

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT: Communications and Engagement Working Group

JUNE 2023

The Communications and Engagement Working Group (CEWG) was formed in March 2023 to:

- Ensure community members drive and co-design communication messages and engagement strategies so they are culturally responsive and accessible.
- Be transparent in multiple languages throughout the CIA process so that all members of the public have access to up-to-date information about the CIA process.
- Ensure that the process is guided by community lived experiences, highlighting community power and assets and letting community members tell their stories in their own voices.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT GOALS

- **Inform and build momentum:** Provide the public—and particularly community members in neighborhoods most affected—with meaningful information about the CIA and build momentum toward long-term policy change.
- **Co-design and co-host engagement between the City and EJ organizations:** Take the lead from EJ organizations in determining what and how the engagement should take place.
- **Gather input and on-the-ground expertise** from community members in neighborhoods most affected to inform and enhance data and methods, policy, and inter-departmental strategies and deliverables for the Cumulative Impact initiative, including assessment, policy-making, and implementation.
- **Stories and voice:** Provide a forum for community members to share their stories and integrate those stories into the data and policy processes.
- **Provide follow-up:** Provide a way for participants to stay informed and be aware of ways to be involved in the Cumulative Impact initiative.
- **Provide a foundation for longer-term ground truthing** of cumulative impact data and implementation.

NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

The CEWG is hosting events in communities identified as overburdened areas throughout the summer. For those unable to attend in person, input is welcome through an online survey available at [Chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact](https://chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact). Feedback will be incorporated into the final CIA deliverables, which will be completed by September 1, 2023. Going forward, the CEWG will continue to engage community members in broader Cumulative Impact initiative efforts.



COMMUNITY INPUT

Meaningful community involvement is central to the CIA process. There are three types of engagement formats that the CEWG has designed to collect insights this summer:

1. In-person, co-hosted CIA events with community partners (open-house style with activities)
2. In-person engagement at partners' existing events
3. Gathering input on CIA deliverables via online survey and public comment



MEMBERS

Voting Members:

- Neighbors for Environmental Justice (Alfredo Romo and Madalynn Benevidez, Co-chairs)
- People for Community Recovery (Courtney Hanson and Chloe Butler-Jones, Co-chairs)
- CDPH (Eduardo Muñoz, Co-chair)

Non-Voting Members:

- Illinois Public Health Institute
- APEX, Inc.
- Jasculca Terman Strategic Communications
- University of Illinois Chicago



To learn more about the cumulative impact project and upcoming activities, visit:
CHICAGO.GOV/CUMULATIVEIMPACT



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