



October 5, 2022

Upcoming Events

COVID-19 & Flu Vaccination Event with CDPH (hosted by MAHA)

- Friday, October 21st from 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Location: MAHA Office
- Address: 230 W Cermak Rd.
- Who: 6 months and above
- **Registration required:** call 312-225-8659

Community Health Screening (hosted by MAHA)

- Saturday, October 29th @ 8:00 am-11:00 am
- Location: MAHA Chinatown Office
- Address: 230 W. Cermak Rd
2nd Fl Chicago, IL 60616

Sugar Skull Art (hosted by McKinley Park Public Library)

- Thursday, October 6th @ 4pm-4:45pm
- Location: McKinley Park Public Library
- Address: 1915 W. 35th St.

Yoga in the Garden (hosted by McKinley Park Community Garden)

- Every Saturday at 1pm (weather permitting)
- Location: McKinley Park Community Garden
- Address: 3844 S. Damen Ave
- Pay what you can!
- Bilingual (English & Spanish)

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



Poverty and uninsured rates drop thanks to pandemic policies

The Census Bureau released some heartening news Tuesday. Child poverty is at a historic low, according to the bureau's annual report on income, poverty and health insurance.

[Read more
www.npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

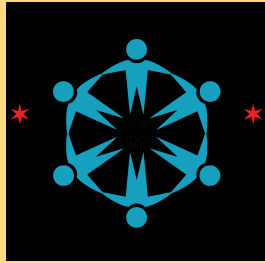
Along with poorer health outcomes, the U.S. has one of the highest rates of people without health insurance in the world. However, improvements were made during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the United States Census Bureau, childhood poverty and general poverty experienced decreases during the COVID-19 pandemic. Childhood poverty decreased from 9.7% to 5.2% in 2021. Overall poverty rate decreased from 9.2% to just under 8%. Experts believe that these accomplishments are a result pandemic measures related to the child tax credit (expanded in the 2021 American Rescue Plan) and Medicaid.

This extra income allowed families to spend on essentials and in some cases, extracurriculars

Join our McK-UDOS Youth Coalition!

We are a youth-led group focused on promoting positive mental health and preventing substance misuse in the McKinley Park area.



We meet monthly to plan our involvement in community events, support community events, discuss issues related to mental health and substance use in our community, and more!

Learn more [here](#) or email Carolina Rojas-Becerra at carorojasbec@maha-us.org

that allows these children to live healthier and perform better academically. As their basic needs were met, people were able to do more with their income than before.

However, once this public health emergency is declared over, the COVID relief bill will also end. This could mean that over 15 million people will lose Medicaid for a variety of reasons. These positive changes in poverty and insurance rates demonstrate the power and impact policies can have on people's well-being. However, it is up to our government to make these policies permanent or at least modify them so they continue to help people living in poverty and lacking health insurance.

Unfortunately, Biden administration's efforts to permanently expand the child tax credit failed to gain approval from Republican Senators. Therefore, while it is heartening to see positive change, push back against these policies might erase the progress made during the pandemic.

Special Announcement

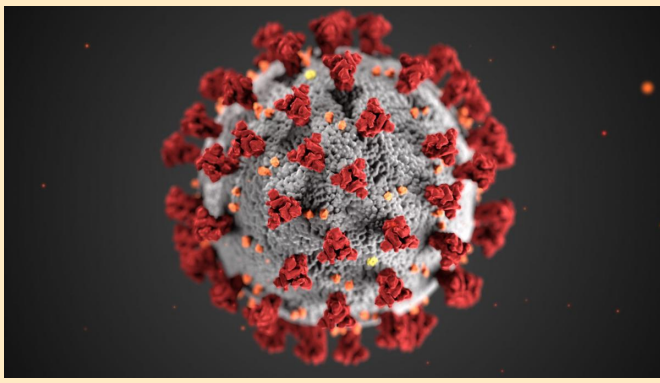
MAHA is pleased to announce that Dr. Airica Steed, President of Mount Sinai Children's Hospital and MAHA Board Member since 2020, has been named the new president and CEO of MetroHealth System in Cuyahoga County, OH. The change will take place effective January 1, 2023 as Dr. Steed will be replacing Dr. Akram



Boutros who announced his retirement at the end of last year. We are grateful for all the hard work that Dr. Steed has done for our city, and our organization. There is no doubt that Dr. Steed will continue to build upon her legacy with MetroHealth, and we wish her nothing but the best in these endeavors.

[Read more here!](#)

[Learn about our programs: Region 8 Immunization](#)



MAHA received funding from IDPH to implement a Covid-19 immunization, education and outreach program at its suburban office located (4360 E New York Street, Room #105, Aurora, IL 60504). The goal of the program is to address the specific and unique Covid-19 vaccination needs among the population disproportionately affected in the focused areas of Region 8, especially youths and parents, and to

increase access to COVID-19 vaccinations through education and outreach. Region 8 makes up parts of the west central suburban area (Aurora, Naperville, Elgin, Addison, and Bensenville). The program recently completed a community assessment survey which will be used to develop a strategic plan to guide the program implementation. The program has begun hosting vaccine clinics in the areas and is currently looking for additional opportunities to host educational events and additional vaccine clinics.

For more information about the program or Covid-19 immunization events, please contact 312-225-8659 (in English) or 312-225-6806 (in Chinese).

Navigator Q&A: Open Enrollment

As the month of October closes out, another Open Enrollment Period for the healthcare MarketPlace opens. MAHA is dedicated to serving all its clients, not only by providing assistance during the application but also by providing post-enrollment services. Unlike traditional insurance agents and brokers, MAHA's goal is to holistically improve their clients wellbeing by providing assistance with a number of post-enrollment needs, such as finding a doctor, scheduling appointments, or translating/explaining important notices.



美亚健康协会
Midwest Asian Health Association

Do you or your loved ones need healthcare coverage?

We offer FREE enrollment assistance in Healthcare Marketplace (Obamacare) plans

our clients also receive FREE post-enrollment services, including:

- Finding a healthcare provider
- filing a claim
- Paying bills
- Translating paperwork
- FREE Hepatitis A + B screening at MAHA (\$200 value)



Our community health clinic is also available FREE to anyone who enrolls into a healthcare plan at MAHA during the Open Enrollment Period (November 1, 2022 - January 15, 2023).

For more information or help, call (312) 225-8659 for English or (312) 225-6806 for Chinese. Don't wait until it's too late! Click the button below to register to request an appointment with our navigator team.

[Register here!](#)

MAHA Employee Profile: Meet Melissa Wee!

Melissa was raised in Malaysia and moved to the US when she was 22 years old to attend college. She received her bachelor's in psychology from DePaul University. Through her internship at DePaul, she became more interested in counseling and decided to obtain her Master of Education in Community Counseling from DePaul University.

Melissa's experiences at her various internships allowed her to explore issues such as mental health stigma reduction, language accessibility in mental health and counseling services, counseling in diverse immigrant populations, family therapy intervention, and group counseling for underserved populations. Melissa started working at MAHA in 2016

and is currently our Mental Health Clinical Manager. She oversees our mental health clinic and works to provide guidance to our counselors and interns all while providing crisis intervention to clients. Melissa works to provide services for underserved and immigrant populations at MAHA, and through her fluency in Malay, Chinese, and English, she can reach a wide population of clients in need of her services. In her free time, Melissa enjoys baking, cooking, and spending time with her friends. She also enjoys spending time with her baby goddaughter.



Midwest Asian Health Association
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