2022–2023
University of Illinois Community Assessment of Needs (UI-CAN)

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
The University of Illinois Community Assessment of Needs Implementation Plan

The University of Illinois Hospital & Clinics (UI Health) published our first UI Community Assessment of Needs (UI-CAN) in 2013 and since then, we have issued a report every three years. Due largely to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022–2023 UI-CAN indicates a significant shift in healthcare since our last report in 2019. This year’s report reflects a modified assessment methodology in recognition of the changing needs of the communities we serve since the arrival of the pandemic, and our ongoing collaboration and partnerships with our academic counterparts and mission-driven organizations.

In 2022, UI Health continued our collaboration with the Alliance for Health Equity (AHE), the largest collaboration of its kind in the country, to develop the UI-CAN. AHE is a partnership between the Illinois Public Health Institute, more than thirty hospitals, seven local health departments, and more than a hundred community-based organizations. Through this partnership, there were many methods of data collection to identify community health needs throughout Cook County and Chicago. To supplement the work of the AHE collaborative, UI Health obtained additional primary and secondary data to understand the needs of people who live in the communities we serve.

As UI Health collected and reviewed data over the last two years, several community priorities that have significant impact on the healthcare of UI Health communities became distinctly apparent:

1. COVID-19
2. Racism is a Public Health Crisis
3. Violence and Safety
4. The Digital Divide
The full 2022-2023 UI-CAN report is available online at uican.uihealth.care. The 2023 UI-CAN Implementation Plan proposes leveraging the strength of UIC, UI Health, and its partners to meet the health-related needs identified in the 2022-2023 UI-CAN report by:

1. Fully implementing the identified resource and structure to define and execute a Community Health Needs Strategy for the healthcare delivery system and proactively communicate with community members--the Office of Diversity and Community Health Equity;

2. Convening UI Health clinicians, staff, and students with roles in community health to share findings of the 2022-2023 UI-CAN report, initiate community health needs strategy and encourage response to future requests for proposals aimed at addressing one of the health-related priority areas in the 2022–2023 UI-CAN report;

3. Implementing Social Determinants of Health Screening of patients, analyze and disseminate findings, determine and implement both micro and macro interventions that can address these SDOH factors within the Hospital and Health Sciences System, UIC, and community at large;

4. Convening a Community Advisory Board to ensure community input into the implementation strategies and increase engagement with residents, key institutions, and community based organizations;

5. Drafting and disseminating standardized guidelines on planning, execution, and measurement of existing or new programs to improve health equity and address identified community health needs;

6. Utilizing data collected from programs and initiatives benefiting the community to refine over time.

**Next Steps**

UI Health will widely share our findings from the 2022–2023 UI-CAN report across internal and external stakeholders, community residents, and local collaborating organizations to encourage and promote discussion about current and future programming, resource development, and forward planning. Implementation of the outlined plan and next steps will be aligned with UI Health’s health equity mission and investment in the communities we serve.

For further information, questions, or more information about participating in the implementation, please contact ui-can@uic.edu.

**Adoption of Implementation Plan**

This implementation plan, which supports the 2022-2023 University of Illinois Community Assessment of Needs (UI-CAN), was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois on May 18, 2023.