IMPACT Report
Brighton Park Neighborhood Network
2015-2020

We are grateful for support from the United Way of Metro Chicago and the MacArthur Foundation.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Brighton Park Neighborhood Network (BPNN) seeks to build the capacity of our community to dramatically improve outcomes for every resident by providing comprehensive support in education, health, and employment. This work is led by community members, social service agencies, and neighborhood schools to create a safe and thriving neighborhood for all. Officially launched with financial support from the United Way of Metro Chicago in 2012, our coalition has evolved from a handful of community partners to a network of over 40 member organizations. This report outlines the community context that led to the emergence of our coalition, the history of the BPNN’s formation and growth, the goals and collective strategies that guide our work, and key accomplishments between 2015 and 2020. To the right is a snapshot of some of our notable achievements in Education, Health, Public Safety, and Financial Stability since 2015.

Key Achievements

Promoted positive academic outcomes among Brighton Park students. We have served an average of 1,605 students each year through our after-school enrichment programming, with about 64% of participants demonstrating improved academic achievement. Recognizing the interconnection between social-emotional needs and academic success, we also provided therapeutic school-based counseling services to an average of 244 students each year, of whom average of 86% achieved at least one of their counseling goals. See pages 8–10 to learn more about our education work.

Increased access to health promoting resources and opportunities for underserved community residents. We have seen a steady increase in the number of community members who participated in our health workshops each year, from 292 in 2015 to 780 in 2019. These health workshops, which focus on topics including nutrition, physical activity, and emotional well-being, ensure that Brighton Park residents have access to the information they need to promote a healthy lifestyle. Visit pages 10–13 for additional details.

Ensured that positive youth development opportunities are available to young people in Brighton Park. We have employed 470 Brighton Park youth during the summer months since 2015. On average, 92% successfully completed the program and acquired critical skills for advancing their career goals. Learn more about our Public Safety initiatives on pages 13–15.

Facilitated access to supportive resources that enhance economic well-being. Through Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s Success and Stability Program, we have served a yearly average of 131 Brighton Park residents who were homeless or at risk of homelessness, providing comprehensive case management support to address pressing material resource needs. On average, 96.7% of Success and Stability program participants obtained safe and stable housing. Furthermore, our coalition has rallied to address the dire economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic among Brighton Park families. Since April 2020, we have distributed nearly $2 million in direct cash assistance, food assistance, rental and mortgage assistance, and utility assistance to over 850 families. For a complete description of our Financial Stability Committee’s key accomplishments, please go to pages 16–18.
WHO WE ARE

More than forty coalition members strong, the Brighton Park Neighborhood Network (BPNN) seeks to build the capacity of our community to dramatically improve outcomes for every resident by providing comprehensive support in education, health, and employment. This work is led by community members, social service agencies, and neighborhood schools to create a safe and thriving neighborhood for all. Officially launched with financial support from the United Way of Metro Chicago in 2012, the BPNN unites a diverse range of partners into a coalition focused on enhancing the community’s social service infrastructure and working to address existing gaps in service delivery. Our coalition has developed initiatives and interventions that address violence prevention, health, education inequities, and economic development for disadvantaged families without duplicating efforts and maximizing the impact of funder dollars. The BPNN coalition provides the space for agencies to communicate and collaborate on referrals across agencies when community residents present with needs that cannot be addressed through a single organization. In addition to facilitating service access for community residents, the BPNN advocates for increased public investment in our community and for policies that dismantle structural inequities.

HISTORICAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The BPNN emerged from a collective commitment to challenging social injustice and promoting holistic well-being among Brighton Park residents. The community area of Brighton Park, located on Chicago’s southwest side, has long been impacted by public disinvestment, high economic hardship, and limited access to health promoting resources and opportunities. Home to a predominantly Latino immigrant population, community residents in Brighton Park commonly face barriers to accessing health and social service resources due to factors including immigration status and limited availability of culturally and linguistically appropriate services. In this context of economic marginalization, exposure to violent crime is a common experience in the lives of Brighton Park residents. Driven by a desire to address these structural inequities, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council brought together a handful of social service agencies, medical providers, local neighborhood schools, and community members to form the Safety Net Coalition in 2008. Recognizing that material resource, medical, social, and emotional needs were integrally connected to youth academic achievement and subsequent educational, employment, and economic opportunities, the coalition focused on education and violence prevention initiatives grounded in a community school model. The community school model positions public schools as hubs where students, families, and the community at large can access a range of psychosocial resources. As part of this model, Brighton Park’s Safety Net Coalition began to leverage existing partnerships to facilitate access to health promoting resources within school settings. In 2012, the original Safety Net Coalition was able to expand its mission and officially launched as the Brighton Park Neighborhood Network (BPNN) with financial support from the United Way of Metro Chicago. The first neighborhood network within the city of Chicago, the BPNN utilized a collective impact approach to bring together service providers, neighborhood schools, and community members to ensure that individuals, families, and the community at large could access the supportive resources necessary to build a safe and thriving neighborhood. Our coalition has expanded to include both a broad range of stakeholders and a broad range of issue areas in response to in-depth assessments of community needs. In the present day, the BPNN has sub-Committees operating in
the areas of Education, Health, Public Safety, and Financial Stability that implement initiatives informed by collectively defined strategies. Our initiatives within each issue area of focus contribute to our larger overarching goals of facilitating access to resources that promote holistic well-being and dismantling structural inequities within our community.

OUR COALITION’S GOALS

In accordance with the collective impact framework that guides our work, the BPNN is grounded in the belief that we are best equipped to challenge social injustice and promote holistic well-being within our community when diverse stakeholders come together to leverage our strengths, resources, and expertise. Informed by a comprehensive understanding of the specific needs of community residents, our coalition aims to achieve the following goals.

**Promote the holistic well-being of all Brighton Park residents.** We recognize that medical, emotional, social, and material resource needs are integrally connected and cannot be addressed in isolation. If we are to truly carry out our mission of creating a thriving neighborhood for all, it is essential that we facilitate access to the supportive services necessary to address community members’ range of needs. Through our coalition that spans the areas of health, education, violence prevention, and financial stability, we aim to enhance community capacity to connect individuals and families with the support that they need to attain optimal well-being.

**Dismantle structural inequities.** We acknowledge that at the national, state, and local levels, harmful immigration policies and disinvestment in public safety net and social welfare programs severely limit the extent to which community members can access resources and opportunities needed to thrive. At the same time that our coalition works to enhance our community’s social service infrastructure, we simultaneously aim to challenge the policies and systems that negatively impact our neighborhood. To this end, we are actively involved in a multitude of community-led advocacy campaigns, including initiatives to: make Chicago a true sanctuary city for undocumented and Black

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2 The BPNN is comprised of stakeholders including healthcare providers, social service agencies, neighborhood schools, elected officials, our local public library, local park district, local police district, and community members. For a complete list of the stakeholders who comprise our coalition, please see the Report Addendum or visit our website.
communities; facilitate access to affordable and comprehensive health insurance for undocumented immigrant adults; fight for a living wage and progressive revenue solutions; and increase investment in public mental health services in the city of Chicago. Through our involvement in these advocacy campaigns, we aim to transform the social systems that create barriers for neighborhood prosperity and prevent optimal wellness for community members.

OUR COLLECTIVE STRATEGIES

Driven by the overarching goals identified above, the BPNN has collectively defined a bold goal and strategies in each area of focus to help advance our goals of promoting holistic well-being and dismantling structural inequities. Our strategies and bold goals in turn inform the services and activities that we carry out as a coalition. Our collectively defined strategies and bold goals for each issue area are as follows.

**Education:** Our strategy is grounded in promoting positive academic outcomes for Brighton Park students by responding to the myriad of social and emotional needs that influence academic success. Through our full-service community school model, educators and social service providers partner to deliver a range of services and supports within the school setting, including after-school and summer enrichment activities, mental health counseling, college mentoring, parent leadership development, and early childhood education opportunities. We recognize that this holistic approach to education is critical to achieving our BPNN Education Committee’s bold goal of increasing the percentage of students in 3rd, 6th, 8th, and 9th grades at BPNN partner schools who end the year academically “on track.”

**Health:** Our BPNN Health Committee has set the bold goal of improving the physical health and emotional wellness of community residents by increasing access to and use of preventative health care services and mental health services. We work toward this bold goal by facilitating access to health promoting resources, including health education workshops, cooking demonstrations, exercise classes, resources for obtaining insurance coverage, and community-based mental health services. We challenge federal, state, and local policies that pose barriers to service access and that divest in public safety net and social welfare programs.
Public Safety: We work to keep youth engaged in school and prevent incidents of family and community violence in Brighton Park by providing a broad range of positive youth development opportunities, including leadership development, restorative justice case management, and street outreach and mentoring services. Our Safe Passage and Volunteer Parent Safety Patrol programs additionally play a critical role in providing safe routes for Brighton Park students as they are traveling to and from school, in order to increase attendance, decrease incidents of violence, and promote community solidarity. Furthermore, we recognize the importance of facilitating access to family-centered services in order to interrupt cycles of violence and trauma within families and communities. To this end, our BPNN partners provide a range of parent education and family support services, psychoeducational workshops to prevent abuse and promote healthy relationships, and counseling services for domestic violence survivors. In accordance with our full-service community school model, we utilize school-based settings to deliver psychoeducational content to both parents and school staff on strategies for supporting children and adolescents who have been impacted by trauma. These strategies collectively propel us toward our bold goal of decreasing violence and abuse (physical, verbal, emotional) in our families and neighborhood by 60%.
**Financial Stability:** We strive toward our bold goal of *increasing access to life-sustaining jobs and ensuring Brighton Park residents have the resources to build assets and reach financial stability.* To help our community thrive, we collaborate with our coalition partners to deliver a variety of services including financial coaching, housing counseling, free tax preparation, legal aid, and comprehensive case management for families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We also focus on connecting community members to job counseling and workforce development training programs to help individuals build their skills and acquire life-sustaining employment.

Community residents obtain warm winter clothing through a BPNN clothing drive. This annual clothing drive is part of our efforts to address the material resource needs of community residents and promote financial stability.
THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

The BPNN has established metrics aligned with our strategies in each area of focus, and we monitor data to gauge the effectiveness of our strategy implementation and progress towards reaching our overarching goals. Our work has demonstrated our collective impact in promoting academic success, improving physical and emotional wellness, facilitating access to opportunities to heal from trauma, and enhancing economic well-being.

Education

THE BRIGHTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK HAS PROMOTED POSITIVE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES AMONG BRIGHTON PARK STUDENTS.

Between 2015 and 2020, our after-school programs have played an instrumental role in supporting student success, with a yearly average of almost 64% demonstrating improved academic achievement.

We have expanded access to academic supports and enrichment opportunities through our after-school programming. Over the past five years, the BPNN has implemented after-school programs at seven Brighton Park neighborhood public schools, offering various activities that promote students’ academic, social, and emotional growth. We have served a yearly average of approximately 1,605 students through our after-school programs between 2015 and 2020. Qualitative data further indicate that our after-school programming plays an instrumental role in cultivating interpersonal connections, fostering school engagement, and promoting student exploration of newfound interests that can, in turn, inform their academic and extracurricular trajectories.

Our strategies have ultimately resulted in improved academic outcomes for Brighton Park students. Over the past five years, a yearly average of almost 64% of after-school program participants have demonstrated improved academic achievement. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated educational inequities, thus our strategies have become increasingly critical to ensuring that our students and families are connected with support to address holistic needs and promote positive academic outcomes.
Through our full-service community school model, we have connected students with the social-emotional supports that are necessary to promote academic success. From 2015-2020, we have served a yearly average of 244 students through our school-based clinical services, which include both mental health counseling and case management support. Housed at six Brighton Park neighborhood public schools, school-based counselors and clinical case managers provide individual, group, and family support to help students cope with mental health challenges and empower them with the tools they need to achieve their educational goals. Over the past five years in which we have implemented these social-emotional supports, on average, 86% of participants have accomplished at least one of their established treatment goals. Mayra’s story, listed below, demonstrates the impact of our school-based counseling services in promoting academic success.

Meet Mayra

Mayra, a Latina female, initiated school-based counseling services in February of 2019 when she was a junior in high school. She was grieving the loss of her mother who had died of cancer the previous month, and counseling services became a critical support throughout her grieving process. Mayra is an only child, and she felt an absence of emotional support from her father. At the time that Mayra sought the support of her school-based counselor, her grades had dropped and she felt that she was unable to grieve due to the relational conflict that she was experiencing with her father. The school-based counselor provided a safe space where Mayra could express emotions that she was unable to express in other settings. As a result of her participation in services, Mayra was able to process her grief and stand up to her father after identifying that he was creating a stressful and toxic living environment. The school-based counselor additionally connected Mayra with other supportive services through Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, including a youth leadership program and college readiness services. Mayra graduated from high school in June of 2020 and received a full scholarship to an out-of-state university. Her school-based counselor attended her graduation ceremony and celebrated this monumental achievement with her. Mayra is currently living...
independently, working part-time, and attending classes virtually at the out-of-state university. She has repeatedly told her school-based counselor that she believes her counselor’s emotional support was critical to her success in achieving her educational goals. Because of the formative role that Brighton Park Neighborhood Council has played in Mayra’s personal and professional trajectory, she aims to return to Brighton Park after she graduates from college to serve her community.

**Health**

OUR COALITION HAS INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH PROMOTING RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AMONG UNDERSERVED BRIGHTON PARK RESIDENTS.

*Between 2015 and 2019, the number of participants at our in-person psychoeducational health workshops has steadily increased, thus ensuring community members have access to the information they need to promote a healthy lifestyle.*
We have increased access to health promoting resources and opportunities among underserved community members. Our BPNN partners have facilitated access to information that promotes a healthy lifestyle and connected community members to healthcare and mental health resources. The immigrant community members we serve face barriers to accessing services due to their immigration status and lack of insurance coverage. Our efforts play a critical role in addressing these barriers and ensuring that traditionally underserved population can access the necessary resources to attain optimal well-being. Between 2015 and 2019, we had a yearly average of approximately 560 community members participate in psychoeducational health workshops on a variety of topics including nutrition, physical activity, emotional well-being, and strategies for preventing and managing chronic health conditions. BPNN partners additionally supported a yearly average of almost 500 (489) community members in enrolling in insurance coverage, thus increasing access to preventative healthcare resources. Lastly, through our partnership with Saint Anthony Hospital’s Community Wellness Program that began in October of 2017, the BPNN has facilitated access to free, long-term mental health services for a yearly average of almost 100 uninsured adults.

Our strategies have been instrumental in promoting the physical and emotional wellness of Brighton Park residents. Data indicate that our collective efforts to facilitate access to health promoting resources have ultimately improved health outcomes among community residents. In an annual community survey on the physical and emotional health of adults in Brighton Park, we have observed an upward trend in the percentage of survey respondents rating their overall health as good, very good, or excellent between 2017 and 2019. Furthermore, despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost two-thirds of survey respondents reported their health to be good, very good, or excellent in the year 2020. Lastly, two-thirds of mental health program participants at Saint Anthony Hospital’s Community Wellness Program reported a decrease in symptoms over the past two years. Recognizing the physical and emotional consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic within our community, our coalition plays a critical role in ensuring that Brighton Park residents have access to supportive resources necessary to maintain their well-being in the midst of this global health crisis.

BPNN Health Partners:
ACCESS Community Health
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Centro Sanar at The Port Ministries
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC)
Cook County Health and Hospitals System
Esperanza Health Centers
Gads Hill Center
Midwest Asian Health Association
Riveredge Hospital
Saint Anthony Hospital
Sinai Chicago
UIC Davis Health & Wellness Center
UIC OCEAN-HP

3 Please note that we do not include data from 2020 in this yearly average due to the shift to virtual service delivery following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of virtual workshop attendees was considerably higher in comparison to attendance at in-person workshops.
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s Promotoras de Salud (Parent Health Promoters) speaking with community members at an outdoor, socially distanced health fair. Our BPNN partners, led by our Promotoras de Salud, coordinated a series of mini health fairs in the summer of 2020 to ensure that Brighton Park residents continued to have access to health promoting resources.

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<td>Percent of Mental Health Program Participants Demonstrating Decreased Symptoms</td>
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<td>Percent of Community Members Rating Their Health as Good, Very Good, or Excellent</td>
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* Please note that health workshops were delivered virtually following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. The number of workshop attendees thus reflects both the number of individuals who tuned in live and the number of individuals who clicked on the links to view the workshops after they were posted on Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s Facebook page.
**Meet Josephine**

Josephine, a Latina in her mid-twenties, initiated mental health services through Saint Anthony Hospital’s Community Wellness Program in August of 2020. Josephine originally initiated mental health services for support in coping with anxiety symptoms. Josephine was unable to finish high school when she was younger due to the intensity of her anxiety symptoms. She decided to re-enroll in school at the time that she originally initiated therapy services. In speaking with her mental health therapist, she disclosed that she blamed herself for her academic struggles and had doubts about her ability to earn her high school degree. Throughout the course of her therapy and through additional support services at a local non-profit agency, Josephine was able to reframe her understanding of her mental health symptoms and challenge her feelings of self-blame. Through the therapeutic process, Josephine was able to identify coping skills to help her manage her symptoms and practices these skills on a daily basis. Josephine learned to successfully manage her mental health symptoms, and, in turn, she has increased self-esteem and an enhanced sense of empowerment to earn her high school degree. Josephine is on track to earn her high school degree in 2021, and she has become a strong advocate in her school setting for students who face mental health challenges. In reflecting on all that she has accomplished, Josephine reports that her trusting and supportive relationship with her mental health therapist and other mental health providers has played an instrumental role in her healing journey. Through the support she received, Josephine now recognizes that she is not defined by her mental health symptoms and continues confidently toward her academic goals.

**Public Safety**

OUR PARTNERS HAVE ENSURED THAT POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN BRIGHTON PARK.

*Between 2015 and 2020, we have helped 75-80 youth each year to advance their career goals through participation in our summer employment programming. Youth engagement in this programming is reflected in the high successful completion rate of almost 92%.*

We have connected young people in Brighton Park with positive development opportunities. Supporting young people in advancing their personal, educational, and career goals is an important component of our coalition’s violence prevention work. As such, over the past five years, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council has implemented a summer youth employment program to connect Brighton Park youth with paid employment opportunities and career readiness and leadership development programming. Between 70-75 youth have participated in summer employment programming each year. Qualitative data further indicate that program participation creates meaningful and enriching employment opportunities, provides vital resources to promote educational success, and offers valuable opportunities to network and be engaged with various community institutions to inspire positive future goals. Additionally, our coalition has facilitated access to positive
youth development opportunities in 2020 by expanding street outreach and mentoring services to gang-affected youth in Brighton Park. Through our partnership with New Life Centers of Chicagoland, our coalition has provided mentoring and group intervention services to a total of 34 gang-affected youth in 2020.

We have increased access to supportive services that promote healing from violence. Our coalition has leveraged our established partnerships to connect domestic violence survivors with supportive counseling services at accessible, community-based locations in Brighton Park. Since 2018, we have partnered with Heartland Human Care Violence Recovery Services to provide free, bilingual English and Spanish domestic violence counseling services to Brighton Park residents. We have expanded this capacity even further since 2019 through the services of our community partner Mujeres Latinas en Acción, who provides free, culturally and linguistically responsive services to Latina survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our partners have provided counseling support to a yearly average of almost 75 community residents, thus ensuring that individuals and families impacted by domestic violence have the opportunity to heal from traumatic experiences and to interrupt future cycles of violence within their families.

Our strategies have resulted in positive outcomes among Brighton Park residents impacted by family and community violence. Our coalition’s violence prevention efforts have yielded positive outcomes among the community members who participate in our supportive programming. Between 2015 and 2020, an average of almost 92% of summer youth employment participants successfully completed their employment tenure. Furthermore, of the gang-affected youth who took part in supportive services, 75% demonstrated a reduction in risk factors or an increase in protective factors, according to the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument. Lastly, we have seen the percentage of domestic violence counseling participants who have successfully achieved at least one of their counseling goals increase from almost one third to almost one half from 2019 to 2020. These data indicate that Brighton Park residents are receiving the support that they need to heal from past experiences of trauma and pursue personal and professional goals that will further interrupt cycles of violence.

Served 34 gang-affected youth through mentoring and group support in 2020
75% of youth participants had a reduction in risk factors or increase in protective factors

BPNN Public Safety Partners:
9th District Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Centro Sanar at The Port Ministries
Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
Chicago Police Department
Heartland Human Care Services
Mujeres Latinas en Acción
New Life Centers of Chicagoland
Saint Anthony Hospital
Meet Ryan

Ryan, a 16-year-old male, began consistently attending programming through New Life Centers in March of 2020. New Life Centers offers a range of supportive programs, including street outreach, mentoring services, group interventions, and sports-based development opportunities for youth who have a history of gang involvement and who are disconnected from school and employment opportunities.

After the implementation of Governor Pritzker’s “stay at home” order following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Life Centers’ street outreach workers began exploring innovative strategies to keep youth safe in their homes and engage with them remotely. As one of these strategies, New Life Centers’ street outreach worker began hosting remote Play Station live events. These events offered an opportunity for youth to engage in conversation and socialization activities with their peers and New Life Centers staff while playing video games. The street outreach worker sent food to youth’s homes at the conclusion of the events. While Ryan was consistently present at these virtual events, he was hesitant to speak and had limited interaction with other youth and staff members. His street outreach worker noted a shift, however, when in-person activities resumed. Ryan informed his outreach worker that he would like to go back to school and explore employment opportunities. His outreach worker immediately assisted him with obtaining his state identification and enrolling in school. Furthermore, Ryan began participating in an employment program in the fall, where his outreach worker noted that he was motivated and hard working. Ryan has begun to express himself openly with his outreach worker, sharing both his personal struggles and his goals for the future. Ryan’s progress toward his established goals speaks to the impact of New Life Centers’ relationally focused and strengths-based approach to their work. Not only did Ryan’s outreach worker give him the time and the space that he needed to develop a trusting relationship, but he also believed in him and his abilities. Ryan’s story is thus a testament to what is possible when we embrace and celebrate the inherent strengths of our youth.
Financial Stability

We have connected families with supportive resources to help them overcome economic crises and build their financial assets. Our BPNN partners have delivered a range of services in the areas of case management, financial coaching, housing counseling, and free tax preparation to help Brighton Park families address their financial needs. Among these services is Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s Success and Stability Program, which has provided comprehensive case management support to a yearly average of 131 Brighton Park residents who were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Recognizing the critical need to facilitate pathways to life sustaining employment opportunities within our community, our coalition obtained funding for BPNN partner PODER to provide employment services in Brighton Park. In 2020, PODER’s employment specialist served 129 individuals, offering career coaching, resume building, interview preparation, and connection to workforce development training programs and part-time and full-time employment opportunities.

In addition to providing this range of services, our coalition also rallied to address the dire economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic among Brighton Park families. In the wake of this global health crisis, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council surveyed close to 900 community residents to better understand how they were being affected by COVID-19. After learning that over half (58.2%) of surveyed individuals had lost their jobs or had their work hours reduced, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council raised private donation and grant funds to distribute emergency financial assistance to affected families. Since April 2020, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council has distributed nearly $2 million in direct cash assistance, food assistance, rental and mortgage assistance, and utility assistance to over 850 families, thus offering a critical source of support during a time of immense financial stress and uncertainty.
Our strategies have played a vital role in enhancing the economic well-being of Brighton Park residents. Data point to the success of our collective efforts in promoting positive economic outcomes among the community residents we serve through our range of programming. Between 2018 and 2020, a yearly average of 96.7% of Success and Stability Program participants obtained safe and stable housing following their participation in the program. Furthermore, in the first year that we have offered employment support services to Brighton Park residents, we have facilitated access to workforce development programs that allow individuals to develop the necessary skills to acquire life-sustaining employment. Of the 36 job counseling participants who enrolled in a workforce development program, more than half (52.8%) successfully completed the program. Our coalition thus plays a vital role in ensuring that Brighton Park families have the necessary resources and supports not just to manage financial crises, but also to attain enhanced economic well-being.

790 homeless families received comprehensive case management services from 2015-2020. 96.7% obtained safe and stable housing

470 youth employed via the One Summer Chicago program from 2015-2020, 92% successfully completed the program

129 residents participated in Job Coaching in 2020. 39 obtained jobs and 36 enrolled in a workforce development program.

$2 million distributed to 850 families through COVID-19 emergency assistance efforts

BPNN partners distribute food to families whose financial situation was negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our coalition’s efforts to connect families with emergency financial and food assistance have been critical during this time of immense financial stress.
Meet Daisy

Daisy first became acquainted with Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s Success and Stability Program (SSP) in October of 2019. After testifying against a police officer in her home country of Mexico, she and her four children fled to the United States because she feared for their lives. They were held in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention center before settling in Chicago.

At the time that Daisy met her case manager, she and her family had just been released from the detention center and were staying with a friend. Staff at her children’s elementary school connected her with the case manager for support with obtaining an apartment. In addition to assisting the family with finding an apartment, the case manager also connected Daisy and her children with a myriad of resources to address their financial, social, and emotional needs. To begin, the case manager connected Daisy with an employment support counselor at BPNN partner organization PODER, who assisted her in seeking employment. Recognizing that Daisy’s children were feeling the traumatic impact of being held at the detention center and were exhibiting behavioral challenges, the case manager additionally connected Daisy with parenting support through BPNN partner Saint Anthony Hospital. Furthermore, the children were connected with Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s school-based counselor, who initiated a support group for students who had recently migrated to the United States.

One of the ongoing challenges that Daisy encountered was identifying a free or low-cost legal provider that could support her in applying for asylum. After multiple phone calls to legal organizations and hours of research, the case manager came across a resource in a BPNN newsletter that ultimately her complete the asylum application. Daisy is still awaiting notification on the status of her application, and in the interim she and her case manager have begun preparing for the next phases of the asylum process. The case manager has also provided ongoing accompaniment support to help Daisy and her family address the challenges that they have encountered in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Daisy lost the full-time job that she had previously obtained as a factory worker following the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, and although she found another job, her work hours were reduced. Her case manager helped her to apply for a P-EBT card to obtain food for her family and help her maintain financial stability in the midst of the pandemic. Daisy has established a close personal connection with her case manager and is profoundly appreciative of the emotional support and ongoing accompaniment that her case manager has provided throughout their work together. She knows that she can reach out to her case manager with any needs that arise and feels a strong sense of social support as a result of the connections she has established with Brighton Park Neighborhood Council and BPNN partner organizations. Daisy’s story is a testament to the power of collaborative partnerships in ensuring that families are connected to the wraparound services necessary to promote holistic well-being.

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in supporting our work, please contact Sara Reschly, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council’s Director of Community Partnerships, at sreschly@bpcnchicago.org. Together, we can continue to fulfill our mission to create a safe and thriving neighborhood for all.
Our BPNN Partners

1. 9th District Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS)
2. Access Community Health
3. After School Matters
4. Brighton Park Elementary
5. Brighton Park Library
6. Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
7. Burroughs Elementary School
8. Cease Fire - Cure Violence
9. Centro Sanar at The Port Ministries
10. Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
11. Chicago Police Department
12. Columbia Explorers Academy
13. Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC)
14. Cook County Health and Hospitals System
15. CPS Network 8
16. Davis Elementary School
17. Esperanza Health Centers
18. Gads Hill Center
19. Greater Chicago Food Depository
20. Gunsaulus Scholastic Academy
21. Heartland Human Care Services
22. Kelly Park - Chicago Park District
23. Ladder Up
24. Metropolitan Family Services
25. Midwest Asian Health Association
26. Mujeres Latinas en Acción
27. New Life Centers of Chicagoland
28. Parents/ Community Members
29. PODER
30. Riveredge Hospital
31. Saint Anthony Hospital
32. Shields Elementary School
33. Shields Middle School
34. Sinai Chicago
35. Students
36. The Center for Independence through Conductive Education
37. Thomas Kelly College Preparatory
38. Thrive Chicago
39. UIC Davis Health & Wellness Center
40. UIC OCEAN-HP
41. United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
42. Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya
43. State Senator Celina Villanueva
44. State Representative Theresa Mah
45. State Representative Aaron Ortiz
46. State Representative Edgar Gonzalez