COMMUNITY FREEDOM PARTY WIRE

WE GOT YOU

Dear Beautiful and Beloved Member of the Black Community,

We at the Community Freedom Party would like to wish you a blessed and fruitful month. We hope that this installment of the CFP Wire, like all of our efforts, serves you well. If you have any friends or family members who you think would benefit from the CFP Wire, feel free to forward it to them. And if there is anything you think we can help you with, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by visiting our website (www.communityfreedomparty.org). We are always interested in knowing how we can serve you better.

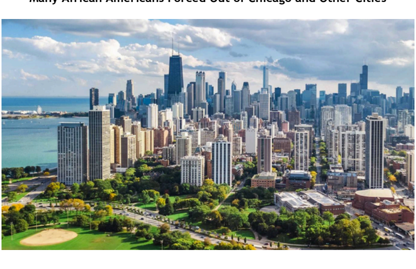
With Much Love and Admiration,

The Community Freedom Party Staff

Politcal Issues the Black Community Should Know About

1

Many African Americans Forced Out of Chicago and Other Cities



As has been reported in several news outlets, Chicago's black population decreased by nearly 10 percent between 2010 and 2020 according to the U.S. 2020 census. In 2019 alone, Chicago lost approximately 17,850 black residents due to out-migration. Moreover, although Chicago's black population declined, Chicago's overall population increased.

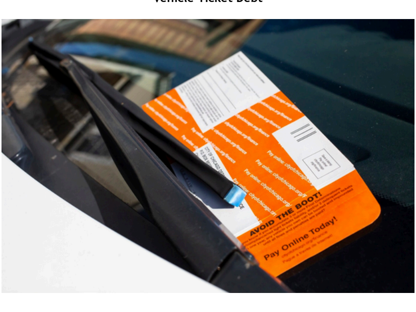
This raises the question: why is Chicago seen as a place of opportunity for other groups and not for African-Americans? Although some report that black Chicagoans are leaving voluntarily, CFP cannot consider these voluntary decisions when many have left as a result of longstanding economic disinvestment in black neighborhoods, displacement resulting from unchecked rising rents and gentrification, gun violence, and a lack of public amenities that are available in wealthier Chicago neighborhoods.

Chicago is not the only city which is experiencing a decrease in its African-American population. Between 1990 and 2020, 23 of the United States' biggest cities lost black residents. In a political system that adequately cared about and represented African Americans, this would not be the case. Instead, we have a system in which politicians, real estate developers and investors profit off black out-migration from cities - out migration that is usually preceded by years of suffering on the part of black Americans.

Those interested in additional information about the above topic may wish to start with recent articles by the Chicago Crusader and WTTW.

2

Chicago Starts Pilot Program to Help Low-Income Residents Reduce Vehicle Ticket Debt

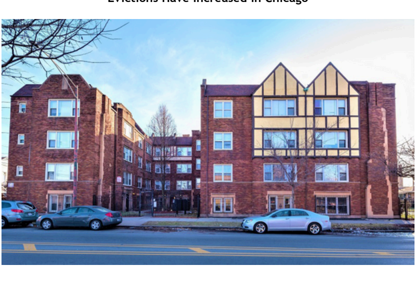


Chicago recently launched the Clear Path Relief Pilot program to help low-income families with accumulated vehicle-related debt resulting from compliance, red light, speeding and parking violations. To qualify for the program, applicants must have existing vehicle-related debt and they must reside in a household currently enrolled in the Utility Billing Relief program (UBR) or earn a household income of less than, or equal to, 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Benefits include the forgiveness of debt, a discount on new violations, and extended time to pay fines. Clear Path Relief Pilot program applications will be accepted through December 31, 2023. This program was initiated by Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's administration. CFP applauds these efforts to help low-income Chicagoans reduce their vehicle-related debt.

Additional information about the Clear Path Relief Program can be accessed at https://www.chicago.gov.

3

Evictions Have Increased in Chicago



After a moratorium expired last year, Cook County eviction rates have steadily climbed back to their highest levels since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Landlords filed 2,500 eviction cases in Cook County circuit court in March. For comparison, that's 300 more cases than the same month in 2019, according to a WBEZ analysis of data requested from the Office of the Chief Judge.

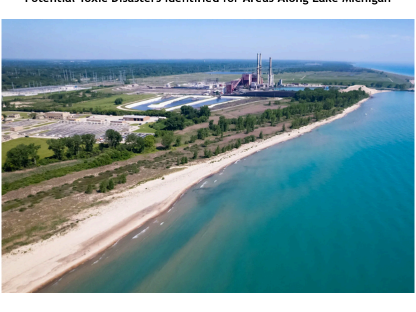
Data from the sheriff's office show 16 of the top 20 ZIP codes that experienced the most evictions after the pandemic began in March of 2020 were on the South and West sides of Chicago.

The top three ZIP codes that experienced the most evictions were 60649 (South Shore), 60619 (Chatham) and 60637 (West Woodlawn). According to Census Reporter, between a quarter and a third of residents in these three ZIP codes live below the poverty line.

According to the Chicago City website, those at risk of eviction should be aware that 1) If you get an eviction notice, know that only the Sheriff can carry out an eviction. It is illegal for your landlord to try to remove you from your home, and 2) Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt is a free resource to help landlords and tenants resolve housing and debt issues and can be reached at 855-956-5763. Those with eviction concerns can also access resources at the organization Legal Aid Chicago.

4

Potential Toxic Disasters Identified for Areas Along Lake Michigan



A report released in June 2022 by Chicago's Environmental Law & Policy Center shows that possible climate-related disasters caused by high lake levels, powerful storms and erosion along Lake Michigan pose toxic threats to the entire lakefront.

According to the report, in a seven-year period that began with a historic low in 2013, the average level of Lake Michigan rose 6 feet. If those swings along with high wind and waves continue, toxic-waste Superfund sites, a recently closed coal plant in Waukegan north of Chicago and a dismantled nuclear plant in Zion all represent an opportunity for water to wash industrial pollutants to surrounding areas and into Lake Michigan.

The report also noted that a major storm surge, combined with high lake levels, could simultaneously flood streets, homes and businesses from Zion to the Southeast Side of Chicago and that a major flood could also threaten public health by carrying contaminants, such as PCBs and heavy metals, into populous neighborhoods.

On the Southeast Side of Chicago, several locations, including a closed scrap-metal operation by Sims Metal, a dump for Calumet River dredged material and a shipping terminal managed by the Illinois International Port District all contain toxic materials that can spread to neighborhoods and into the lake if flooded, the report found.

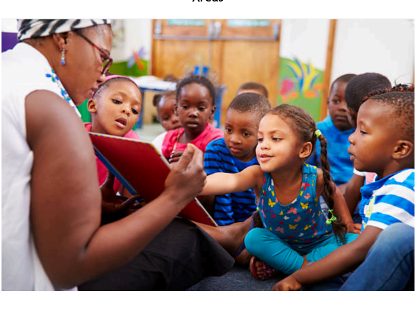
In response to the findings, the report recommends cleaning up the toxic sites and reassessing them as a potential threat, the consideration of natural remedies such as wetlands restoration and green infrastructure such as vegetated landscaping, and a re-evaluation of zoning and city planning.

The Community Freedom Party calls on all government officials to take the findings contained in this report very seriously and address them proactively. Too often, governments fail to heed the warnings in such reports until after an event warned about in such reports has already occurred, resulting in avoidable economic damage, human injuries or worse.

Those interested in additional information related to the above topic can get more information at the Environmental Law & Policy Center at https://elpc.org.

5

Full-Day Preschool Now Available in 64 of Chicago's 77 Community Areas



Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is now offering full-day preschool in 64 of Chicago's 77 community areas. Last year, 10,300 CPS 4-year-olds were in full-day preschool, up from 4,900 in 2018. Yet CPS has struggled to fill all the classrooms in areas with the greatest needs. Shortly into the 2022-23 school year, 3,200 seats for 4-year-olds remain unfilled.

According to a report by WBEZ, most of the schools unable to fill seats serve high numbers of low-income students, with large majorities of Black or Latino children. Enrollment is much higher in North Side areas, where more affluent families live, and in some predominantly Latino areas across the city. The rate in some of the city's lowest-income areas, including the West Side and the Far Southeast Side, stayed the same or dropped, remaining below 60%.

Although families must consider a range of issues when deciding whether to send their children to preschool (e.g., health and safety precautions resulting from COVID-19 and parent work schedules), CFP encourages all families who are able to send their 4-year old children to full-day preschool in Chicago, whether private or public. As we mentioned in our Platform, research has shown that 74% of black children who attended an all-day preschool program were prepared to enter kindergarten, and research has shown that students who start the formal education experience sooner fare better long-term in their academic careers. Chicago parents who want to enroll their four-year old children in a CPS full-day preschool program can access information and the application at https://www.cps.edu.

6

Multiple Cyclists Struck and Killed By Drivers In Chicago This Year

Those who bike and use motorized scooters are encouraged to wear safety equipment and be aware of their surroundings and traffic. According to Christina Whitehouse, head of the bike safety advocacy group Bike Lane Uprising, cyclists are often forgotten during city planning of intersections. She went on to say that the intersections are the most dangerous part of the street for cyclists. "Think of the protected bike lanes: They all completely disappear in the intersection."

As of September 2022, five persons have been killed while biking in Chicago this year. Multiple pedestrians have also been killed while crossing streets in the city.

CFP wants individuals and families to be safe while biking, walking, skating and using scooters in Chicago. Below are some tips for both pedestrians and drivers that can improve safety:

Safety Tips for Pedestrians

- Walk on a sidewalk or path. If neither is available, walk facing traffic and as far from cars as possible.
- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections whenever possible; this is where drivers expect pedestrians. If neither is an option, locate a well-lit area, wait for a gap in traffic that allows you enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic as you cross.
- Be alert. Walkers wearing headphones or using a cell phone might not hear a car horn, or could miss a traffic signal at a crosswalk.
- Know walking while impaired is dangerous. An estimated 33% of fatal pedestrian crashes in 2018 involved a pedestrian who was drunk. NHTSA offers tips for other ways to safely get home.
- Never assume drivers see you; they could be distracted or impaired. It's best to make eye contact with drivers to make sure you are seen. Make yourself visible by wearing brightly colored clothing during the day. At night, wear reflective materials, or use a flashlight.

Safety Tips for Bikers

- No one learns to drive a vehicle safely without practice and experience; safely riding your bike in traffic requires the same preparation. When first learning to ride a bike, start by riding your bike in a safe environment away from traffic (a park, path, or empty parking lot).
- Ride a bike that fits you—if it's too big, it's harder to control the bike.
- Ride a bike that works—it really doesn't matter how well you ride if the brakes don't work.
- Wear equipment to protect you and make you more visible to others, like a bike helmet, bright clothing (during the day), reflective gear, and a white front light and red rear light and reflectors on your bike (at night, or when visibility is poor).
- Ride one per seat, with both hands on the handlebars, unless signaling a turn.
- Carry all items in a backpack or strapped to the back of the bike.
- Tuck and tie your shoe laces and pant legs so they don't get caught in your bike chain.
- Plan your route—if driving as a vehicle on the road, choose routes with less traffic and slower speeds. Your safest route may be away from traffic altogether, in a bike lane or on a bike path
- Be focused and alert to the road and all traffic around you; anticipate what others may do, before they do it. This is defensive driving—the quicker you notice a potential conflict, the quicker you can act to avoid a potential crash
- Ride with the flow, in the same direction as traffic.
- Obey street signs, signals, and road markings, just like a car.
- Assume the other person doesn't see you; look ahead for hazards or situations to avoid that may cause you to fall, like toys, pebbles, potholes, grates, train tracks.
- No texting, listening to music or using anything that distracts you by taking your eyes and ears or your mind off the road and traffic.
- Slow and look for traffic (left-right-left and behind) when crossing a street
- Slow down and look for cars backing out of driveways or turning.

Safety Tips for Drivers

- Look for pedestrians everywhere. Pedestrians may be walking in unexpected areas, or may be hard to see — especially at night, in poorly lit areas, or in bad weather.
- Follow pedestrian safety laws in your state or local area — always stop or yield for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They might be stopped to allow pedestrians to cross the street.
- Stay alert where children may be present, like in school zones and neighborhoods.
- Slow down and carefully adhere to posted speed limits, particularly in urban and pedestrian-heavy areas. Lower speeds are one of the most important factors in pedestrian crash survivability.
- Yield to bicyclists as you would motorists and do not underestimate their speed. This will help avoid turning in front of a bicyclist traveling on the road or sidewalk, often at an intersection or driveway.
- In parking lots, at stop signs, when packing up, or when parking, search your surroundings for other vehicles, including bicycles.
- Drivers turning right on red should look to the right and behind to avoid hitting a bicyclist approaching from the right rear. Stop completely and look left-right-left and behind before turning right on red.
- Obey the speed limit, reduce speed for road conditions and drive defensively to avoid a crash with a cyclist.
- Give cyclists room. Do not pass too closely. Pass bicyclists as you would any other vehicle—when it's safe to move over into an adjacent lane.

7

Applications Now Open For Cook County Guaranteed Income Pilot Program

Cook County's Guaranteed Income Program is now open for those wishing to apply. The program will send monthly cash payments of $500 to 3,250 residents for two years.

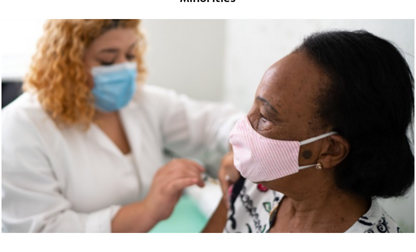
Applicants must be at least 18 years old, a Cook County resident and have a household income at or below 250 percent the federal poverty level. Participants will be selected by lottery, according to the county. The pilot program is open to households regardless of immigration status, and applicants will not have to verify U.S. citizenship, according to the county. People already participating in other guaranteed income programs, including Chicago's, cannot apply to the Cook County version, officials said.

"Guaranteed Income programs hold promise for improving economic mobility and promoting racial equity," Carmelo Barbaro, executive director of the Inclusive Economy Lab, said in the news release. "To expand these programs locally and nationally we need to generate evidence about the most effective ways to distribute dollars and how families leverage these programs to achieve their goals."

Those interested in applying for the pilot program can do so at https://www.engagecookcounty.com.

8

COVID Booster Rates Remain Low in Chicago, Especially Amongst Minorities



According to the most recent data from Chicago's public health department, only about 144,000 Chicagoans have received an updated COVID-19 booster as of Oct. 5. People who are 12 and older and who have completed an initial vaccine series are eligible for the updated booster shot, which is designed to protect against Omicron subvariants. Health officials in the city have said that a large percentage of the population getting the updated shot would likely reduce the severity of a winter surge and help to stave off the emergence of new variants.

Minorities in the city have so far been the least likely to obtain a booster. 14% of eligible white residents have been boosted, while only about 9% of eligible Asian residents have received the new shot, 5% of eligible Black residents and 4% of eligible Latino residents.

"These all need to be three to four times what we're seeing, even for the white Chicago numbers," stated Dr. Allison Arwady, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health. "I'm concerned that especially in Latinx and Black communities, we're seeing lagging vaccine uptake, which means if we get a notable surge this winter, it's more likely to hit harder in those communities."

Seniors in Chicago, one of the groups most likely to suffer severe complications if infected with COVID-19, have turned out the most for boosters. However, only one-in-five eligible Chicagoans in their 70s have had that updated booster and about 15% of Chicagoans age 80 or older have been boosted. According to Dr. Arwady, these figures are too low and "should be upwards of 80%."

Overall, seniors have turned out the most to get boosted, but even in that demographic, the numbers have a long way to go. "Folks in their 70s are the most likely to have had the updated booster, which is good, but still fewer than one-in-five eligible Chicagoans in their 70s have had that updated booster," Arwady said, adding that about 15% of Chicagoans age 80 or older have been boosted this fall. "I worry a lot about this. These should be upwards of 80%."

Although there are various reasons as to why someone may choose to either get boosted or not get boosted, considering how many families in Chicago have suffered as the result of deaths due to COVID-19, the Community Freedom Party encourages Chicago residents - especially those who either are or who live with someone who is at increased risk from severe complications from COVID-19 (people over 65; those with cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, chronic lung diseases, cystic fibrosis, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, heart disease, and HIV infection; those with weakened immune systems; those who are pregnant; and those who are overweight or obese) - to strongly consider getting boosted. Boosters do not necessarily guarantee that a person will not experience a breakthrough infection, but combined with proper masking with an N95 or similar mask and social distancing, they can help decrease the likelihood of severe complications and death from COVID-19 for the most vulnerable residents of our city.

Those at high risk of severe complications, whether boosted or not, should contact their doctor right away if they are infected since treatments are available, such as antiviral medications.

For those interested in getting an updated COVID-19 booster shot, the city Chicago provides a Vaccine Finder on its website - www.chicago.gov.

9

Despite Claims of Defunding, Police Funding Has Increased in Many US Cities

During the most recent election cycle, some public officials have been claiming that crime has increased around the country due to efforts to defund police agencies. However, according to ABC News, recent data demonstrates that in many municipalities in the United States, defunding never took place and, in fact, funding for police departments has risen in many places.

After examining budgets from more than 100 cities and counties in America, ABC News found that 83% are spending at least 2% more on police in 2022 than in 2019 and, in 49 cities or counties, police funding has increased by more than 10%. The Los Angeles Police Department's budget is up by 9.4% since 2019, San Francisco's police budget is up by 4%, and Philadelphia's has risen by 3%. In Chicago, police spending is up 15%, representing almost a quarter billion dollars in new police spending since 2019.

During this period, Austin was one of a few cities that attempted to allocate police spending to other areas. Austin public officials cut the police budget by about 30% in 2021, proposing to spend the money on programs like family violoence prevention, mental health responders, and police oversight. But the Texas legislature voted later to bar cities in the state from decreasing police budgets and Austin subsequently boosted its police spending by 50% in 2022.

Experts on criminal justice report that, even if the cuts were real, the premise that lower police spending leads to increased crime or vice versa is not supported by evidence. In fact, An ABC News analysis of state and local police funding and overall violent crime data in the U.S. between 1985 and 2020 found no relationship between year-to-year police spending and crime rates. Research by the Washington Post found similar results form 1960 to 2018.

According to Kimberley Dodson, a retired law enforcement officer and current criminologist at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, police spending does not show a relationship with crime rates because police respond to crime but don't actually deter it.

"Crime happens. Somebody calls the police, and they come and take a report. Then they try to solve the crime after the fact, said Dodson. "So saying the police deter crime is not actually accurate, because they're more of a reactive agency."

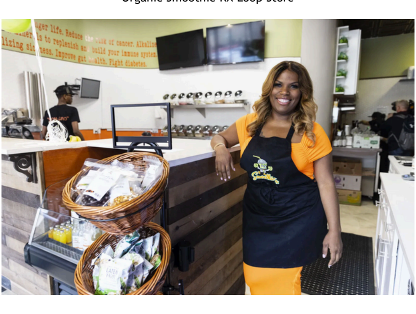
Dodson also believes it's not fair to ask police to "be all things to everybody" and respond to all the problems communities face when some of the those problems are caused by longstanding mental health issues, family conflicts or issues related to entrenched poverty that's taken hold over decades.

Those interested in additional information related to the above topic can get more information at ABC News' website https://abcnews.go.com.

Businesses the Black Community Should Know About

1

Organic Smoothie RX Loop Store



Organic Smoothie RX Loop Store is a new smoothie shop located in the South Loop. It is a social entrepreneurship venture, seeking not only to make a profit but also to have a positive social impact while doing it. The Smoothie shop will employ eleven housing-insecure people with competitive wages. Much of the revenue generated from the business will be used to address housing issues that will be used to create more opportunities for the homeless population to restore their lives and provide for their families.

Organic Smoothie RX Loop Store was founded by Candice Payne, who has developed reputation as both a successful entrepreneur and a premier homeless advocate. In addition to her recent smoothie venture, Ms. Payne has also started the non-profit Action for a Cause, and a brokerage, 5th Group Realty.

CFP encourages everyone to support the aforementioned businesses. More information can be found at these websites:

https://5thgroupsellschicago.com

https://actionforacausenow.org

2

Bronzeville Winery

Bronzeville Winery is a restaurant that recently opened in April 2022. The new restaurant offers a rotating wine list with selections from around the world highlighting African American-owned labels paired with a seasonal menu featuring comfort foods with house-grown greens and locally grown and produced ingredients.

Bronzeville Winery is owned by entrepreneurs Eric Williams and Cecilia Cuff. They used local and national artists in creating the furniture for the establishment and hope to serve as mentors training future entrepreneurs and students who want to work in the hospitality industry. Bronzeville Winery is located at 4420 S Cottage Grove Ave and is currently accepting reservations.

CFP encourages everyone to support the Bronzeville Winery. More information can be found at the restaurant's website: https://www.bronzevillewinery.com.

3
Men Run Deez Streets

Men Run Deez Streets is a new nonprofit organization founded to encourage Black Chicagoans to seriously take up running and fitness prevent health issues that disproportionately affect Black people, like high blood pressure and diabetes.

Men Run Deez Streets started as weekly runs with co-founder Terrance Lyles and a small group of men, but it's progressed into training for marathons, hosting online discussions on men's health issues, fostering mentorships and holding community service events and social gatherings. Members of the organization are also preparing for the Bank of America Chicago Marathon scheduled for October 9, 2022.

The founders of the Men Run Deez Streets, Terrance Lyles and his father, Bernard Lyles have been passionate runners for years, often doing father-son jogs together.

More information about Men Run Deez Streets can be found on their Facebook page.

4
S.A.W. Beauty Supply

S.A.W. Beauty Supply is a beauty and hair-care supply business located at 744 W. Garfield Boulevard in Chicago. They are ready, willing and able to meet all your hair-care needs and offer a wide range of brands including . . . They also have a professional barber, braider and make-up artist on-site. The store is owned and operated by courteous and customer-service oriented Brother Claude.

According to two online reviewers:

> "The single handed BEST experience I had in a store PERIOD. I was blessed enough to run into the owner himself a lovely man who listens to his customers. I got the grand tour and he explained so much from his business practices to the process of how he makes his own whipped butters and signature oils/ scent."
>
> "From the time I walked into this place until the time I left was AMAZING. To be 1st Black owned beauty supply in the Englewood neighbor is truly a blessing. I came all the way from NWI to visit, and I must say LOVE it. Come and support this place , you won't be disappointed. Brothers keep up the good work and keep moving forward in your vision!"

S.A.W. Beauty Supply can be reached at 708-673-1550

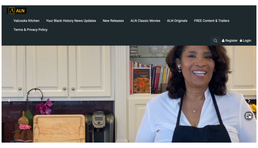
5
E.G. Woode

E.G. Woode is a flexible real estate platform of business development that enhances businesses and communities by using a collective approach to stimulate growth in minority communities, extend opportunity, and provide technical, financial, business development, marketing, real estate and investment capital services.

Recently, the firm launched a new Englewood commercial hub at 1122 W. 63rd Street. The hub houses four businesses led by entrepreneurs of color: Powell's Barbershop, Momentum Coffee, MarielWesley (a botique consignment shop), and Beehyye (a design firm with co-working areas).

More information about E.G. Woode can be found at its website: https://egwoode.com.

6
American Legacy Network



American Legacy Network (ALN) is a streaming channel dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans in film, literature, sports, music, and more. The channel contains a variety of historical documentaries, original productions, cooking shows, "Black Pioneers and Empowerment Programming," as well as movies featuring predominately black casts.

ALN was founded and is led by Rodney Reynolds, an experienced entrepreneur who previously founded and operated American Legacy Magazine for 16 years as well as Today's Black Father, a quarterly publication.

Among the original programming on the American Legacy Network streaming platform is "The American Legacy Challenge." Hosted by Brandi Harvey, daughter of comedian and television host Steve Harvey, the program is a game show focusing on Black History trivia.

Those interested in browsing the offerings of ALN can do so at the platforms website:

https://www.americanlegacynetwork.tv

7
Dion's Chicago Dream

Dion's Chicago Dream is a non-profit organization which distributes on a weekly basis consistently fresh fruits and vegetables directly to the doorstep of in-need households struggling with food insecurity. The organization's delivery services provide underserved families with 5 days worth of healthy food options for consumption, immediately moving a household from food insecure to food secure. Since its inception, Dream Deliveries has provided more than 170,000 lbs of fresh produce to the doorstep of nearly 2100 residents every week.

The organization provides a needed service. According to the Illinois Institute of Technology, more than 500,000 Chicago residents live in a food desert. While the average number of grocery stores in a community is 4.27, 57 of Chicago's communities are below average. This has a direct relation to economic status, as new businesses are unlikely to establish stores in lower income areas.

Dion's Chicago Dream was founded by Englewood resident Dion Dawson. On the organization's website, Dion explains some of his personal experiences with hunger and how it has affected him:

"As a proud son of Englewood, I've experienced and witnessed the gambit of human hardship— poverty, gang violence, PTSD, heartbreak, drug addiction, racism, inequality, cancer, suicide, and more. I've felt the rumble of hunger, the yearning in food insecurity, and the loneliness of depression. These experiences armed me with awareness, empathy, and universal love, which guide my desire for a more equitable and equal world, a world where everyone feels a sense of worth, belonging, and purpose."

Those interested in learning more about or donating to Dion's Chicago Dream can do so at the organization's website:

https://dionschicagodream.com

We are the only Party 100% focused on the policies that will improve the well-being of the African-American Community.

We need Your Support Today!

Donate

We are the only Party 100% focused on the policies that will improve the well-being of the African-American Community.

We need Your Support Today!

Find Out More Information About Joining, Volunteering and Donating At Our Website:

www.communityfreedomparty.org

Community Freedom Party | 159 N. Sangamon St., Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60607 | 833-207-3328

This email was created with Wix. Discover More