

# GOOD FOOD PURCHASING INITIATIVE OF METRO CHICAGO

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## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

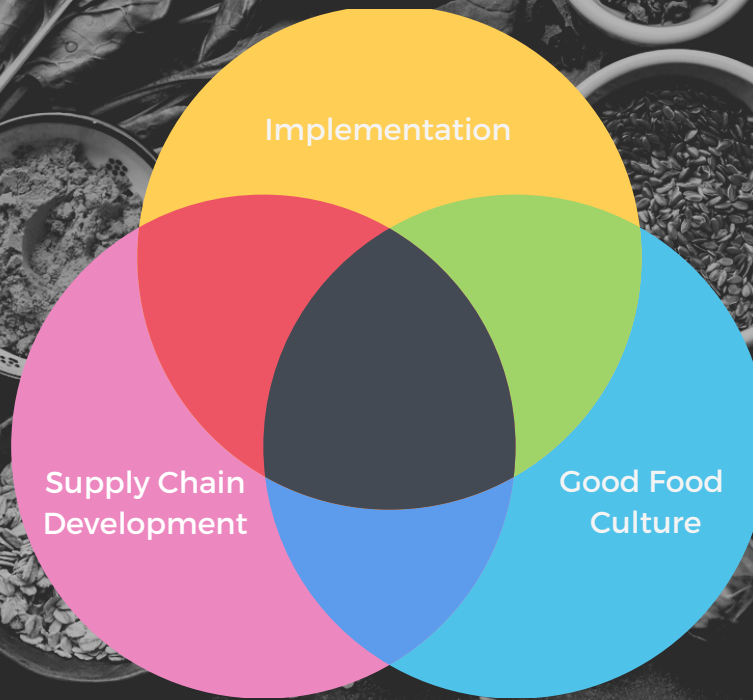


Cook County <sup>DEPT.</sup>  
of  
Public Health

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# GFPI OVERVIEW

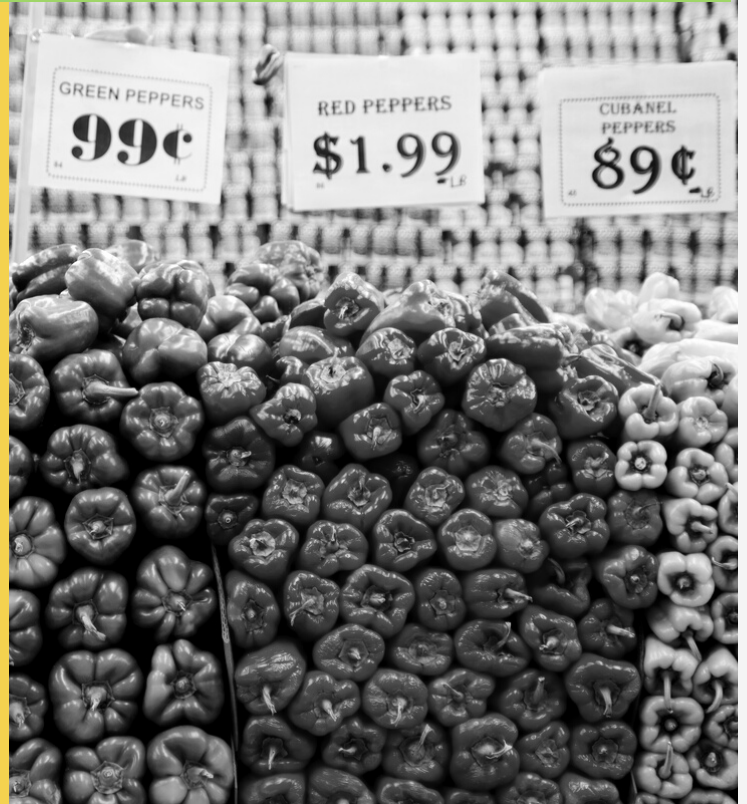


**LED** by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), and the Chicago Food Policy Action Council (CFPAC), the Good Food Purchasing Initiative of Metro Chicago (GFPI) works to ensure that institutional food purchasing advances an equitable, healthy, fair, local, humane, and sustainable food system while creating good food access for all. GFPI partners are working on:

- **Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) Implementation:**
  - Fully implementing the Good Food Purchasing Policy with the City of Chicago, its Sister Agencies, and Cook County Government
- **Supply Chain Development:**
  - Developing a racially & socially equitable regional food supply chain that can meet increasing institutional demand for good food
  - Supporting pathways for BIPOC food producers and food businesses to scale operations for sales to public and community-based meal programs, cafeterias, and concessions
- **Creating a Culture of Good Food in All Institutions:**
  - Normalizing values-based procurement across all community-based “anchor” institutions in the Chicago region, including hospitals, higher ed institutions, cultural institutions, senior living facilities, and others
  - Engaging both institutional food service staff and Chicagoans served by institutional meals in the Good Food Purchasing Initiative

## ABOUT GFPP

The City of Chicago and Cook County are implementing the Good Food Purchasing Program, which shifts institutional food purchasing dollars toward five core values, based on principles of equity, accountability, and transparency. The Center for Good Food Purchasing manages the nationally-networked adoption and implementation of the Program, and partners with local coalitions and institutions whose leadership ensures that the framework advances community-driven priorities.



- 01 LOCAL ECONOMIES**  
Strengthen regional food economies to create thriving good food businesses and living wage jobs
- 02 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**  
Reduce the environmental impacts of food production
- 03 VALUED WORKFORCE**  
Promote fair treatment for food system workers
- 04 ANIMAL WELFARE**  
Ensure the humane treatment of animals (and reduce overall meat consumption)
- 05 NUTRITION**  
Encourage healthy food procurement and preparation and a healthy food service environment

# IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCESS

The following local public departments and agencies are currently in the process of implementing GFPP:

- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Park District
- Chicago Department of Family & Support Services
- Chicago City Colleges
- Chicago Housing Authority
- Chicago Department of Aviation
- Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
- Chicago Department of Assets, Information & Services
- Chicago Department of Procurement Services
- Cook County Office of the Chief Procurement Officer
- Cook County Department of Corrections
- Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center
- Cook County Health
- Cook County Bureau of Asset Management

The City of Chicago & Cook County spend an estimated

**\$300mil**

on food meal programs, special events, and concessions annually

**CHICAGO** City Council, Chicago Public Schools, and Chicago Park District adopted GFPP in 2017, followed by Cook County Government in 2018. Together, these local jurisdictions collectively purchase over \$118 million in food through meal programs and vending, and it's estimated that purchases exceed \$300 million if concessions and public special events are included.

Public institutions work with CDPH, CCDPH, CFPAC, and CGFP to:

- Collect annual food purchasing data
- Insert GFPP requirements into food vendor solicitations and contracts;
- Receive GFPP Assessments and develop action plans to achieve higher points in the Good Food Standards, which are based on certifications and best practices;
- Work toward a star rating, which requires at least one point in each value category;
- Track progress and celebrate success.

# PROGRESS IN 2020

## COVID IMPEDIMENTS

COVID-19 disrupted the GFPP implementation process for several departments and agencies whose meal or concessions programs significantly changed (or altogether halted) during the pandemic. These include Chicago City Colleges, Chicago Park District, and Cook County Bureau of Asset Management.

**Solicitation & Contract Revisions:** GFPI Coordinators are working with each public institution to revise their Request for Proposals (RFPs) and solicitation processes for food vendors so that bids are evaluated on how well the bidder can meet GFPP Standards, provide transparent data, and build racial equity in the supply chain. Over the course of 2020, CCDPH and CFPAC worked with the Cook County Department of Corrections and the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer to release an RFP for food services that includes GFPP requirements. The RFP was released in November 2020. Similar RFP and solicitation revisions were underway for the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services, and Chicago Public Schools.



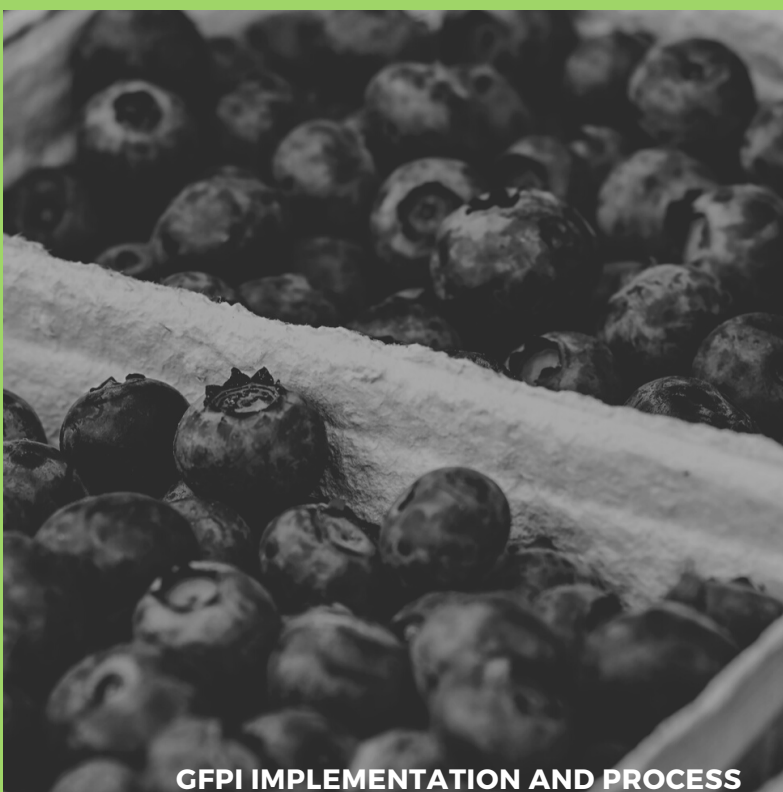
Co-organized  
**4 meetings**  
with the Cook County Good Food  
Task Force and the Cook County  
Department of Public Health.

**GFPP Pledge Exploration:** CDPH, CCDPH, CFPAC, and CGFP are exploring strategies to implement GFPP with public institutions where the traditional GFPP process is less feasible, as is the case where the institution leases to multiple concessionaires or hosts food vendors at public festivals and special events. Partners are exploring a variation of GFPP, the GFPP Pledge, with the Chicago Department of Aviation, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events, and Cook County Bureau of Asset Management.

**GFPP Action Planning:** The Chicago Park District received their GFPP Baseline Assessment in 2019 and finalized their first GFPP Action Plan draft in early 2020. Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center successfully received their GFPP Baseline Assessment in September 2020 and moved on to the GFPP Action Plan phase in the final quarter of the year.

**Ongoing Data Collection:** Many Chicago and Cook County departments and agencies are in the initial phase of GFPP implementation, gathering datasets on all food purchased by their contracted food vendors.

Cook County Department of Corrections, Chicago Department of Family & Support Services, and Chicago Public Schools all continued to collect 2019 food purchasing data from their food vendors for GFPP Baseline Assessments.





# LEVERAGING GFPP FOR SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT

**GFPI COORDINATORS** and partners are working to foster more racially and socially equitable supply chains across the region so that the increased demand for good food benefits emerging farmers and food businesses, especially those owned and operated by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

**Food Hub Feasibility Study:** Illinois Institute of Technology's (IIT) Professor Weslyne Ashton and Research Assistant Jahanzaib Qureshi are leading an investigation into the potential for a cooperatively run, BIPOC-owned food hub to support bringing locally grown produce to institutions enrolled in GFPP. They conducted a national analysis of food hubs, held interviews with food hub developers, and released a survey to regional producers in partnership with Professor Howard Rosing at DePaul University.





**GFPP Producer Training Planning Team:** CFPAC launched a GFPP-focused producer training planning effort with partners at Urban Growers Collective, University of IL Extension's Local Food & Small Farms Team, Advocates for Urban Agriculture, and Illinois Stewardship Alliance. The organizations are regularly meeting to discuss how to take a coordinated approach to educating and engaging producers about the emerging market opportunities created by GFPP.

**GFPP Presentations at Local Producer Conferences:** GFPI Coordinators gave presentations and held listening sessions about GFPP to producers and agricultural support organizations. Events included:

- Illinois Specialty Growers Association Conference (Jan. 2020)
- Illinois Stewardship Alliance Annual Meeting (Feb. 2020)
- Chicago Food Policy Summit (Feb. 2020)
- Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service Conference (MOSES) (Feb. 2020)
- Illinois Local & Regional Food Systems Conference (March 2020)
- Cook County Food Summit (Oct. 2020)



Presentations reached  
**over 180**  
supply chain stakeholders  
throughout 2020



The Good Food Purchasing Initiative  
covered the cost of

**23 growers**

to receive their Produce Safety Alliance  
Certification

### **GFPP-Related Trainings for Producers in 2020:**

- “Selling Food to Institutions” workshop at the Cook County Food Summit, with presenters from CFPAC, CCDPH, and the Women’s Business Development Center.
- Produce Safety Alliance training in partnership with University of Illinois - Extension (November 2020)
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification Workshop in partnership with Urban Growers Collective (December 2020)

### **GFPI Supply Chain Development Specialist:**

In October 2020, CFPAC hired Dakarai Howard to focus on developing resources and trainings for producers to access GFPP-related market opportunities. Howard is leading the GFPP Producer Training Planning Team, compiling a GFPP Producer Manual, supporting the Food Hub Feasibility Study with IIT researchers, and holding interviews with producers to better understand their needs and barriers when it comes to institutional markets.

## REGIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN COORDINATION

CFPAC is convening supply chain development specialists from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in a region-wide effort to explore how the Metro Chicago Good Food Purchasing Initiative can help facilitate the growth of regional food systems.

The group is starting by narrowing their focus on specific product categories that are grown in the region and have a potential market opportunity in institutional settings, including grass-fed beef, regenerative poultry, sustainable grains, fresh produce, and freshwater fish.



## ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE:

- Michigan State University's Center for Regional Food Systems
- University of Wisconsin's Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
- Regenerative Agriculture Alliance
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- The Wallace Center
- Delta Institute
- Artisan Grain Collaborative
- Basil's Harvest
- Purdue University Extension
- Indiana University
- Iowa State University Extension



# CREATING A CULTURE OF GOOD FOOD

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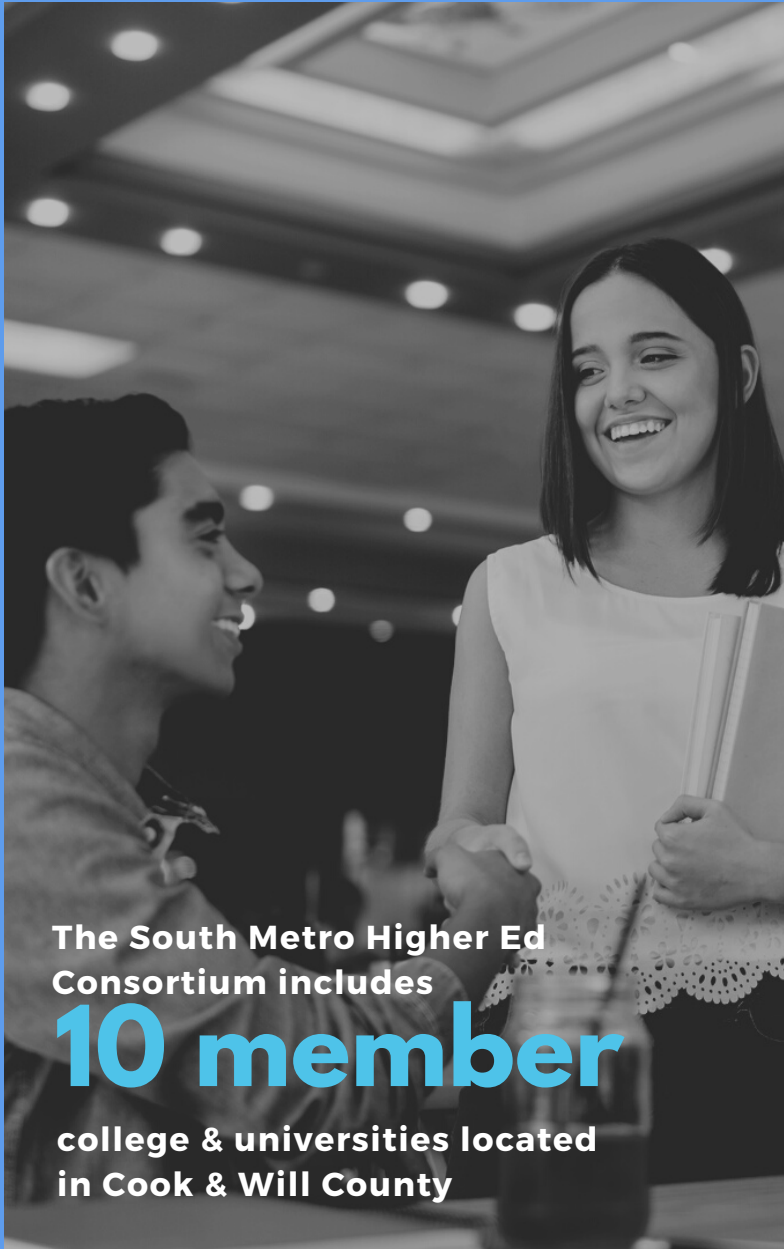
## EXPANDING GFPP ACROSS THE METRO AREA

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The Good Food Purchasing Initiative is inviting all community anchor institutions to join in adopting values-based purchasing policy & practice.

**Healthcare Settings:** Metro-area hospitals across the region are interested in shifting their food spend and adopting good food purchasing policies like Cook County and the City of Chicago. CFPAC, CDPH, and CCDPH have been engaging with the healthcare facilities that are part of the IL Public Health Institute's Alliance for Health Equity, which convenes different hospitals to collectively develop Community Health Needs Assessments.

With support from the national organization Health Care Without Harm, partners spent 2020 planning for the launch of a pilot hospital cohort in 2021, which will explore different good food purchasing strategies and plan for the potential adoption of GFPP with at least five hospitals.



The South Metro Higher Ed Consortium includes **10 member** college & universities located in Cook & Will County

### Higher Education:

- CFPAC and CCDPH are partnering with the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) to explore the implementation of good food purchasing strategies and potential adoption of GFPP by the colleges that are members of the consortium.
- SMHEC helped to organize a presentation on GFPP to the Will County Regional Sustainability Network (virtual, June 2020) as organizers explore the feasibility of GFPP adoption for Will County
- CFPAC and CCDPH provided a keynote address at the virtual South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium Student Sustainability Summit (Oct. 2020) to engage student organizers in the conversation around policy adoption

### Other Community Institutions:

CFPAC continues to talk about good food purchasing strategies with other area higher education institutions, including Northwestern University and Loyola University, as well as engage in the Chicago Sustainability Task Force, which includes representatives from cultural institutions across the Metro Area. Due to the COVID pandemic's disruptions of many institutional operations, next steps were temporarily put on hold for further exploration of policy adoption with these audiences.



GFPI CREATING A CULTURE OF GOOD FOOD

# NEW PUBLICATIONS & PUBLIC RESOURCES

The Cook County Food Summit drew over

**500**

virtual attendees

## LEARN MORE

CFPAC's Good Food Purchasing Project Manager published a guest blog post for The Land Connection: [Transforming the Food System, One Tray at a Time](#) (March 2020)

CFPAC and CDPH partnered with Professor Carlos Teixeira's Sustainable Solutions Lab on "[Envisioning Sustainable Food Sourcing Solutions](#)" report to redesign public agency's supply chains in order to meet GFPP goals. (May 2020)

CCDPH, with support from CFPAC, organized a virtual [Cook County Food Summit](#) focused on the County's GFPP implementation progress and building a more resilient and equitable food system to support GFPP goals. All sessions were recorded and [are available for viewing on youtube.](#)

# EVALUATING THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING INITIATIVE



**IN 2019**, CDPH, CCDPH, and CFPAC collaborated with members of the Midwest Consortium of Equity, Research, & Food Justice (MCERF) to develop a Theory of Change and Evaluation Framework for the Good Food Purchasing Initiative. The framework identifies the overarching objectives that coordinators are working to achieve and the measurable indicators that can be tracked to evaluate the impact of GFPI activities.

Over the course of 2020, MCERF members involved in the GFPI Evaluation started collecting baseline data on many of the indicators identified in the Evaluation Framework. Research has included GIS mapping of regional farms and food infrastructure, a regional producer survey on GFPP-related farming practices, and landscape assessments of the public meal programs and concessions run by City of Chicago and Cook County institutions.

[View Good Food Purchasing Initiative Evaluation Framework](#)

## GFPI EVALUATION

In September 2020, CFPAC formalized a partnership with Roosevelt University's Policy Research Collaborative (PCR) to lead the coordination of the GFPI Evaluation and ensure that researchers involved from multiple academic institutions have a strong communication structure to collaborate with one another. Roosevelt's PCR is also identifying where there are gaps in research capacity and resources so that the evaluation effort is as comprehensive as possible. In collaboration with the Illinois Institute of Technology, Roosevelt is supporting the development of an online data-sharing platform so that inputs from multiple GFPI-related research projects have a centralized portal.



## GFPI EVALUATION TEAM

Laura Nussbaum-Barberena, Roosevelt University

Jessica Walter, Roosevelt University

Marc Jakswijitkorn, Roosevelt University

Weslynn Ashton, Illinois Institute of Technology

Jahanzaib Qureshi, Illinois Institute of Technology

Daniel Block, Chicago State University

Howard Rosing, DePaul University

Angela Odoms-Young, University of Illinois Chicago





# WHAT'S NEXT?

**GFPI COORDINATORS** will be working closely with the City of Chicago and Cook County Government to further advance the GFPP implementation process in 2021. This includes collecting more food purchasing data for GFPP assessments, drafting and revising Good Food Action Plans with public institutions, shifting food vendor solicitation language, and exploring strategies for adopting GFPP to unique public food environments (like concessions, festivals, and kiosks).

As GFPP implementation continues, GFPI Coordinators will continue to work on sharing information to local food producers and food businesses, with an emphasis on BIPOC-owned operations rooted in the communities served by Chicago and Cook County's institutions. CFPAC will be publishing their GFPP Guide for Food Producers and Businesses in Spring 2021 and will be planning a networking mixer in Winter 2021 to bring local producers together with distributors, food service management companies, and institutional buyers.

Coordinators also plan to support other community institutions across the area with exploring good food purchasing strategies and planning for policy adoption. GFPI anticipates the launch of a cohort of at least five hospitals engaged in GFPP planning for 2021, and will continue to partner with the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium to explore GFPP adoption with their member colleges and universities.



# Thank You Funders

**GFPI of Metro Chicago thanks the following funders for their generous contributions to this work:**

- IL State Physical Activity & Nutrition Grant, IL Public Health Institute
- Food Land Opportunity Grant, Chicago Community Trust & Kinship Foundation
- Local Food Promotion Program, United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service
- IL Specialty Crop Block Grant, IL Department of Agriculture
- Panta Rhea Foundation

**Marlie Wilson**

Good Food Purchasing Project Manager  
Chicago Food Policy Action Council  
mwilson@chicagofoodpolicy.com

**Dakarai Howard**

GFPI Supply Chain Development Specialist  
Chicago Food Policy Action Council  
dakarai@chicagofoodpolicy.com

**Jennifer Herd**

Senior Health Policy Analyst  
Chicago Department of Public Health  
jennifer.herd@cityofchicago.org

**Gina Massuda Barnett**

Deputy Director, Public Health Programs  
Cook County Department of Public Health  
gmbarnett@cookcountyhhs.org

**Laura Nussbaum-Barberena**

GFPI Eval Coordinator  
Director, Policy Research Collaborative  
Roosevelt University  
lnussbaubarberena@roosevelt.edu

# Key Partners

