

How can the Chicago region strengthen operations to sustainably support influxes of asylum seekers?

Civic Consulting Alliance recently completed several collaborative projects with local and state governments to meet the urgent needs of asylum seekers, and prepare long-term, sustainable strategies for future influxes of new arrivals to Chicago.

Clients featured below include Chicago Public Schools (CPS), Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and the Johnson transition team.

Read on to learn how we supported government response to meet immediate needs and long-term planning for asylum seekers.

[Read More](#)

“Civic Consulting Alliance’s partnership gave us strategies that we can utilize in the future to meet the needs of families with school-aged children coming to Chicago.”

— Pedro Martinez, CEO, Chicago Public Schools

What we're reading





Chicago is getting noticed at the federal level for its efforts to rapidly expand the network of Community Violence Intervention (CVI) programs.

Civic Consulting Alliance has supported the growth of CVI among multiple clients, including the **Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities (PSPC)**. Members of PSPC were recently invited to a meeting with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and other stakeholders to discuss CVI.

The recent Sun-Times article, "[Justice Department officials take interest in, praise Chicago anti-violence programs](#)" explains why the DOJ's plan to invest \$100 million for anti-violence programs will be modeled in part on the programs that cover Chicago's most violent neighborhoods.

The **Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago** has announced an ambitious goal to make Chicago the safest big city in America.

We're proud to support the design, launch, and initial phases of work for the Civic Committee's new Public Safety Task Force, a coordinated effort that aligns the business community, public sector, and social impact organizations with shared plans, goals, and metrics to sustainably reduce violence.

The recent Chicago Tribune editorial, "[Curbing violent crime is an all-hands-on-deck task. That must include corporate Chicago](#)" is complimentary of the initiative, stating, "There's good reason to feel optimistic about the Civic Committee's new mission. To begin with, the group's game plan makes sense."

Many thanks to our partners at **BCG** and **Lantern Partners** for their work on the Task Force.

Client & Partner Updates

Apply for the annual Chicago Innovation Awards!

For the 22nd annual year, the Chicago Innovation Awards will celebrate the most innovative new products and services introduced in the Chicago region. Nominees can cut across all industries, from large corporations to new start-ups, for-profit and non-profit, public and private sector, high tech and low tech. The key is innovation.

Nominations are free and [submissions are open](#) through July 31, 2023.



Share your environmental priorities with Chicago's Office of Environmental Equity

Chicago's Office of Climate and Environmental Equity (OCEE) is conducting external outreach to gain feedback as part of an environmental governance study and wants to hear from YOU. [This public survey](#) will help the City gain insights into how to best organize Chicago's environmental functions and operations.

The survey is open from June 12- July 2, 2023, and offered in 5 languages: English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, and Chinese.

Last year only 37 of 77 outdoor pools were open. This summer, all pools are on track to provide youth with positive spaces to play!

Earlier this year, Chicago Park District reached out to Civic Consulting Alliance for advice and thought partnership to organize a cross-departmental effort to ensure they meet their goal to open all pools.

The coaching we provided builds off an organizational assessment that was completed with our *pro bono* partner **West Monroe**, which identified a roadmap of initiatives that advance cultural change within the Aquatics Division.

Congratulations to the Chicago Park District on this milestone!



All Chicago Pools On Track To Reopen June 23 After Lifeguard Hiring Surge, Parks Officials Say

Help spread the word about Civic Consulting Alliance by [resharing our post about this project on LinkedIn](#).

Fellowship spotlights: Chris Johnson



What will you take away from your time at Civic Consulting Alliance?

My experience at Civic Consulting Alliance helped me discover the power of partnership between the for-profit, public, and non-profit sectors. When entities from these three groups actively collaborate, they achieve deep impact. Civic Consulting Alliance is uniquely positioned to drive this type of collaboration, and my fellowship experience has motivated me to be an agent of cross-sector partnership as I progress in my career.

What was your most memorable experience during your time at Civic Consulting Alliance?

My team had the opportunity to attend a convening of Chicago violence prevention stakeholders, many of whom are past or current clients of Civic Consulting Alliance. It was deeply inspiring to see representatives from the Mayor's Office, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Police Department, community-based street outreach organizations, and hospitals demonstrate their shared commitment to collaborative public safety.

How has your time at Civic Consulting Alliance helped you develop professionally?

Beyond allowing me to develop a deep understanding of Chicago's public safety ecosystem, working at Civic Consulting Alliance sharpened my workstream management and

Chris joined us as a Fellow to support a project that will guide the coordinated violence prevention relationship between Chicago Police Department and Community Violence Intervention (CVI) organizations.

"My experience at Civic Consulting Alliance helped me discover the power of partnership between the for-profit, public, and non-profit sectors."

client relationship skills. As a workstream lead, I had consistent opportunities to own analyses, develop discussion materials, and facilitate conversations with clients. The staff members are immensely talented and supportive, and a culture of shared professional development pervades the organization. I am deeply grateful to my teammates, Meredith, Anna, and Helena for the expert guidance they provided over the course of my experience!

Civic Consulting Alliance Fellowships are full-time positions that typically last between three months and a year. Fellows are integrated into project teams for a unique professional development opportunity. Please visit our [Fellowships](#) page to learn more about our range of fellowship opportunities.

Thank you to our funders!

Civic Consulting Alliance is grateful for the critical support of all of our funders. Since our last newsletter, we were thrilled to receive philanthropic commitments from the following corporations and foundations:



General operating support to advance Civic Consulting Alliance's mission.



General operating support to advance Civic Consulting Alliance's mission.



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The Searle Funds at the
Chicago Community Trust

General operating support to advance our work on Chicago's Mayoral Transition and to strengthen the City of Chicago and Cook County's internal capacity to implement initiatives for an equitable recovery, place-based investments, and community safety.



General operating support to advance Civic Consulting Alliance's mission.



PRITZKER PUCKER
FAMILY FOUNDATION

To support planning and execution of Chicago's
Mayoral Transition.

General operating support to advance Civic
Consulting Alliance's mission



General operating funders

Civic Consulting Alliance is grateful to our general operating funders, whose support empowers us to maintain our flexible and responsive capacity to get big things done.

Anonymous



Questions? Comments? Contact [Nikki Way](#)



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