



# University of Illinois Community Assessment of Needs (UI-CAN) 2016: Toward Health Equity

## Implementation Plan

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### Introduction

The [University of Illinois Community Assessment of Needs \(UI-CAN\) 2016: Toward Health Equity](#) report was developed by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs (OVCHA) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with input from residents and other community stakeholders, the Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships, the Healthy Chicago Hospital Collaborative, and the Chicago Department of Public Health. We also intentionally aligned the UI-CAN report with UI Health System's Mission, Healthy Chicago 2.0, and Healthy Illinois 2021. The 2016 UI-CAN report includes three high priority health-related needs.

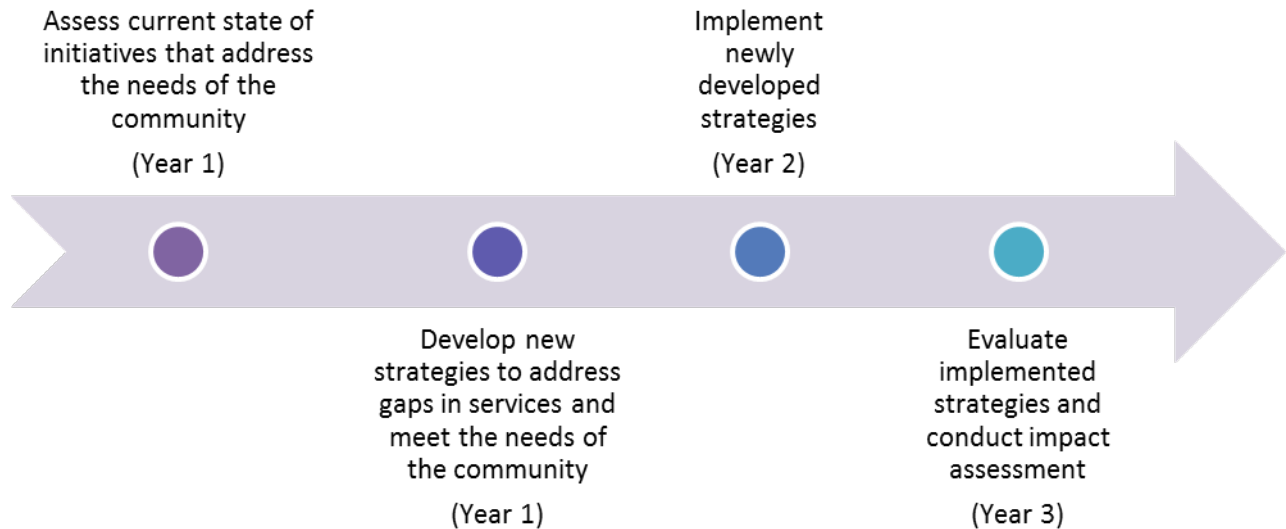
1. **Addressing the social determinants of health:** education, employment and income, health behaviors (e.g., smoking), housing, family and social support, food, interpersonal violence, transportation, and utility insecurity.
2. **Improving access to care:** availability of high quality physical and mental healthcare on demand.
3. **Reducing the risk of chronic disease or the impact of chronic disease on health:** asthma, cardiovascular disease (including hypertension), diabetes, mental and behavioral health, obesity, and sickle cell disease.

The full 2016 UI-CAN report is available [here](#).

As a next step, we are working with UIC faculty, students, and staff and external stakeholders to develop an Implementation Plan that leverages the strength of UIC and its partners to meet the health-related needs identified in the 2016 UI-CAN.

## Phased Implementation Plan

In order to develop effective strategies that address the identified health-related needs in a systematic and thoughtful way, OVCHA has developed a four-stage implementation plan, described in detail below.



The purpose of this four-phase implementation plan is to develop a stakeholder-supported, continuous and adaptive process to address the identified health-related needs in our community.

### **Phase 1: Assess the current state of initiatives at UIC that address the identified health-related needs in the 2016 UI-CAN (Year 1)**

- Create an inventory of existing health-related programs and community benefit initiatives across UIC, categorizing activities by the health-related need they address and type of community benefit activity provided.
- Describe the existing programs, resources, and collaborations that are addressing the health-related needs in the community.
- Conduct a gap analysis of programs and initiatives to identify areas of opportunity for developing new initiatives.
- Engage UIC faculty, staff, and students as well as community-based organizations and other health systems, to identify common areas of interest and opportunities for collaborative efforts that address the needs in the 2016 UI-CAN.

**Phase 2: Develop new strategies to address gaps in services to meet the health-related needs in the 2016 UI-CAN (Year 1)**

- Summarize findings from year one gap analysis to identify areas of opportunity for developing new initiatives.
- Engage diverse stakeholder groups, including community members, UI Health leadership, health sciences and other colleges across UIC, community organizations, city and state health departments, and other health care institutions, in developing a plan to address gaps in addressing health-related needs.
- Identify and prioritize gaps in services necessary to meet the health-related needs of the community as written in the 2016 UI-CAN report. For each high priority need:
  - Identify a strategy and implementation plan for the care delivery system and other stakeholders.
  - Develop key performance indicators, including community impact metrics, for the implementation plan and how results will be used to adapt the implementation plan to ensure success.
  - Describe the resources necessary to implement, evaluate, and sustain the implementation plan.
  - Describe any planned collaborations with community partners and other health organizations.
- Share newly developed strategies with all stakeholders to encourage continued future collaboration.

**Phase 3: Implement newly developed strategies to address health-related needs (Year 2 & 3)**

- Provide guidance to ensure that all new health-related and community benefit initiatives are intentional in demonstrating how they are addressing the health-related needs and the impact the initiatives have on our community.
- Align with the hospital's and other stakeholders' budgetary processes, ensuring there are sufficient resources to support the implementation of new health-related and community benefit initiatives.
- Pilot and implement new strategies to address the gaps in services and programs to address the health related needs of the community.

**Phase 4: Evaluate the implemented strategies and conduct a community impact assessment (Year 3)**

- Provide periodic reports of key performance indicators, including community impact, to the care delivery system and other stakeholders.
- Develop guidance on how to implement strategies that impact community health in the future.
- Conduct the 2019 University of Illinois Community Assessment of Need (UI-CAN)

**Next Steps**

While we know that faculty, staff, and students at UIC and their partners are, in many cases, already addressing several of the health-related needs identified in the 2016 UI-CAN, there is no single source of information to document the range of activities and partnerships that are supporting this work. Further, there is a need to ensure that both internal and external stakeholders understand how their activities and projects are already supporting community health-related needs. By developing a robust playbook of existing health-related and community benefit activities that include faculty, staff, and students at UIC, we can begin to use a common language and be intentional in developing initiatives that address the health-related needs in the community. We are currently developing questions and a structure for the playbook that will both intake and share information with stakeholders. We plan to pilot and launch the survey at UIC in the fall of 2016.

Moving forward, the UI-CAN Implementation Plan will serve as a guiding, strategic document for ensuring that UIC is making a collective impact on addressing the health-related needs and achieving health equity in the communities we serve.

(October 2016)