



2021-2022 Policy Agenda Principles

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) will focus on policy recommendations supported by the following principles and were prioritized by members of the SCY collaborative.

- Developmental approach that recognizes how violence emerges over the life course and the impact of trauma on development.
- Ecological approach that violence and its solutions occur at the individual, family, community, and societal levels.
- Recognition of the intersection of many forms of violence, including child maltreatment, teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, community violence, and bullying.
- Knowledge that each child, family, and community is unique.
- Recognition that it is better to keep a child or family from being exposed to all forms of violence than to treat the effects of exposure.
- Strength-based approach that focuses on development of assets and skills over remedy of deficits.
- Acknowledge that violence prevention requires involvement from many different disciplines.
- Use of data, data visualization, and mapping to monitor emerging health and safety issues, develop evidence-based policies, and implement ongoing evaluation of violence prevention interventions.
- Enhancing infrastructures, building capacity, sustainability, implementation, and funding.
- Participation of the people and organizations most affected by the policy in its development.
- Acknowledge that violence cannot be addressed without addressing race, segregation, gender, sexual orientation, and poverty.
- Basis in social justice, ensuring that potential negative effects of policies should not be borne disproportionately by already oppressed populations.

2021-2022 Policy Agenda Recommendations

1. Adopt and implement evidence-based, trauma-informed, culturally competent and gender responsive gun violence prevention policies that reduce access to illegal firearms and keep our communities safe.
2. Decrease detention and incarceration, ban pre-trial detention, minimize arrests, and reinvest savings into community-based resources, alternatives to detention, prevention, and early intervention.
3. Support publicly funded organizations with youth programming, including schools, to require professional development training for all staff on the effects of all forms of violence and trauma on children and youth.
4. Reduce use of disciplinary practices that remove children from school in Chicago Public Schools and promote restorative justice practices that promote racial equity and foster supportive school climates.
5. Support policies in education, law enforcement, and the legal system that promote evidence-informed and community-driven interventions, reflect evidence regarding brain development, combat systemic racism, and address the impact of trauma on individuals and communities.
6. Encourage investment in programmatic, organizational, and fiscal capacity building for community-based organizations in high-need areas most affected by systemic racism and the COVID-19 pandemic to deliver quality programs for youth and families.
7. Promote economic and community development that prioritizes employment, education, and affordable housing, to create neighborhoods that are vital, livable, and safe.
8. Implement sustainable funding mechanisms for school-based, community-based, and faith-based mental health and substance use services, including health promotion, standardized screening, connection to comprehensive services, and outcome tracking.
9. Urgently adopt policies to respond to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color, including ensuring transparent and equitable government investment in communities suffering from concentrated disadvantage before the onset of the pandemic.