The City of Chicago COVID-19 Community Response Corps

In July 2021, the work of Chicago’s COVID-19 Community Contact Tracing Corps expanded beyond contact tracing to strive towards COVID-19 recovery and prevention by supporting community health needs related to the pandemic. The Corps changed its name to the Chicago COVID-19 Community Response Corps to reflect the expanding nature of the Corps’ initiatives and impact.

During this time, the Corps focused centered on:

• Continuing to staff the City of Chicago’s inbound COVID-19 hotline.

• Assisting community members with inquiries on vaccine appointment scheduling, COVID-19 testing locations, positive COVID-19 cases, vaccine incentives, vaccine medical records/lost vaccine cards, resource coordination, and more.

• Conducting outbound call projects for vaccine follow-up and COVID-19 booster outreach, particularly for Chicago Public Schools families and the most at-risk, vulnerable community members in Chicago.

• Conducting hyper-local outreach and canvassing in Chicago’s lowest-vaccinated neighborhoods, known to the communities as Vaccine Ambassadors and Promotores de Salud.

• Staffing ongoing community-led and city-led events, such as Swap-O-Rama Flea Markets and City Colleges of Chicago vaccination sites, to assist with line management, vaccine scheduling, outreach, and logistics.

The Corps engages in community outreach, promoting and attending 519 city-wide events with vaccination sites. For example, the Corps supported a Swap-O-Rama event in Chicago where more than 2,000 residents were vaccinated.
30 Community Based Organizations Employed Corps Member Programs From July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022:

- Alliance Center 360/Brothers Health Collective
- Calumet Area Industrial Commission
- Centers for New Horizons
- Central States SER
- Greater West Town Community Development Project
- Habilitative Systems
- KLEO Community Family Center
- Phalanx Family Services
- Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- SGA Youth and Family Services
- The Resurrection Project
- Ada S. McKinley Community Services
- Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council
- Breakthrough Urban Ministries
- Community Assistance Programs
- Envision Community Services
- Goodwill Industries Metro Chicago
- Institute for Latino Progress
- Latino Resource Institute of Illinois
- Lawrence Hall
- Leave No Veteran Behind
- Metropolitan Family Services
- National Able Network
- North Lawndale Employment Network
- Safer Foundation
- South Side Help Center
- Southwest Organizing Project
- St. Sabina Employment Resource Center
- Westside Health Authority
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

In April 2022, The Partnership held a hiring event to connect Corps members with healthcare career opportunities outside of the Corps.

More than 200 Corps members and 29 employers connected at the event.

About a quarter of the Corps members that attended reported finding their next job at that event!