UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK INITIATIVE

SOUTH CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK



OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The South Chicago Neighborhood Network is currently comprised of 20 community groups that include local block club members, nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, and higher education institutions. United Way partners with Claretian Associates, a faith-based community development organization, as the backbone organization for the Network.

South Chicago is one of Chicago's 16 lakefront neighborhoods. Located 10 miles south of downtown, the burgeoning neighborhood was established during the 1893 World's Fair as many immigrants were drawn to Chicago, the fastest growing city in America. The neighborhood's population grew as residents found work in the plants along the Calumet River, most notably the South Works of North Chicago Rolling Mill Company. The U.S. Steel Corporation acquired South Works in 1901 and provided steel for many high-profile construction projects, including the Willis (Sears) Tower. The plant was shuttered in 1992. However, the City of Chicago and community organizations are championing ambitious redevelopment plans, including the Illinois Quantum and Microelectronics Park.

LEAD AGENCY

Claretian Associates

COMMUNITY VISION

Reinvent South Chicago to become a community of choice by creating a secure, healthy, and strong community where neighbors know one another and have a shared commitment to the future

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN SOUTH CHICAGO



- Food
- Housing Assistance
- Individual Health and Wellness

RESPONDING TO IMMEDIATE BASIC NEEDS OF South Chicago Residents

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD SYSTEMS STRONGER IN South Chicago



- Affordable Housing
- Public/ Green Space
- Safety

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK IN ACTION

The South Chicago Neighborhood Network (SCNN) advances the goals of the **South Chicago Quality of Life Plan (QLP)** through advocacy, collaboration, education, and resident leadership. The Network works to improve quality of life while ensuring community voices guide neighborhood development and investment.

Following the completion of the QLP in January 2026, SCNN shifted its focus to implementation, bringing together residents, organizations, schools, healthcare providers, businesses, and public leaders to advance priorities across seven pillars:



Health

- Expand access to health care information, screenings, wellness education, mental health resources, and trauma-informed support.
- Strengthen partnerships with health care providers and community organizations, including establishing an accessible neighborhood clinic at the Salud Center.

Education

- Deepen collaboration among schools, parents, students, and education partners.
- Advance educational equity, strengthen parent and student voice, connect schools with community resources, and create more opportunities for joint action.

Safety

- Address gun violence, trauma, healing, and neighborhood safety through coordinated community partnerships.
- Create safer, more connected neighborhoods by activating community spaces through youth programs, arts, recreation, public events, and positive engagement.

Housing

- Increase awareness of housing programs, homeownership opportunities, tenant resources, financial assistance, and related services.
- Use housing fairs and partnerships to connect residents directly with information and providers that support housing stability.

Economic Development

- Build the capacity of residents, entrepreneurs, organizations, and neighborhood leaders through grant-writing education, financial literacy, resource sharing, and funding connections.
- Support local businesses and commercial corridors while connecting residents with employment, entrepreneurship, and collaborative investment opportunities.

Arts & Culture

- Celebrate South Chicago's history and identity through public art, cultural events, community storytelling, and neighborhood activation.

Environment & Infrastructure

- Address vacant land, transportation accessibility, public spaces, parks, tree planting, and neighborhood beautification.



Today, SCNN serves as a community-driven framework for implementing the Quality of Life Plan, building partnerships, developing local leadership, and leveraging resources to create sustainable neighborhood improvements. Guided by its vision of "Honoring our past, healing our present, and building our future," SCNN continues to transform resident priorities into measurable action.

JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like South Chicago stronger. Direct your United Way gift to **"Neighborhood Networks"** to be a part of this critical strategy. Learn more at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks**

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