Alone—help And Hope Are Always Within Reach***

Struggling With Substance Use Can Feel Overwhelming, But No One Must Face It Alone. The Illinois Helpline For Opioids And Other Substances Is A Lifeline For Anyone Seeking Support, Guidance, Or Resources. This Service Is Available Every Hour Of Every Day—call **833-FINDHELP (833-234-6343)** or Text "**HELP**" To **833234** for Immediate, Confidential Assistance. Whether You're Reaching Out For Yourself Or Someone You Care About, Compassionate Experts Are Ready To Listen, Connect You To Vital Resources, And Walk With You On Your Recovery Journey. There Is No Cost, No Judgment, And No Wrong Time To Ask For Help.

But Support Doesn't Stop There. TEECH Is On The Front Lines, Working Tirelessly To Make Our Neighborhoods Safer And Stronger. By Installing Narcan Machines Throughout Our Communities, TEECH Is Putting Life-saving Tools Directly Into The Hands Of Everyday People—empowering All Of Us To Act Quickly In The Face Of An Opioid Overdose And Save Lives. Our Commitment Goes Beyond Distribution: We Offer Free Narcan And Hands-on Training Sessions So That Everyone, Regardless Of Background Or Experience, Can Be Prepared To Make A Difference.

If You Need Narcan Or Want To Become A Trained Responder, Reach Out To TEECH At **(224) 406-3798**. All Training And Supplies Are Provided At No Cost. Together, We Are Building A Network Of Hope, Resilience, And Action—one That Ensures No One In Our Community Is Left Behind.

Let's Stand Together, Support One Another, And Create A Future Where Recovery Is Always Possible And Help Is Always Here. Ended The Year With Lifesaving Training – Narcan With CPR.



# **Call To Action: Act Now To Make A Difference Together**

Every Day, Overdoses, Addiction, Recidivism, And Mental Health Challenges Touch The Lives Of Individuals And Families Across Our Community. These Are Not Distant Issues—they Are Urgent Realities That Demand Our Collective Strength, Compassion, And Action. Now Is The Time For Us To Unite, To Break The Silence, And To Stand Shoulder To Shoulder In Support Of Those Who Are Struggling. When We Come Together As A Community, We Create A Powerful Network Of Hope And Resilience. By Collaborating—whether Through Volunteering, Attending Training Sessions, Spreading Awareness, Or Simply Offering A Listening Ear—we Ensure That No One Must Face These Challenges Alone. Every Act Of Kindness, Every Moment Of Support, And Every Shared Resource Brings Us Closer To A Future Where Everyone Can Thrive. Your Involvement Is Not Just Valuable—it Is Essential. Each Person Who Steps Forward Helps Build A Stronger, More Resilient Community. Whether You Have Lived Experience, Professional Expertise, Or Simply A Caring Heart, Your Contribution Matters. Reach Out, Get Involved, And Be Part Of The Change. Together, We Can Save Lives, Uplift Our Neighbors, And Empower Our Community To Overcome Even The Toughest Obstacles. Let's Work Hand In Hand To Build A Legacy Of Hope, Healing, And Opportunity. The Time To Act Is Now—join Us, And Let's Make A Lasting Impact, Together. journey.

## **Resources:**

Mental Health America. "Burnout: Signs, Causes, And Recovery." Available At:  
[\*\*https://www.mhanational.org/resources/burnout-signs-causes-recover/\*\*](https://www.mhanational.org/resources/burnout-signs-causes-recover/)

Mayo Clinic. "Job Burnout: How To Spot It And Take Action." Available At:  
[\*\*https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/burnout/art-20046642\*\*](https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/adult-health/in-depth/burnout/art-20046642)

Newsweek: Chicago's Approach To Public Health—results Worth Sustaining

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Webmd. "Burnout Symptoms And Signs." Available At:  
[\*\*https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/burnout-symptoms-signs\*\*](https://www.webmd.com/mental-health/burnout-symptoms-signs)