



July 15, 2022

Upcoming Events

Plant Drop & Swap

- Saturday, 7/16 from 11am to 3pm
- Location: The Plant Chicago
- Address: 4459 South Marshfield Avenue Chicago, IL 60609
- Register for free [here](#):

COVID-19 Vaccination Event with CDPH

- Monday, July 18th from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Location: MAHA
- Address: 230 W. Cermak Rd 2nd Fl Chicago, IL 60616
- Pfizer vaccine
- Who: 6 months and up
- **Registration required:** call 312-225-8659

ArtSeed Pop-Up

- Tuesday, 7/19 from 1pm to 3pm
- Location: Semillas de Justicia Gardens
- Address: 2727 S. Troy St., Chicago IL 60623

BPNC Summer Playstreets

- Friday, July 22nd
- Location: Shields Middle School
- Address: 2611 W 48th St, Chicago, IL 60632
- Events all summer long, [more info here!](#)

Community Health Screening

- Saturday 7/30 @ 8:00am
- Location: MAHA Chinatown Office
- Address: 230 W. Cermak Rd 2nd Fl Chicago, IL 60616

Chinatown Summer Fair

- Saturday (12pm-10pm) & Sunday (10am-7pm), July 30th-31st



COVID-19 Health Disparities Federal Funding Unspent

States Have Yet to Spend Hundreds of Millions of Federal Dollars to Tackle COVID Health Disparities

[Read more](#)
khn.org

Biden's administration invested \$2.25 billion specifically to help U.S. states target COVID-19 health disparities in early 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the need for targeted funding for disparities, as racial and ethnic minorities faced the brunt of COVID-19 with the highest rates of hospitalizations and deaths due to the virus.

While this is beneficial to vulnerable minorities, states have only used small portions of their funding. Illinois Department of Public Health received \$28.9 million, but has only managed to spend \$138,000. Many other states have spent less than 20% of their funding. This lack of use of funding has been used by Republicans against Democrats to oppose increased pandemic funding.

Public health departments cite various reasons for not using their funding, such as: state's long budget process, needing more staff, needing time to develop relationships with non-profits to set up programs. Some also claim to already be using other federal dollars to resolve COVID-19 disparities.

- Location: Chinatown
- Address: Wentworth Avenue & Cermak Road, Chicago, IL 60616
- More information [here!](#)

Contact info@maha-us.org if you would like more info on any event!



However, this lack of spending of their allocated funding, emphasizes the years of neglect of state public health departments, as they were not prepared to receive such large funding. For years, public health systems have been understaffed and over-burdened. These public health systems lack the infrastructure to be able to use their funding, a result of governmental neglect.

MAHA's Asian Health Equity Alliance was recently created in May 2021 with CDC funding to work on developing programs targeting health disparities and working towards health equity and justice. Specifically, AHEA is working on increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates among minorities in areas with low vaccination rates through coalition-building, community outreach, and culturally-sensitive education.

Summer Youth Program

MAHA's summer youth program for participants ages 11 - 16 is a 6 week program where youth will learn new skills from arts and craftsmanship. We also provide various workshops relating to mental health, substance use prevention, oral hygiene, civic engagement, money management and provide community services opportunities for youth participants. Registration is currently closed, but keep an eye for future youth programs!



Navigator Q&A:

Do you know about the changes to HBIA & HBIS?

Expansion of Health Coverage for Immigrant Adults in IL

Healthy Illinois Campaign and members of the Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus celebrate the inclusion of the Healthy Illinois For All bill in the Medicaid Omnibus.

MAHA Navigator Program Workshop: HBIS & HBIA

If you or a loved one can get covered under this program or you would like to know more, please contact [Kelley Mui](#) or [Andrew Piotrowski](#), or call us at **312-225-8659**

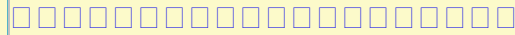
MAHA offers enrollment services in **English, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish.**

MAHA's Navigator Program held an

Effective July 1, changes to **Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (HBIA)** and **Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (HBIS)** are expanding eligibility.

Any immigrant in Illinois ages 42+ who are ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status can apply for coverage under the HBIA & HBIS programs. Qualified applicants must meet the following conditions:

- not a U.S. Citizen
- non-citizen status that does not meet the criteria for Medicaid
- resident of the State of Illinois
- income is at or below 138% FPL (\$18,754 individual income)



MAHA Employee Profile: Meet Alice!

As one of our newest staff members, Alice joins MAHA as Client Services/Events Coordinator! She has a passion for helping others, and is eager to assist the Navigator team in identifying people in need of application assistance for programs such as Medicaid, SNAP, and the ACA Marketplace.

Alice grew up in Northeastern China, in the city of Shenyang. She moved to Chicago in 2016, and currently resides here with her husband and 2 daughters.

Prior to working with MAHA, Alice worked with elementary schools on behalf of CPS, as well as a Coordinator with Project Vision. In her free time, she likes to watch movies. She particularly enjoys cartoons, romance, and comedy movies. She's occasionally in the mood for a good horror movie, as long as it's not too bloody!



Midwest Asian Health Association
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