

# AUBURN GRESHAM: YOUR VOICE MATTERS



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We are Auburn Gresham, a predominantly African-American community, rich with history, culture and aspirations. We will achieve the hopes and dreams of our community and support our families, our youth and our elderly residents in their efforts to live high quality, richly-fulfilled lives. We will provide the community with necessary healthcare, housing, educational opportunities, business development resources, public safety support and other necessities of life to create a holistic and vibrant community.

We will work to address community weaknesses and to overcome negative perceptions of our community. This Quality-of-Life Plan called, "Your Voice Matters," gives the community a platform to move forward and shape decision making in our community. We will become a community where existing and future residents thrive.

Auburn Gresham is located on Chicago's south side and has a shared history with the neighboring communities of Washington Heights, Chatham and West Chatham, Greater Grand Crossing and Englewood, making up the heart of the city's south side African-American community. We are most

noted for our historic bungalow belt and our brick two-flats, the bustling corridors of 79th Street and 87th Street, and the network of strong community based organizations and faith based institutions. Less commonly known are the serene and picturesque lagoons of Auburn Park along Winneconna Parkway and our strong group of seniors that work hard to keep the community clean and safe. These assets speak to our community's commitment to a high quality of life. We are a hard-working community dedicated to improving our schools, housing and business environment while celebrating block clubs and other resident initiatives.

We have challenges to overcome, but the energy of the community continues to create momentum towards the positive.

This Quality-of-Life Plan is based on creating strategies responsive to resident needs and desires for the community, by the community. It builds on our first community-led Quality-of-Life Plan, published through the LISC Chicago New Communities Program in 2005, both looking ahead further and bringing in new partners. More than 1,000 participants engaged in workshops, open houses, task force groups and focused interviews during the eight month planning process. Community members gathered at the project kick-off to determine the priority issue areas to be investigated. Residents then self-selected into task force groups – business, economic development and jobs; education and youth development; health and wellness; housing; safety, security and faith-based institutions; and senior services. This comprehensive neighborhood plan uncovered our community's vision and goals, culminating in a set of strategies, ideas and programs that will define the future of Auburn Gresham.





Auburn Gresham has demand for additional business activity along existing commercial corridors, with more than \$525 million in untapped purchasing power to support it – but we must also work with vulnerable populations to find viable work.

### **Business, Economic Development and Jobs:**

Businesses in Auburn Gresham are committed to serving our community and each other. Additional resources and education will ensure growth of the local business community and will encourage new business development. In addition, our residents will be able to receive the training they need to secure living-wage employment.

We will:

- Strengthen relationships with business owners and cultivate entrepreneurs from the community
- Create an attraction and retention strategy for desirable businesses in the community
- Create services that address critical issues important to vulnerable populations including: returning citizens, veterans, students who leave high school before graduation, youth, wards of the state and grandparents raising grandkids
- Enhance existing commercial corridors and define community gateways through catalytic projects like a healthy living hub, connected to the broader market

**Education and Youth Development:** The topic of education created very passionate dialogue amongst a large group of residents, stakeholders, school administrators and community based practitioners. The common theme that repeatedly surfaced is that the community should be a place for lifelong learners, from early childhood through high school, college, and continuing to adult education for returning citizens, seniors or other adults. Our youth organized their own conversations during planning, and these young leaders were diligent throughout the process in expressing their needs and working with adults in all of the task force groups to have their voice heard. Together we will realize their vision for a supportive community as they become our next generation of home and business owners.

We will:

- Improve neighborhood schools and provide students with access to highly trained, committed, culturally responsive urban educators
- Support traditional and nontraditional educational opportunities by creating learning opportunities that are responsive to the needs of all students

- Expand and maintain the innovative community school model throughout our schools that supports social-emotional development and encourages youth and family engagement in a safe and nurturing learning environment

**Health and Wellness:** Our community is focused on becoming spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically healthy through increased access to nutritious foods, healthcare and rehabilitative services.

We will:

- Strengthen awareness within the community of existing health and wellness resources through both print and electronic communications
- Build a neighborhood culture of health by integrating holistic health focus into existing classes and programs offered within the community
- Increase the social connections among community residents focused on cultivating the overall well-being of families
- Develop a Healthy Lifestyle Hub for Auburn Gresham and south side residents on 79th Street

**Housing:** We will provide adequate housing for our residents through both new construction and rehabilitation of existing structures. We respect the history of our historic buildings and will create opportunities for greater levels of homeownership. We will promote the housing stock of our community and provide focused support to renters.

We will:

- Increase the safety and security of our residential blocks by focusing on beautification efforts, neighborhood investment, engagement and awareness of block clubs
- Encourage the purchase and rehabilitation of vacant lots and existing residential buildings
- Foster neighborhood stability through increased homeownership
- Strengthen the renter and ownership pool through creation of support systems and focused attraction and retention programs





**Safety, Security and Faith-based Institutions:**

We will work towards greater cooperation between law enforcement, restorative justice and faith based institutions to create a peaceful community in which residents value each other and their contributions.

We will:

- Foster community beautification by partnering with schools, churches and organizations
- Enhance neighborhood pride programs by fostering collaboration between programs of mutual interest or similar subject matter
- Increase participation in community crime prevention programs such as C.A.P.S.
- Create opportunities for faith based institutions to share resources and establish relationships to better serve the community

**Seniors:** Our senior population consists of long-time residents who carry the history of the neighborhood and continue to be engaged in large numbers. We will seek out supportive services that focus on preventative healthcare, physical exercise and increased accessibility to programs for this dedicated group.

We will:

- Expand efforts to integrate public health, continuing education, fitness and wellness services for the aging
- Enhance outreach of senior activities through the creation of a communications network
- Provide options for seniors to participate in fitness and movement-based programs
- Create a hub for health and wellness, lifelong learning, living wage jobs and services that fosters intergenerational interaction and is walkable and accessible via public transportation

Auburn Gresham is experiencing a rebirth that begins with leveraging our existing assets and utilizing the talents and commitment of our residents. Institutional and organizational partnerships are expanding and new relationships are being formed. We will continue to foster these relationships and grow the capacity of the community as a whole.



## ASSETS

# Our Community: Welcome to Auburn Gresham

Auburn Gresham is a predominately African American community on the south side of Chicago that celebrates its residents, institutions and history as we look optimistically to our future.

Auburn Gresham’s development dates back to the early nineteenth century, when the area was defined primarily by small German and Dutch settlements. Over time, many others moved to the area, lured by newly-extended city services. In the 1920s, the population nearly tripled from around 20,000 to 60,000 as developers used Auburn Gresham’s transportation access to attract families escaping older and more congested sections of the city. City workers such as police and firefighters, as well as railroad and construction workers, found

the neighborhood convenient. During this time many residents migrated to Auburn Gresham from the working-class neighborhoods of Bridgeport, Canaryville, Back of the Yards and Englewood.

Through the 1960s and 1970s, an upheaval sparked by racism and red-lining caused Auburn Gresham to experience a drastic shift in the population. As in many of Chicago’s neighborhoods, during this time, white flight was responsible for a population shift from 99% white to 99% African American. In spite of this drastic change, our residential

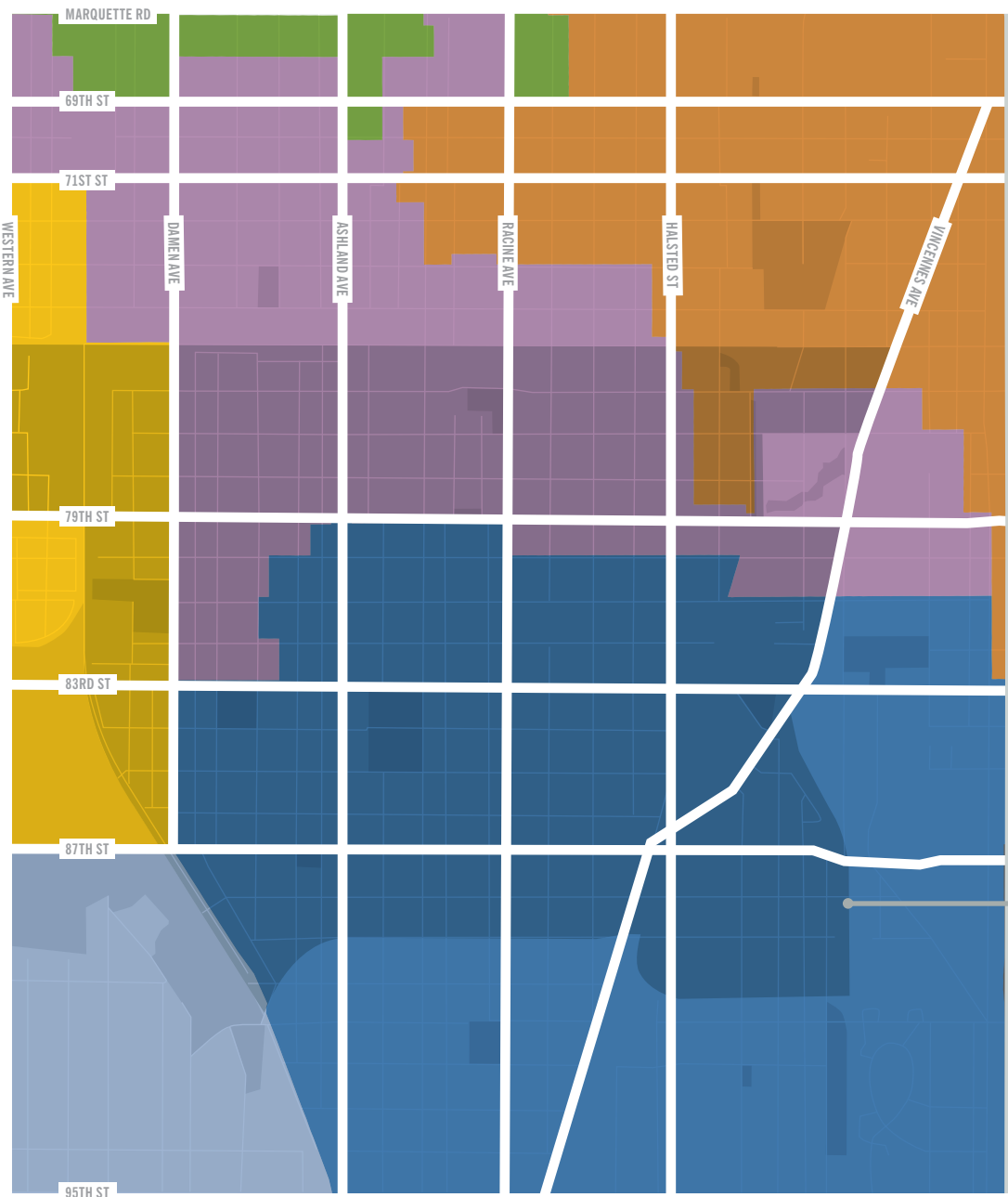
### Demographics

2013	AUBURN GRESHAM	CITY OF CHICAGO
<b>Total Population</b>	71,750	2,706,101
Median Age	39	33
% under 18	19%	16%
% 65 and older	16%	17%
Hispanic/Latino ethnicity of any race	1%	29%
Percent of adult population with HS diploma or higher	83%	81%
Individuals below poverty level	30%	23%

Source: U.S. Census ACS 2013 5-year estimates, tables S0601, S1701



# Auburn Gresham Ward Map



<span style="color: orange;">■</span> 6th Ward	<span style="color: green;">■</span> 16th Ward
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> 17th Ward	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> 18th Ward
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> 19th Ward	<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> 21st Ward

GADC Service Boundary and Historic Bungalow Area

Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Boundary

district and our blocks remained strong. The unique bungalow-style housing and brick two-flat apartment buildings throughout Auburn Gresham serve as lasting evidence of the community's formative years and continued dedication and commitment of our residents.

In 2003, Auburn Gresham began creating its first community-led Quality-of-Life Plan through the LISC Chicago New Communities Program with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Published in 2005, this plan laid out our goals for the future, many of which have been achieved – we are now building on that foundation to bring in new partners and set a vision that continues to look forward.

### **Strong institutions and transportation assets keep our community connected**

Two Metra commuter rail stops on the Rock Island line, the Gresham and Brainerd stops at 87th Street and Vincennes Avenue and 89th Street and Loomis, respectively, provide daily inbound service to LaSalle Street Station in downtown Chicago and outbound service to Joliet. Dedicated work by community leaders secured a state, city and

federal commitment in 2014 for an additional Metra rail stop at Auburn Park at 79th Street and South Lowe, just east of Halsted – a major priority in our original 2005 quality-of-life plan. CTA red line stops at 79th Street and 87th Street and the Dan Ryan Expressway just east of the neighborhood round out a wide variety of transportation options for residents, visitors and workers.

There are several important religious and civic landmarks in our community, such as the Chicago Public Library Thurgood Marshall and Brainerd Branches at 75th & Racine and 89th & Loomis, respectively. The Thurgood Marshall branch opened in 1994 and features a 125-seat auditorium, reading garden and artwork. St. Sabina Church is one of our best known institutions, and the congregation and Father Michael Pflieger have been pivotal in supporting a transformation of Auburn Gresham including new housing and storefronts. The Ambassadors for Christ World Outreach Ministries at 79th and Ashland Avenue, their associated Target Area Development Corporation, New Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church and the New Pisgah Community Service Organizations have all been key anchors in Auburn Gresham for years. The Nation of Islam has maintained a campus of restaurants, bookstores, offices and a newspaper printing facility along 79th Street near Halsted since the early 1980s.

### **The recession was difficult, but positive changes are happening across our community**

Though the recession had a significant impact on all communities in the Chicagoland area and beyond, there is evidence that the community of Auburn Gresham is rebounding. In the last five years, the total population decreased by 6% as the recession pushed vulnerable households further into economic insecurity. However, new incentives for first time homebuyers and renter assistance programs are reversing that trend, supported by coordinated work of our local Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago (NHS) office with partners like Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, Community Investment Corporation Chicago, the Cook County Land Bank Authority, and the Chicago Department of Planning and Development.

Our housing market is attracting significant investment, with one of the largest new single-family home developments in Chicago nearly complete at 87th Street and Parnell Avenue. Following the priority in our 2005 plan, we have also targeted housing for populations with specific needs. Two veterans' housing projects were built to accommodate the significant number of homeless veterans on Chicago's south side: St. Leo's Veterans Housing and Veterans New



Beginnings. The Auburn Gresham community is also home to the first urban S.O.S. Children's Village in the U.S., a unique design to provide housing for foster children and their siblings. Our large and senior population is served by strong senior housing and healthcare service facilities in the community, with several new buildings opened as an outgrowth of our community's plan.

The unemployment rate in Auburn Gresham is higher than many Chicago communities for those in the labor force, leaving many of our residents unable to find the jobs they need to provide for themselves and their families. St. Sabina assists hundreds of residents through its Employment Resource Center to help reverse this trend, but more employment opportunities are needed. For youth between the ages of 16 and 24, this number is even higher – dedicated work by local organizations have placed many of our youth in summer job programs, but we need the private market to step up and provide more opportunities.

For Auburn Gresham residents who are employed full time, almost 30% are earning less than \$25,000 per year. As in other predominantly residential neighborhoods, most residents leave the community to work – some traveling long distances to find living-wage jobs. In 2012, there were 592 business establishments in Auburn

Gresham, primarily employing people in retail and wholesale, followed by healthcare, education, and social service organizations.

Our residents strive for better educational, training and skill-building options to increase their employment potential. Our youth are not provided adequate options in the community for education and academics and are therefore disadvantaged when they graduate from high school. While 60% of residents have obtained a high school diploma, only 20% graduate from college or graduate

school and 19% have no high school diploma. This disparity causes detrimental multi-generational problems that lead to poverty and compromise of public safety.

Our community is moving forward but we still face great challenges. This Quality-of-Life Planning process has built consensus and more importantly, action to overcome these challenges. We look forward to a bright future and an even more vibrant community.

### Retail is the Largest Employer in Auburn Gresham

JOB SECTOR	NUMBER	PERCENT
Manufacturing	480	8.0%
Retail	2,309	38.3%
Accommodation, Food Services	467	7.7%
Education and Public Admin	253	4.2%
Health Care, Social Assistance	551	9.1%
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	61	1.0%
Information	154	2.6%
Finance, insurance	222	3.7%
Professional, scientific, technical services	82	1.4%

*Data source: U.S. Census LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics, Workplace Area Characteristics, 2013*



## Our Vision

We are Auburn Gresham, a predominantly African-American community, rich with history, culture and aspirations. We will achieve the hopes and dreams of our community and support our families, our youth and our elderly residents in their efforts to live high quality, richly-fulfilled lives. We will provide the community with necessary healthcare, housing, educational opportunities, business development, public safety support and other necessities of life to create a holistic and vibrant community. Our vision stems from the community's values and assets, and our consensus that the future must achieve an equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and wealth.

*“The development process allowed people of Auburn Gresham, including youth to have a voice in implementing an educational system of success for all students. The process also allowed an opportunity for community relationships and networking.”*

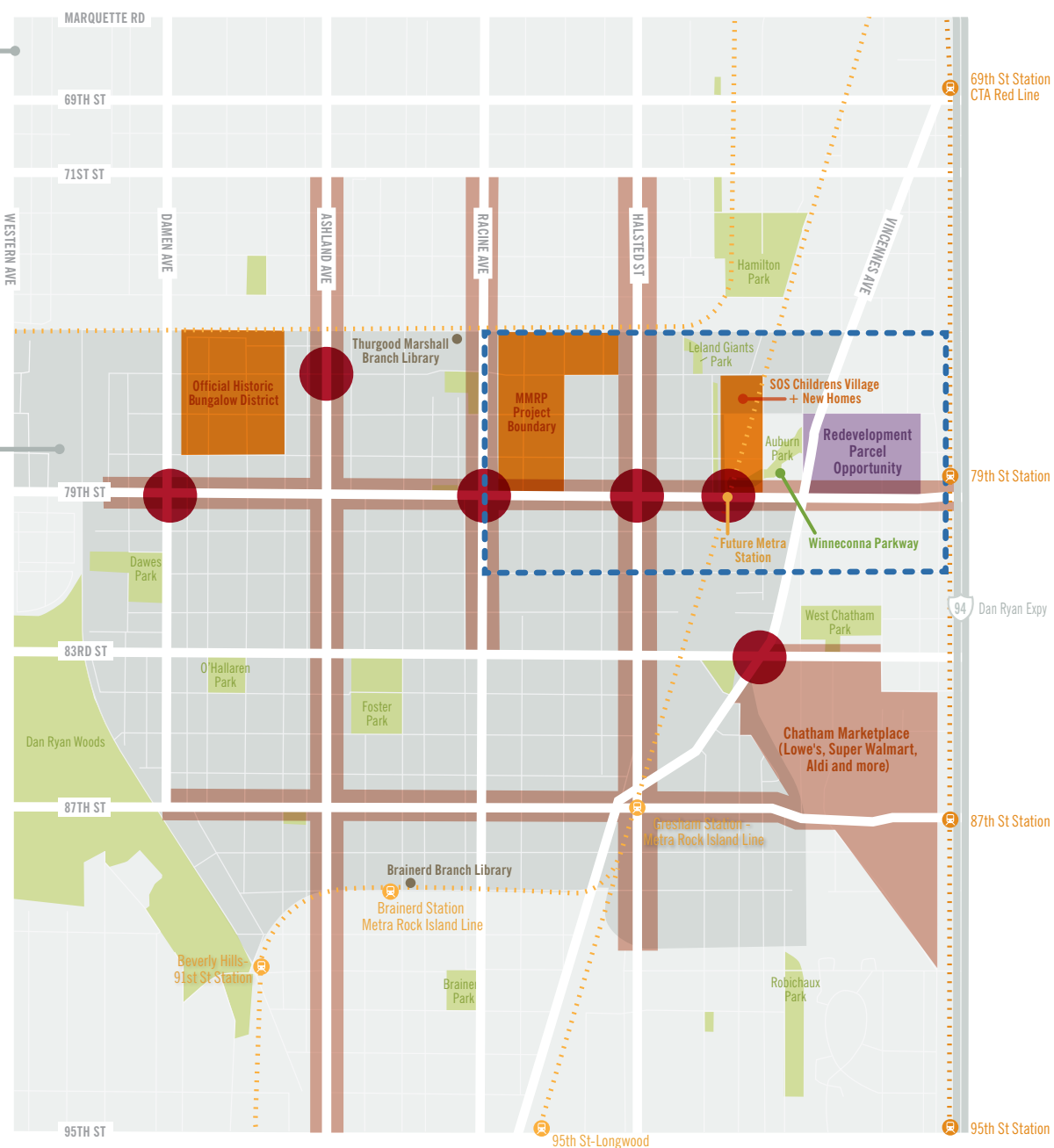
— Pam Bosley, Task Force Member



# Development Opportunities Map

GADC Service Boundary and Historic Bungalow Area

Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Boundary



- Large-scale Redevelopment Opportunity
- Commercial Corridor
- Model Residential Areas
- - - TOD\*\* Study Area
- Key Opportunity Nodes

\* Micro Market Recovery Program (MMRP)  
 \*\* Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

## ISSUE AREA I BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

### **BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS GOAL:**

**We desire to develop and foster a self-sustaining resource network, a community that is able to generate and harness its own resources for local investment and an equally contributing and receiving member of the local and regional economy.**

Our community has hundreds of small, local businesses located at nodes along major commercial corridors. But there are relatively few well-paying jobs in our community, and our residents must travel further to find jobs that provide a living wage. Auburn Gresham's residents face higher than average unemployment, particularly for youth ages 16-24. For those residents that are employed, one third earn less than \$25,000 per year. Our vision is to provide residents with employment and career opportunities, training and skill building, to increase economic development activity in Auburn Gresham and its surrounding communities. Our neighborhoods will be recognized for their thriving, sustainable and accessible locally-owned businesses. We will be known for our ability to leverage resources to collectively work to improve the quality of life for residents and reinvest in our community.



**25%**  
the number of **home owners** who pay **30% or more** of their income on housing costs and **earn less than \$35,000 per year**

*Source: US Census Bureau/ACS, 2009-2013 5-year estimates*



“Once we identify black owned businesses for patronage and information sharing this will help our community.” — John Kennedy, Task Force Member

On average, **families earning more than \$50,000** and more **own their home** versus renting

*Source: US Census Bureau/ACS, 2009-2013 5-year estimates*





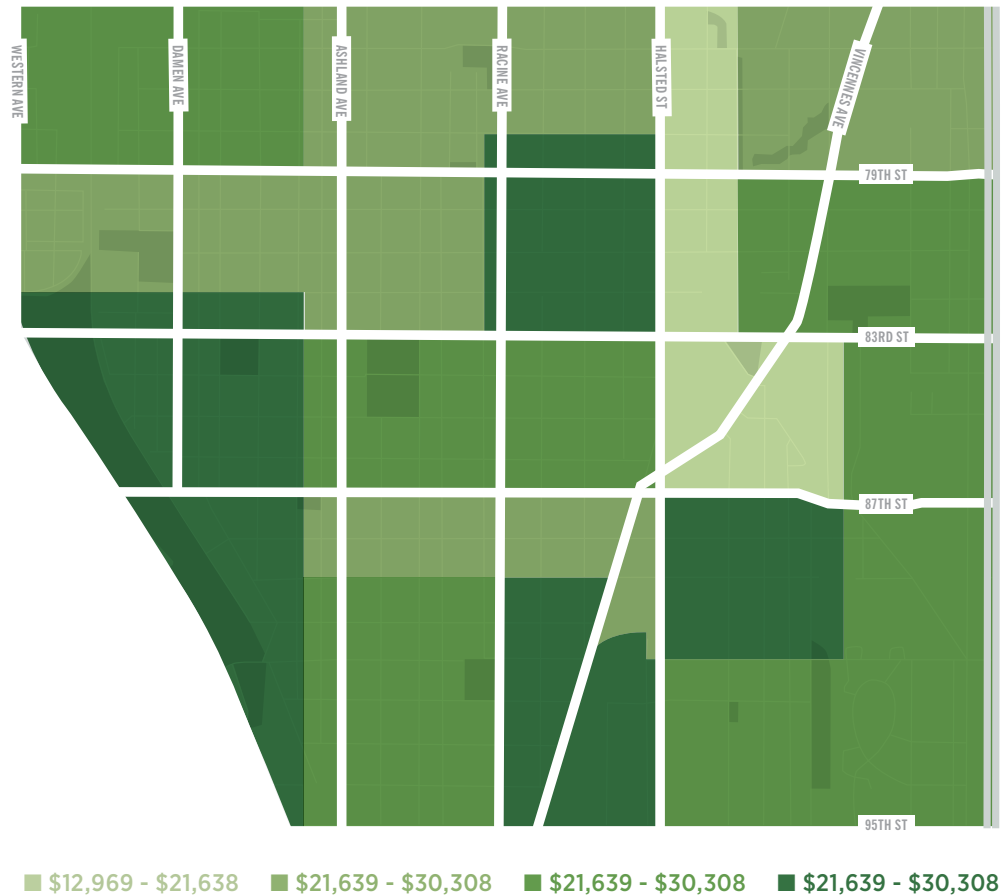
**There is untapped purchasing power to support additional businesses.**

Potential businesses could include grocery stores, restaurants, beauty shops and clothing stores. The estimated annual purchasing power of Auburn Gresham is highest for housing (approximately \$275 million) with transportation second (\$140 million) and food third (\$110 million).

**Most low-income residents pay more than they can afford in housing costs.**

Vulnerable populations such as returning citizens and veterans are the most challenged to find viable work. Auburn Gresham is one of seven community areas in Chicago that together receive 54% of the total reentry population according to a 2005 study, a trend that continues today. It is becoming more and more difficult for Auburn Gresham residents to find job skills, training and employment opportunities. The most at-risk populations have the greatest need for careers that help contribute positively to our community and increase economic development activity. Auburn Gresham youth would benefit from employment, mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities during the summer and after school.

**Median Income Map**



**Auburn Gresham has demand for additional business activity along existing commercial corridors.**

With a particular focus on infill or rehabilitation of vacant buildings, there is an opportunity to create additional development to improve the public realm and attract shoppers to our neighborhood. Historically, our commercial corridors were thriving centers of commerce. Through cultivation of this asset, our community could once again be a competitive location for a variety of businesses especially within long vacant buildings on our commercial strips.

The success of BJ's Market & Bakery shows the demand for businesses that could thrive on 79th Street and other corridors.



TIF and SSA Districts



- 69th St/Ashland St TIF   ■ Greater Southwest Industrial Corridor TIF
- 79th St/Southwest Corridor TIF   ■ 79th St Corridor TIF   ■ 79th St/Vincennes Ave TIF
- 83rd St/Stewart St TIF   ■ Chatham Ridge TIF   ●●● SSA #32   - - - SSA #14

## Strategies and Projects

### STRATEGY 1

#### Strengthen relationships with business owners and cultivate entrepreneurs from the community

It is important to attract new industries and service companies to our community. We will work with neighboring communities to together identify and recruit businesses that offer living wage jobs and provide and/or prepare residents for careers. Auburn Gresham will strengthen the relationship with existing business owners and create an environment to support entrepreneurs by partnering with community colleges, local social service organizations and corporations to encourage skills training in growing industries. To help prepare our residents for the 21st century workforce a cohesive workforce development system will be established which will include college readiness, GED training, customer service skills training, apprenticeship, mentorship and specialized training making upward mobility and family stability accessible to those in need.

We will foster the creation of a small business mega center that will house resources for residents engaged with the creation of or retention of small businesses. We envision the center to be self-sustaining with the ultimate goal of increasing economic activity through businesses that are created by Auburn Gresham residents.



## **STRATEGY 2**

### **Create an attraction and retention strategy for desirable businesses in the community**

Auburn Gresham will benefit from a cohesive strategy to market and promote existing businesses in the community. Greater exposure and publicity for businesses will improve the overall identify of our community. Our goal is to provide a successful framework for attraction and retention of good, locally owned, primarily African-American, businesses to locate in Auburn Gresham. Through networking opportunities, multi-platform marketing plan and on-going outreach, we will positively impact the business climate in Auburn Gresham.

## **STRATEGY 3**

### **Create services that address critical issues important to vulnerable populations including: returning citizens, veterans, students who did not graduate from high school, youth, wards of the state and grandparents raising grandkids**

Our community can support returning citizens, veterans, students who did not graduate from high school, youth, wards of the state, grandparents raising grandkids and other work-challenged populations by creating opportunities that respond to their needs. Focusing on programs that provide returning citizens training and job readiness/soft skills, help with expunging records and employer mentoring will support their transition back into the workforce, support a safe neighborhood and increase economic activity.

In addition to job related resources, we will support the ex-offender population in integrating into our community with assistance for reestablishing their identities, enrolling in post-secondary education and supporting their family life including spousal support and children. We want to help them bring resources into the home to create stability and make them feel like productive members of society. Building relationships with returning citizens is important to their successful rehabilitation and reconnecting them with the community and their families.

## **STRATEGY 4**

### **Enhance existing commercial corridors and define community gateways**

Auburn Gresham has several commercial corridors that can be improved to be more inviting to new businesses and shoppers. An improved physical environment with defined gateways, infill development and landscaping could support this vision. Use of available financial tools including TIF and SSA will improve targeted redevelopment areas and encourage more activity along our streets.

For our community to continue to become economically successful, our residents need well-paying jobs to support their families. Attraction of additional businesses to our commercial corridors of 79th street, Ashland Avenue, 87th street, Vincennes Avenue and Halsted Street will provide additional opportunities for Auburn Gresham residents to live and work in the community.

Transit oriented development (TOD) is planned around the proposed 79th Street Metra station. This area of our community is in close proximity to the historic lagoons at Auburn Park and the Halsted and Vincennes commercial corridors. The TOD will be a model for a mixed-use, pedestrian oriented development that will appeal to both residents and visitors.

STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1: Strengthen relationships with business owners and cultivate entrepreneurs from the community</b>		
<b>1.1</b> Attract new employers that offer living wage jobs	Goodcity   Blue Ocean Logic; Denise Martin/Potbelly's; McDonald's franchises	Long-term
<b>1.2</b> Create a small business mega center	Veterans Neighborhood Builders Association   Wards 6, 17, 18 & 21, Sen. Collins, Rep. Flowers	Long-term
<b>1.3</b> Build partnerships to offer local skills training, mentorships and apprenticeships	Project 86   Blue1647, Cook Illinois Corp, Calumet School, Blue Englewood, City Colleges (Dawson, Malcolm X), US Small Business Association, US Environmental Protection Agency, Black Tech Mecca, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)	Short-term
<b>1.4</b> Build committee to focus on Small Business Mega Center	Leroy Bowers - Veterans Neighborhood Builders Association	Early Action Project
<b>1.5</b> Create a job training fair	St. Sabina Employment Resource Center (ERC)	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 2: Create an attraction and retention strategy for desirable businesses in the community</b>		
<b>2.1</b> Recruit high school employment liaisons to community organizations	Brave Youth   Mikva Challenge, United Way, Elev8 participant schools, Special Service Areas #32 and #69 (SSAs), CJ and Associates (CJA), SGA Youth and Family Services	Short-term
<b>2.2</b> Attract African American business owners to open or expand in Auburn Gresham	CJA   Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), Power Center, Chicago Police Department (CPD) 6th District Sub-Committee	Mid-term
<b>2.3</b> Create networking/exposure opportunities for existing businesses	CJA   GADC, Power Center, CPD 6th District Sub-Committee, SSAs	Short-term
<b>2.4</b> Promote local businesses through community portal and branding	CJA   GADC; Power Center; Americorps; Public Allies	Short-term
<b>2.5</b> Update the GADC Portal with employment resources	Norma Sanders	Early Action Project
<b>2.6</b> Hire youth to engage community with social media	CJA   GADC; Power Center; Americorps; Public Allies	Early Action Project
<b>2.7</b> Host a quarterly small business forum	CJA   GADC; Power Center; Americorps; Public Allies	Early Action Project
<b>2.8</b> Host a brunch for businesses and investors	CJA   GADC	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 3: Create services that address critical issues important to vulnerable populations</b>		
<b>3.1</b> Create more jobs and provide resources for disenfranchised workers	Leroy Bowers   Get In Chicago, Project 86, Chicago Beyond	Mid-term
<b>3.2</b> Create and/or expand programs for ex-offenders re-entering the workforce	Target Area Development Corporation (TADC)   ERC, City Colleges (Olive Harvey), Safer Foundation, Community Renewal Society, Project Success (TRIO), Dr. Carol Collum	Long-term
<b>3.3</b> Create job readiness satellite sites in local organizations	Lisa Ramsey   Dye Williams, CVS, City Colleges, Dr. Carol Collum, faith-based institutions	Long-term
<b>3.4</b> Partner with non-profit organizations to assist returning citizens with necessary paperwork and expungement	TADC  ERC, City Colleges (Olive Harvey), Safer Foundation, Community Renewal Society, Project Success (TRIO), Dr. Carol Collum	Early Action Project
<b>3.5</b> Create a leadership luncheon for returning citizens	Dr. Carol Collum	Early Action Project

### Strategy 4: Enhance existing commercial corridors and define community gateways

4.1 Create an infill plan and standards for vacant properties	GADC   CPD 6th District CAPS, TADC, Project 5000, Cook County Assessor's Office, City of Chicago, Aldermanic Offices, Urban Development Team	Mid-term
4.2 Utilize TIF and other tools to improve targeted streetscapes and infrastructure	GADC	Mid-term
4.3 Market existing storefronts and property for new business infill	Business Conservation Team   Senator Collins	Short-term
4.4 Create transit-oriented development near the proposed 79th Street Metra Station	Wards 6, 17 & 21   Metra, Sen. Collins, Rep. Rush, Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Transit Authority,	Long-term
4.5 Create a business association to engage existing businesses in SSA, TIF and new incentives for façades and streetscapes	GADC   CJA, Target Development, Aldermanic Offices, Prairie State, Dawson Academy	Long-term
4.6 Develop a business incubator with a cooperative convenience store as a model business	GADC   CJA, TADC Aldermanic Offices, Prairie State, Dawson Academy	Early Action Project
4.6 Develop business conservation team to support existing businesses	GADC   CJA	Early Action Project
4.7 Create a 'buy local' campaign	GADC   CJA	Early Action Project
4.8 Establish an Auburn Gresham Chamber of Commerce	Project 5000   GADC; CJA	Early Action Project
4.9 Create an inventory of existing businesses for distribution to Auburn Gresham residents and promotion on-line	Project 5000   GADC; CJA	Early Action Project
4.10 Develop a rebranding strategy for marketing Auburn Gresham	Neighborhood Housing Services   GADC; CJA	Early Action Project

**NOTE:** **Short-term:** one year    **Mid-term:** two to three years    **Long-term:** three to five years

### Outcomes:

1. Over the long term, reduce the unemployment rate of adults ages 18-64 from 30% to the national average.
2. Increase the number of specialized employment programs for formerly incarcerated individuals returning to Auburn Gresham that include re-training, obtaining identification, and record resolution.
3. Reduce commercial vacancies in the 79th Street, Vincennes and Halsted Street business corridors by 35%.



## ISSUE AREA I EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GOAL:

**We envision a self-sustaining community where all residents, especially youth, are supported holistically, empowered and challenged to be accountable for their futures, to develop their own resources and become lifelong learners.**

Youth are one of the greatest assets of Auburn Gresham. Their efforts have made Simeon High School and Scott Joplin Elementary School Level 1 institutions. Youth engagement, crime prevention and celebrating their accomplishments are critically important to creating positive momentum in our community. From parent education to early childhood education, our community must improve on responding to children's and families' changing needs. We envision our youth realizing their potential through cultivation and realization of their own values and returning to pollenate a new, younger generation of lifelong learners.

Youth in Auburn Gresham are challenged to find the necessary resources and quality education to support their forward trajectory. Schools, social services and family structure will reinforce positive behaviors and patterns to ensure their success.



**83%**  
of the adult population has a high school diploma or higher

*Source: U.S. Census ACS 2013 5-year estimates, tables S0601, S1701*

“I want adults to **just listen** sometimes.”

— Orlando Lewis,  
Task Force Member



“The vision statement of the Youth and Education Task group makes me feel like I have the support of the community, while I take responsibility of myself.”

— Trevon Bosley, Task Force Member



““ For youth we must use the connections to the schools to get them the message of community.””

— Adonnia Landis, Task Force Member

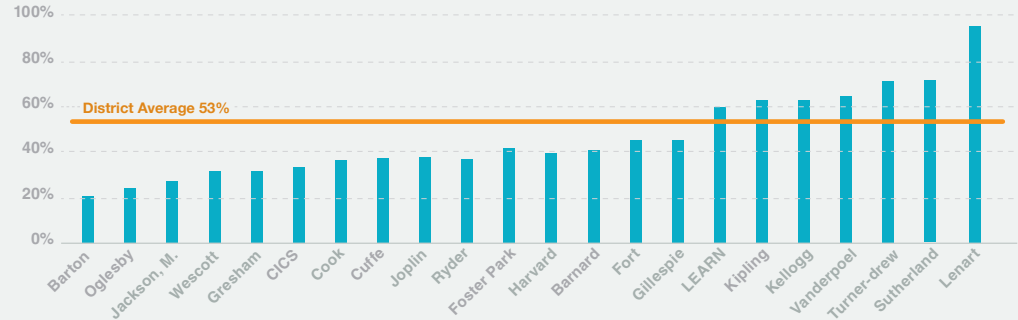
**Our schools have made great strides but several need more support**

Our children deserve a high quality education to prepare them for the future.

With the formation of the Auburn Gresham GOLD Schools initiative, our elementary schools are improving – for example, Scott Joplin Elementary School recently attained a Level 1 rating. One of our schools in the greater Auburn Gresham community, Lenart Elementary, is a Chicago Public School selective enrollment school and attracts students from across the City. Simeon Career Academy High School is rated Level 1 and is in good standing. Though Simeon is the only Chicago Public School high school in Auburn Gresham, the historic all-male, Catholic Leo High School, along with several charter schools, provide high-quality educational services to high school students. We are proud of the success that students are achieving and the level of education provided in our schools.

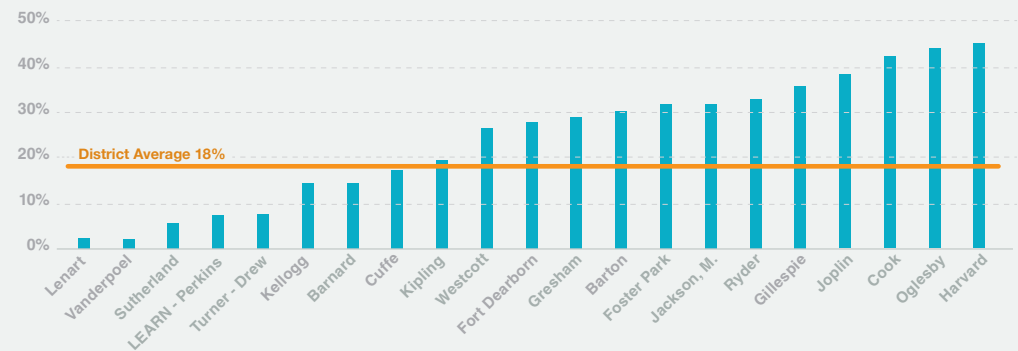
Several Schools Exceed Citywide Averages But More Investment Is Needed

**Percent of elementary students meeting or exceeding state standards – math ISAT scores 2013**



High Mobility of Students Affects Performance

**Elementary school mobility rates 2014**



Source: Chicago Public Schools, Network 11 Presentation (2016)



However, there are also many schools in Auburn Gresham that have falling enrollment and below-average student attainment. Some of the contributing factors include public safety concerns and high mobility. We need additional resources in area schools to support student attainment and an improved academic environment in our schools. Through partnerships with schools, education advocates and policy makers, we hope to create opportunities for students to fulfill their potential.

**Our schools need parental and community support for students to thrive**

The Harvard Family Research Project showed parent engagement and student achievement were interconnected and concluded that students with highly involved parents had higher achievement scores. Auburn Gresham has insufficient programs for families to support their need for tutoring,

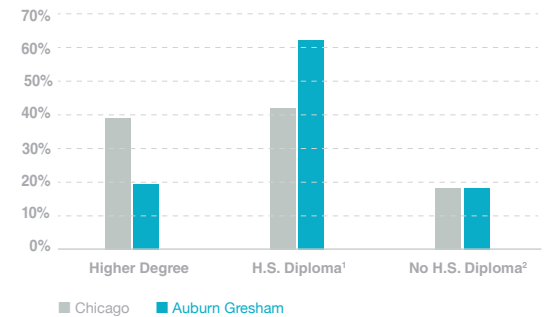
extracurricular activities, parent skills training and affordable after school care. Hardworking parents have limited time to be active in their child’s school. Our community could benefit from a greater connection to other families and multigenerational exposure for shared childcare responsibilities. Auburn Gresham could benefit from the creation of programs that incentivize parental involvement.

**Acknowledge barriers to learning and create supportive social-emotional healing models**

Our community has several unique challenges that affect students including violence, family instability and food scarcity. Disconnected youth who lack engagement opportunities are more vulnerable to violence. There is a need for a responsive educational system that can address trauma and support for students, teachers and parents in the learning environment. Auburn Gresham is focused on enhancing the relationships in the community to provide safe spaces for youth.

**Most Residents Have High School Degrees, 20% College Graduates**

**Educational Attainment**  
Highest level of education among people aged 25 years and older



<sup>1</sup> Post-Secondary Degree    <sup>2</sup> H.S.= High School

Source: [www.statisticalatlas.com](http://www.statisticalatlas.com)

The B.R.A.V.E. (Bold Resistance Against Violence Everywhere) Youth Leaders is a peer youth council geared towards violence prevention whereas its mission is to cultivate and develop youth into leaders and agents of social justice. The BRAVE Youth Leaders enjoy many exclusive opportunities throughout the year including: community service projects, youth retreats, social gatherings and professional development. The BRAVE Youth Leaders seek to recruit other youth who are willing to become active in its programs. This will include: attending weekly meetings and youth leadership events.

### **YOUTH TASK FORCE VISION STATEMENT:**

**Our vision is to create a school with diverse courses where the student's future and wellbeing is priority.**

#### **School Overall Focus Points:**

- A diversity in staff related to ethnic group of students
- Qualified and relatable teachers
- Selective students should be on the local school board
- Mandatory life skill classes
- Each grade level should have a social worker
- Seminar programs students will have to participate in

#### **Desired Learning Environment:**

- We would like to see a more productive learning environment. We have listed the characteristics we desire and need to be successful.
- Interpersonal & interactive learning
  - Individualized learning approach
  - Learning should differentiate based on student's learning pace and ability
  - Beginning of the school year: students should take survey to assess their learning abilities
  - Separate courses for the different learning styles of students (traditional & non traditional)
  - Student Teacher Ratio 20:1

#### **Optimizing the Curriculum:**

We would like to see the following courses added to our curriculum. We believe that this would enrich our educational experience.

- Block Scheduling (Take different classes every other day)
- Black History
- Auto Tech
- P.E.
- World History
- Life Skills
- Fine Arts & Drama
- ROTC
- Culinary
- General ED (Math, Reading & Science Courses)
- Language Courses
- Music
- Graphic Designing and Computer Tech





MAPSCORPS (Meaningful, Active, Productive Science in Service to Communities) is another way we engage high school youth, who work to close the information gap and help residents access the resources we all need to do good, stay well and live long.





# Strategies and Projects

### STRATEGY 1

**Improve neighborhood schools and provide access to highly trained, committed, culturally responsive urban educators**

To provide our students with a high quality education, we will work to attract educators who are able to provide a nurturing and supportive academic environment. We will seek out partnership opportunities with higher education institutions, like the Illinois State University Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline (CTEP) program, to begin cultivating relationships that ensure new teachers have the capabilities they need to be successful. We will also assess, evaluate and adapt current programs to better understand their efficacy in comparison to programs in other schools. Our students need mentors and tutors to support their social emotional health as well. We will work with families to equip parents with tools to better prepare their children for the future.

Youth need safe spaces to grow and flourish – we will continue building relationships within the community that support them.

## **STRATEGY 2**

### **Support traditional and nontraditional educational opportunities**

There are many different opportunities for education in Auburn Gresham including charter schools, public schools and religious schools. To leverage the benefits of the diverse programs available to our youth, we will create a community learning center that includes school and community social service partnerships. We understand that youth in our community have different academic needs and learning styles as well and will create learning opportunities that are responsive to the needs of all students. We will work with the Chicago Park District and Chicago Public Library to promote continuing education for the whole family during time off of school and on vacations. To address the variety of student needs, we will support innovation in academic programming and enhanced educator interaction including the creation of high quality summer camps for pre-K through 3rd (focused on reading and math literacy) as well as middle school camps focused on STEM, arts and culture and fitness.

## **STRATEGY 3**

### **Expand and maintain the innovative community school model throughout our schools**

Our neighborhood schools have the ability to support youth and families by addressing the whole child through social-emotional development and encouraging youth and family engagement in a safe and nurturing learning environment. Our community needs include not only post-secondary learning opportunities but parent mentor programs and partnerships with social service organizations, such as the parent university program and parent cafés, and supporting parents towards GED attainment or other goals they may have. We will focus on empowerment of students and focus on removing barriers that make learning challenging. Encouraging enhancement of parenting skills has a positive impact on our families. We will create programs that address how to increase the overall health and awareness in Auburn Gresham.

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1: Improve neighborhood schools and provide access to highly trained, committed, culturally responsive urban educators</b>		
<b>1.1</b> Increase parental understanding of educational options and ways be to involved in their child's school	Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Network 11   Local School Councils (LSCs), Southwest Federation of Block Clubs, Community Action Councils, Parent Advisory Councils (PACs), Student Councils	Long-term
<b>1.2</b> Assess, evaluate and adapt successful educational achievement program in schools	CPS Network 11   ARK of St. Sabina, area schools	Mid-term
<b>1.3</b> Attract and retain quality teachers through partnerships like the ISU Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline program	Illinois State University (ISU)   Chicago State University (CSU), Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC), University of Chicago (UChicago), City Colleges of Chicago (CCC)	Long-term
<b>1.4</b> Enlist more tutors and mentors for students	World Sports Chicago   Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC), After School Matters, Chicago Literacy Initiative, AARP, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, United Way of Metro Chicago, LSCs	Long-term
<b>1.5</b> Create community career day and connect to mentors	CPS   CSU, NEIU, UIC, UChicago, CCC	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 2: Support traditional and nontraditional educational opportunities</b>		
<b>2.1</b> Create a community learning center	ARK of St. Sabina   CCC, YMCA, Chicago Park District, Boys and Girls Clubs, Chicago Public Library (CPL)	Long-term
<b>2.2</b> Expand incentives for student participation in both traditional and nontraditional academic programming	Easter Seals   corporate partners	Long-term
<b>2.3</b> Design community campaign to promote reading	GADC   CPL, Cultural Literacy Club, ISU, Chicago Lakeshore Learning Center, Scholastic Learning, Children's Literacy Initiative, Educare	Long-term
<b>2.4</b> Create family-student summer academic reading program	ISU   CSU, UIC, Parks, CPL	Long-term
<b>2.5</b> Partner with Boys and Girls Clubs for a community event / program	GADC   Boys and Girls Club; Education Steering Committee	Early Action Project
<b>2.6</b> Build a grant writing committee	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.7</b> Hold an athletic and technology clinic	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 3: Expand and maintain the innovative community school model throughout our schools</b>		
<b>3.1</b> Encourage continuing education/GED opportunities for parents	PACs   CPS, Alderman's office Youth Ambassadors, Parent Universities, CCC, CPL, GADC	Mid-term
<b>3.2</b> Empower students in schools with tutoring, internships, social-emotional therapy and trauma counseling	PACs   CPS, Alderman's office Youth Ambassadors, Parent Universities, CCC, CPL, GADC	Long-term
<b>3.3</b> Develop/expand parent cafés	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>3.4</b> Create a youth café for teens	GADC	Early Action Project

**NOTE: Short-term:** one year    **Mid-term:** two to three years    **Long-term:** three to five years



A young girl with dark hair and a white heart sticker on her wrist is looking at a book. The background is a teal gradient with a faint image of a person's hands holding a book.

## Outcomes:

### 1. By 2021, each of our schools will have:

- on-site behavioral health services
- a health satellite service site
- a literacy and math coach
- high quality out of school time
- summer enrichment camps
- a garden and a playground
- world language and fine arts

### 2. 80% of Pre-K to 3rd grade students read at or above grade level by 2021

### 3. Average student mobility rate of our schools at or below the district average by 2021

Our neighborhood schools have the ability to support youth and families by addressing the whole child.

## ISSUE AREA | HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS GOAL:

**We envision a community where residents are vibrant, prosperous and live long healthy lives!**

Our goal is to encourage behavioral changes in the way we relate to fitness, nutrition and each other. We face barriers to entry issues including affordability, access to fitness facilities, lack of resources and lack of healthy food stores. Organizations of the community must provide better communication to Auburn Gresham residents which would ultimately support efforts to increase healthy behaviors, particularly among vulnerable populations like seniors and youth. With a focus on education and intergenerational learning, our goal is to raise awareness and address challenges with proactive and preventative means.

“ I would like to renew and promote holistic healthy lifestyles that include physical fitness, good nutrition, mental health and spiritual wellbeing. ”

— Robert Beck, Task Force Member



“My main concern is how do we provide accessible resources specifically for mental health, drug and alcohol substance abuse?” — Ronald Browne, Task Force Member





### **Older adults are in need of encouragement and communication about health resources**

We have pride and respect for the number of active older adults in our community. This population has unique challenges and needs support to overcome them. Our goal is to create a neighborhood where older adults can live productive lives near necessary services. By providing ease of access to health and wellness facilities, healthy food options, cooking and fitness classes, we can spread awareness of health care options and promotion of a healthy lifestyle. We will expand partnerships to include senior facilities and community service centers and host health fairs geared toward older adults. We will also develop a health and wellness hub easily accessible by transportation including bicycles and walking for all residents. Intergenerational gathering opportunities and meeting at locations that seniors frequent will help them feel connected and will support their participation in community activities.

### **Auburn Gresham has health related assets and health care providers that are an advantage to our community**

We believe that living a healthy lifestyle includes not only good nutrition and fitness but cultivation of mental and spiritual wellbeing. The greater Auburn Gresham community has more than 562 faith based institutions that can support a collective consciousness of working together towards holistic community health. And though existing healthcare providers are becoming more visible through mobile clinics, partnerships with social service agencies and hosting of health related workshops, the community seeks to identify and create a centrally located hub with living wage jobs, that will help identify Auburn Gresham as a community where health and wellness - along with lifelong learning - are themes of improved quality-of-life. According to the Chicago Health Atlas, more than 30% of Auburn Gresham residents between the ages of 18 to 64 were uninsured between 2008-2012. We will encourage our community's enrollment in affordable health care insurance to promote healthy lifestyles.

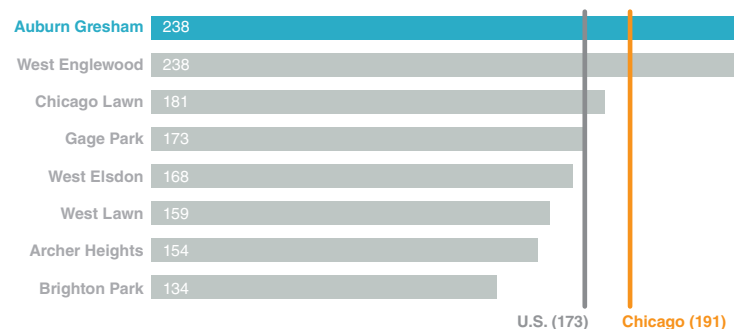
### **Our community must improve overall access to nutrition and fitness programs**

Access to healthy food and fitness options has a direct relationship to improved student test scores, to living longer lives, reduced dependence on medications, and to fewer incidents of crime. We will create programs and promote lifestyles that include a holistic approach to improving Auburn Gresham residents. We will focus on partnering with fitness based partners such as Planet Fitness and the Chicago Park District to ensure access for our residents in relevant programs. Our youth are particularly vulnerable to the deleterious effects of poor nutrition. We will support families and educate parents on the importance of good health practices.

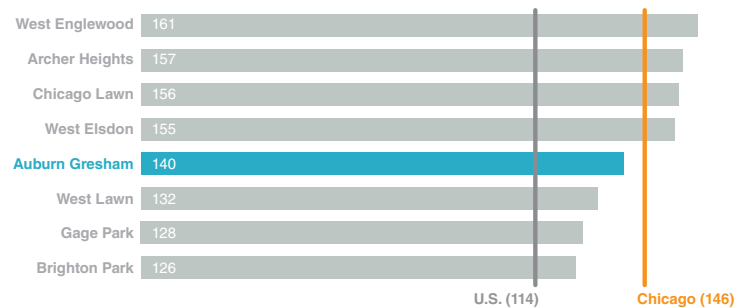


## Increased Accessibility to Healthcare Can Reduce Rates of Chronic Diseases And Cancer

### Cancer Mortality Rates (2006-2010)



### Heart Disease Mortality Rates per 100,000 (2006-2010)



Source: Holy Cross Health – Community Health Needs Assessment (2015)  
<http://www.holycrosshealth.org/community-health-needs-assessment>



## Strategies and Projects

### STRATEGY 1

**Strengthen our awareness of existing health and wellness resources through both print and electronic communications**

Better communication with Auburn Gresham residents regarding resources and programs in our community will bring about a greater awareness of health and wellness options. Through a variety of communications channels, we will market and brand a healthy lifestyle in the community. In Auburn Gresham, we have health care partners that serve our diverse population. However, they are not generally accessible within our community and often require transportation to access the services including: Oak Street Health, Auburn Gresham Family Health Center, Access Community Health Network, VA Medical Center, Advocate Trinity Hospital, UI Health and University of Chicago. We will create a comprehensive directory of health organizations, fitness centers and other health related resources to provide our residents with a variety of ways to improve their overall health, with a specific focus on mental health and addiction.



## **STRATEGY 2**

### **Build a neighborhood culture of health integrated into existing classes and programs offered within the community**

We are committed to resident outreach to make our community healthier. To create greater awareness around healthy habits and in an effort to promote a healthy lifestyle, we will partner with industry experts for classes on topics that are important to community residents. In addition to classes, we will work with local organizations and the faith based community to integrate holistic health into all aspects of daily life. We will focus on four areas: physical fitness, good nutrition, mental and physical health and spiritual well-being. Outreach will begin with neighbor-to-neighbor recruitment and extend throughout the whole community.

## **STRATEGY 3**

### **Increase the social connections among community residents focused on cultivating the overall well-being of families**

Our community is committed to supporting families through expanded programs and partnerships with area healthcare institutions. Nearly 30% of Auburn Gresham residents are under age 20 and over a third are over age 50. We will create programs that foster a supportive and affirmational community that emphasizes peer to peer skill building and sharing with emphasis on intergenerational learning.

## **STRATEGY 4**

### **Develop a Healthy Lifestyle Hub on 79th Street (see *Seniors Strategy 4*)**

Promoting healthy lifestyles to south side residents and making easy access to providers of health, wellness, fitness, and educational services is an extremely important and essential strategy. The construction of a new trauma center at University of Chicago Medical Center, though much needed after a twenty-five year void, does not address the extremely important need of promoting healthy living and healthy lifestyles. We feel that the creation of a gathering and service space on 79th Street that specifically addresses all around health, wellness and educational activities including private practices is paramount to revitalizing the community and its residents, and the revitalization the center would bring to the corridor will be a catalyst to continued job growth and economic development in Auburn Gresham and surrounding communities.



STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1: Strengthen our awareness of existing health and wellness resources through both print and electronic communications</b>		
<b>1.1</b> Market/brand local health and wellness organizations/businesses that teach healthy lifestyles	Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)   Rush University Medical Center; Everthrive; Faithful Families; University of Illinois - Chicago (UIC); Community Grand Round; Wards 17, 19 & 21	Long-term
<b>1.2</b> Create a directory of health organizations, resources and fitness centers	GADC   Target Area Development Corporation	Short-term
<b>1.3</b> Create and maintain partnerships with health and wellness organizations to support resident efforts to eat better and exercise more	GADC   Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion	Mid-term
<b>1.4</b> Provide integrated, accessible and responsive mental health, drug and alcohol abuse resources	Catholic Charities   Access Health, VA Medical Center, Local Alcoholics Anonymous, Oakdale, Near North Health Center	Long-term
<b>1.5</b> Coordinate the faith-based community to share health and wellness resources with their congregations	Advocate Health   UIC; Topbox; Peapod; Greater Chicago Food Depository; Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity (IAPO)	Early Action Project
<b>1.6</b> Host monthly education classes on various health topics relevant to the community	Advocate   UIC; Topbox; Peapod; Food Depository; IAPO	Early Action Project
<b>1.7</b> Create a healthy food grocery store/restaurant guide	GADC   Target Area Development Corporation	Early Action Project

### Strategy 2: Build a neighborhood culture of health integrated into existing classes and programs offered within the community

<b>2.1</b> Partner with industry experts to conduct classes on nutrition and prevention	Advocate   UIC; Topbox; Peapod; Food Depository; IAPO	Short-term
<b>2.2</b> Integrate physical fitness, nutrition, mental health and spiritual wellbeing into the regular offerings of local organizations	Area faith based institutions   Thresholds, Coach Mike Virtual App; Chicago Park District; Go Run; Jose Wilsone Riders Club, LA Fitness; Planet Fitness	Long-term
<b>2.3</b> Hold a free healthy food event	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.4</b> Create a mobile fresh fruits and vegetables program	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.5</b> Support Illinois HB 6027, healthy local food incentives for residents with limited access	Advocate   UIC; Topbox; Peapod; Food Depository; IAPO	Early Action Project

### Strategy 3: Increase the social connections among community residents focused on cultivating the overall well-being of families

3.1 Engage more Auburn Gresham residents in healthcare partner programs	Rush   Courage to Love, Family Focus	Short-term
3.2 Expand parenting classes, tutoring, stress management, trauma recovery and leadership skill training	Strengthening Families	Mid-term
3.3 Create peer to peer relationship development programs that foster a supportive and affirmational community	Community Action Councils   Local Schools Councils; Parent Advisory Councils	Mid-term
3.4 Hold regular parent cafés - <i>see Education and Youth 3.3</i>	GADC	Early Action Project
3.5 Bring volunteers and resources to local farmers markets	GADC	Early Action Project
3.6 Hire a grant writer for local healthy foods initiatives	GADC	Early Action Project

### Strategy 4: Develop a Healthy Lifestyle Hub on 79th Street (*see Seniors Strategy 4*)

4.1 Create a gathering and service space for health, wellness and educational activities for Auburn Gresham and Southside residents	GADC   Citywide health partners such as: UIC, Oak Street Health, Advocate	Mid-term
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**NOTE:** **Short-term:** one year    **Mid-term:** two to three years    **Long-term:** three to five years

#### Outcomes:

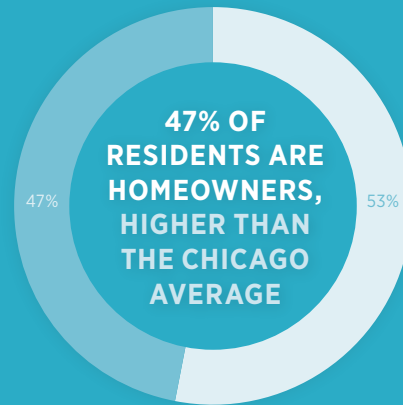
1. Increase participation in health and wellness registration in Chicago Park District classes and nutrition classes at area hospitals.
2. Increase participation in Affordable Care Act insurance for the adult population ages 18-64.
3. Increase participation in preventative care through increased outreach by area health institutions.
4. Establish a healthy lifestyles building on 79th Street with more than 100 living wage jobs for residents.

**HOUSING GOAL:**

**We desire to create safe, affordable and accessible multigenerational housing opportunities that support neighborhood stability and historic preservation while encouraging investment.**

The strength of our community lies in the strength of our neighborhoods. Our housing stock, including its diversity and historic qualities, are a source of pride for Auburn Gresham residents. There are many homeownership and rental options available in the community for all types of family structures. Since the recent Great Recession, we are seeing home values slowly return and median sales increasing throughout the community. Outside investment continues to threaten the long-term stability and affordability of our community. We wish to maintain our community character and increase housing opportunities for new and existing residents. Our goal is to make homeownership attainable and sustainable through continued neighborhood improvement and resident education while supporting and strengthening the rental housing landscape that has long been an important component of the community.





“I envision a thriving community that supports families through the creation of safe, well-lit streets, spaces for the community to gather” — Dr. Carol Collum, Task Force Member





## HOUSING

### **Housing stability and accessibility is necessary to maintain our community**

47% of Auburn Gresham residents are homeowners. This number is larger than the City of Chicago as a whole. Of this population, many are multi-generational homeowners who have kept homes in our community for decades. We take pride in the longevity of our residents and celebrate their continued commitment in our community. The Great Recession made homeownership more difficult to attain for many and disproportionately affected households in Auburn Gresham and surrounding communities.

### **We prioritize maintenance of our historic building stock and neighborhood character**

Auburn Gresham homeowners and renters have disproportionately high housing costs compared to the average in the City of Chicago. Because of this, we experienced the deleterious effects of the Great Recession in our community represented by high rates of foreclosure. We wish to maintain our neighborhood character and are in the process of creating model blocks throughout the community that demonstrate high levels of investment in



### Cost Burden Has Improved for Owners, Increased for Renters

	2010	2011	2012	2013	% CHANGE
Total population	76,347	75,877	72,727	71,750	-6.0%
Number of households	26,351	25,878	25,348	25,421	-3.5%
Housing units	30,554	30,484	30,455	30,291	-0.8%
Owner-occupied housing units	13,211	12,431	11,923	11,831	-10.4%
Home ownership cost burden: percent of owner households where ownership costs exceed 30.0% of income (monthly)*	44.3%	43.8%	46.8%	42.0%	-5.0%
Chicago home ownership cost burden				39.6%	
Renter-occupied housing units	12,351	12,625	12,586	12,593	+2.0%
Renter cost burden: percent of renter households where rent exceeds 30.0% of income (monthly)	62.5%	63.7%	65.0%	66.8%	+6.9%
Chicago renter cost burden				53.7%	

Source: U.S. Census ACS

rehabilitation and renovation of existing structures. Through the use of the federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and locally administered Micro Market Recovery

Program (MMRP) programs, our neighborhood is improving with resident engagement which is attracting other funders to help sustain the improvement.

### Outside perception of Auburn Gresham is affecting investment and attraction of new residents

Auburn Gresham's identity as a thriving African-American community has suffered due to disinvestment and migration out of our community in the last generation. In addition, rising crime levels and reduction in housing values have made it increasingly difficult to attract new residents to our community. Through partnerships with the Chicago Police Department's C.A.P.S. program, local organizations, faith based community and resident engagement, we are empowered to change the public perception of our neighborhood. We will restore the historic character of our community through continued investment in defining our identity and identifying opportunities for continued improvement.



## Strategies and Projects

### STRATEGY 1

#### **Increase the safety and security of our residential blocks through beautification and engagement**

We have pride in our community and want this pride to be reflected in our physical surroundings. The positive attributes of Auburn Gresham will be highlighted with neighborhood maintenance programs and involvement of residents in block clubs. Our community has more than 70 block clubs that participate in many different activities to keep Auburn Gresham clean. We will continue to invest in the creation of block clubs and neighborhood clean-up efforts to show our community pride.

### STRATEGY 2

#### **Encourage the purchase and rehabilitation of vacant lots and existing residential buildings**

Our housing stock is diverse and affordable to many of our residents. The variety of housing types is accommodating to families of all sizes and attracts seniors as well. There are many opportunities for rehabilitation of buildings with historic architectural elements including homes in our historic bungalow belt. These homes have remarkable characteristics and are adaptable. Through partnerships with financial institutions, lenders such as Freddie Mac and programs focused on purchase and rehabilitation, such as the MMRP, we are seeing greater investment in Auburn Gresham.

We encourage the development of mixed-use buildings in commercial corridors to support small business as well as bring greater foot traffic into our commercial districts. Through the City of Chicago Large Lot program, we have been successful in supporting residents who wish to invest in our community and support ownership of underutilized property, bringing it back onto the tax rolls and creating wealth internally.

### STRATEGY 3

#### **Foster neighborhood stability through increased homeownership**

Our population in Auburn Gresham is aging. Many residents have owned their homes for generations. We realize that homeownership is a tool to keep Auburn Gresham stable. We will support first time homebuyers by utilizing existing resources of area organizations to support their ownership goals. Partnerships with local financial institutions and educational opportunities will provide necessary information to the potential ownership pool.

During the Quality-of-Life Planning process, we used a big orange tent as the symbol of hope and making dreams happen – “Connecting You to Your Dreams” – in Auburn Gresham and surrounding communities. Designed as a safe haven for community members to walk up to, we travel with our tent throughout the community to build confidence that we are available to hear their concerns and connect them to resources. With ice cream and a welcoming smile, we share information on foreclosure prevention, the \$1 Large Lots program, building block clubs to create safer neighborhoods and much more.

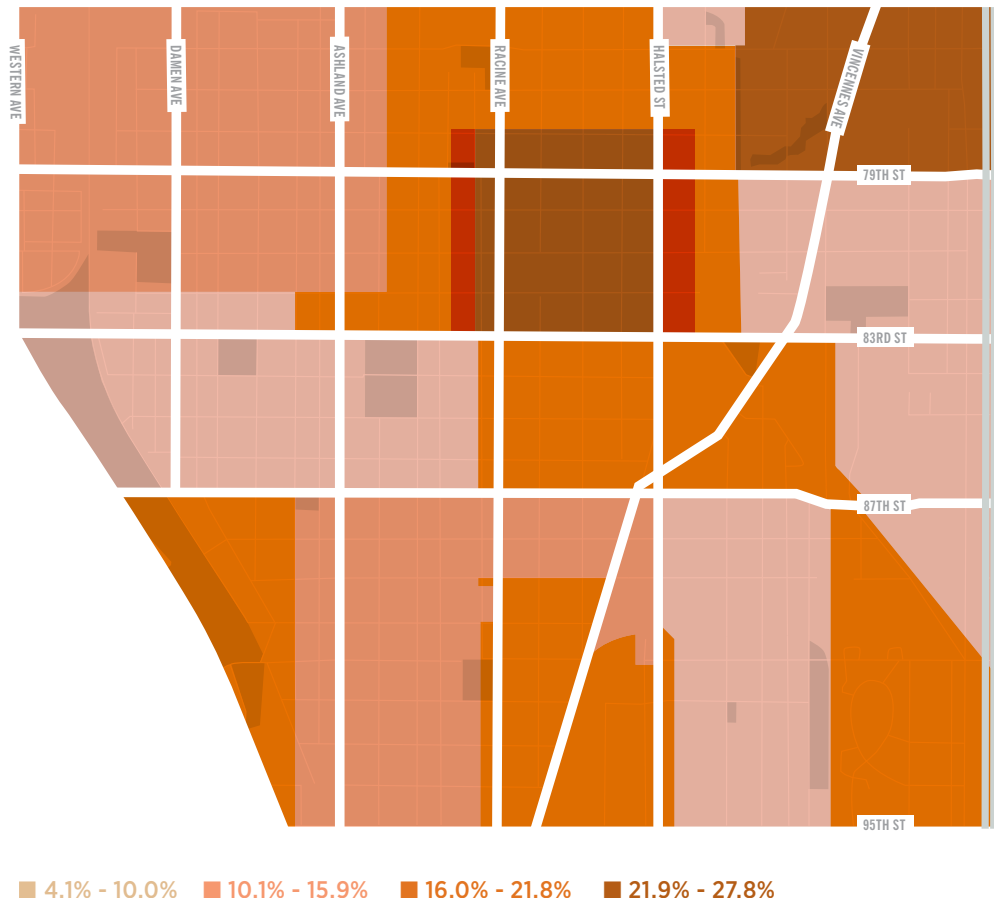
#### STRATEGY 4

#### Strengthen the renter and ownership pool through support systems and focused attraction and retention programs

To attract new residents to Auburn Gresham, we will leverage the existing assets in the community and showcase our pride of place to attract renters and homeowners. We will create a central apartment finder office in the community to help with outreach and interaction with potential applicants. Our renters and homeowners need support and guidance in finding resources to help maintain their homes and are in need of education on the rental and home-buying process. We will connect residents with programs to maintain their stability and establish consistent communication with apartment owners and property managers.

### Purchase of Lots and Investment in Existing Homes Can Help Reduce Pockets of Vacancy

#### Residential Vacancy Rate



# HOUSING

STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1: Increase the safety of our residential blocks through beautification and block club engagement</b>		
1.1 Install more lights and plantings	19th, 17th and 21st Wards   Special Service Areas #32 and #69; Americorps, City Year; City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD)	Short-term
1.2 Engage more neighbors in existing block clubs and provide annual trainings	Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS)   Block Clubs; Community Area Policing Strategy (CAPS); Wards 19, 17, 21; Urban Green Team, Seron Smith Block Club University	Short-term
1.3 Clean up the Freddie Mac program target blocks	NHS   Block Clubs; CAPS; Wards 19, 17, 21; Urban Green Team, Seron Smith Block Club University	Early Action Project
1.4 Engage CAPS to have a greater community presence and police vacant properties	NHS   CAPS	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 2: Encourage the purchase and rehabilitation of vacant lots and existing residential buildings</b>		
2.1 Develop mixed use retail/housing on 79th Street and other existing commercial corridors	Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)   Southside Community Investors Association; DPD	Mid-term
2.2 Market local contractors to our residents through the neighborhood portal	Veterans Neighborhood Builders Association   New Pisgah; NHS; St. Sabina Employment Resource Center (ERC); Simeon High School	Mid-term
<b>Strategy 3: Foster neighborhood stability through increased homeownership</b>		
3.1 Assist first time homebuyers with home purchases	NHS   ERC; Project 5000; GADC; Urban Partnership Bank; The Private Bank; Freddie Mac	Mid-term
3.2 Advertise and actively recruit for existing homeownership and renter education classes through pop-ups, advertising and events	GADC   NHS, Promptly Properties, Federal Home Loan Banks of Chicago, Southside Federal Credit Union	Short-term
3.3 Create tailored homeownership programs and incentive packages with local banks	NHS   Dream Gives, GADC	Mid-term
<b>Strategy 4: Strengthen the renter and ownership pool through support systems and focused attraction and retention programs</b>		
4.1 Create a central apartment finder office	Pangea   Realtors' Association; Dearborn Realtors Board; Southside Federal Credit Union; Freddie Mac; Promptly Properties; local realtors	Short-term
4.2 Create neighborhood tours and marketing materials for renters and homebuyers	GADC   Chicago Historic Bungalow Association; public relations companies; apartment rental agencies	Long-term
4.3 Identify model projects to increase neighborhood stability	NHS   Dream Gives, GADC	Early Action Project
4.4 Draft a marketing campaign to attract renters, homebuyers and investors to Auburn Gresham.	NHS   Dream Gives, GADC	Early Action Project

**NOTE: Short-term:** one year    **Mid-term:** two to three years    **Long-term:** three to five years





**Outcomes:**

1. Increase homeownership from 47% to 50% by 2021.
2. Reduce housing vacancy and vacant residential lots by 15% by 2021.
3. Reduce mobility out of the community by 10% in 2020 census.
4. Reduce the housing burden for 100 families by 2020



To attract new residents to Auburn Gresham, we will leverage the existing assets in the community and showcase our pride of place to attract renters and homeowners.

## ISSUE AREA | SAFETY, SECURITY AND FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS

### SAFETY, SECURITY AND FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS GOAL:

**We envision a community that works together to improve its overall livability and walkability through partnerships with businesses, law enforcement and community policing that creates a thriving family-oriented environment with well-lit streets and spaces for the community to gather.**

Crime and safety issues are a concern for residents. Through partnerships with the Chicago Police Department, these issues are being addressed and new strategies to reduce crime are being created and implemented. We are committed to creating a community that is safe for our children to play and grow. The future of Auburn Gresham is reliant on our youth having the skills and tools to successfully maintain a peaceful community. Our goal is to decrease crime and increase opportunities for Auburn Gresham residents. We will feel safe in our community and, with resident participation, promote community based policing programs.





“ We need to find more intergenerational activities for the communities. ”

— Leroy Bowers, Task Force Member



“I’d like to task the churches with taking on some of the cleaning and beautification initiatives.”

— Maureen Perkins, Task Force Member





**Block Clubs are at the heart of our community**

There are more than 70 active block clubs in Auburn Gresham. Block clubs serve an important function in our community including beautification, resident education, neighborhood ambassadors and distributors of communication. These resident-created and -maintained organizations form the framework for maintaining safe neighborhoods.

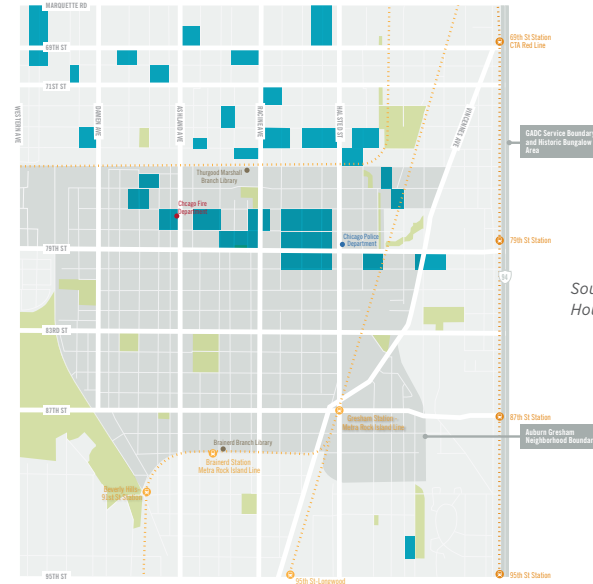
**We are proud of our neighborhood and support each other through collaborative initiatives**

As a community, our vision is to create an environment where residents thrive. We are home to a variety of faith based, social service and community-based organizations that are active in the community and serve an essential function for our residents. Each of these organizations have programs and policies that have our resident’s best interests in mind and were created to serve the needs of the community. We will work to create opportunities for collaboration that leverage the programs and policies in existing organizations to maximize outreach, best utilize resources and provide resident’s with the services they need.

**Our community strives to improve the overall wellbeing of residents**

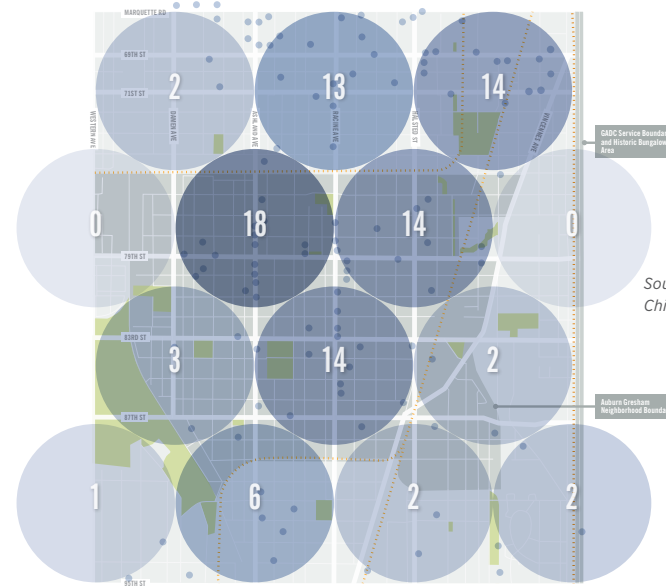
We will work to establish effective partnerships between faith based and community oriented institutions to reduce crime in the community and will create replicable and scalable models to accommodate all congregation sizes and remove barriers to participation in safety-making activities. This can be accomplished through the creation of positive and sustainable relationships with institutional leadership including community Aldermen, CAPS and faith based organizations.

**2013 Block Clubs**



Source: Neighborhood Housing Services

**Places of Worship and Community Facilities**



Source: City of Chicago GIS portal

# Strategies and Projects

## **STRATEGY 1**

### **Foster community beautification by partnering with schools, faith based organizations and block clubs**

We will partner with schools, faith based organizations and other community organizations to foster the formation of additional block clubs and an emphasis on improving our community. These important functions can be broadened throughout the community and will focus on strengthening current communications networks and beautification efforts in our community

## **STRATEGY 2**

### **Enhance neighborhood pride programs by sharing methods of organization and collaboration**

We will increase the number of block clubs and create mentor programs for new clubs to have an opportunity to learn from those that have been successful. Through peer to peer interaction, we will reduce crime, increase accountability and support each other in improving our community. Targeted beautification of streets and parkways will support our overall goal of improving the livability and walkability of Auburn Gresham.

## **STRATEGY 3**

### **Increase participation in community crime prevention programs such as CAPS**

Through community policing and mutual understanding, our community can effectively support the rehabilitation of returning citizens and be responsive to the needs of our youth. We will recruit more participants in the 6th Police District Community Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) to help support anti-violence and crime prevention strategies. By bringing ex-offenders and law enforcement together we can help residents understand their options to keep safe and prevent crime in the neighborhood.

## **STRATEGY 4**

### **Create opportunities for faith based institutions to share resources and establish relationships to better serve the community**

An important asset in Auburn Gresham is the more than 500 churches and faith based institutions that call our community home. This overwhelming representation presents an opportunity to share resources and create a framework to support community safety and security. The faith community of St. Sabina, Southside Worship Center, New Pisgah M.B. Church, as well as Ambassadors for Christ World Outreach Ministries, to name a few, have historically led the charge to organize around issues of safety and security. Partnerships and outreach to faith based organizations, community and service oriented organizations and residents will create an environment of involvement and accountability. Ultimately, resulting in a safer, more sustainable community.

## SAFETY, SECURITY AND FAITH-BASED INSTITUTIONS

STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1: Foster community beautification by partnering with schools, faith based organizations and block clubs</b>		
<b>1.1</b> Increase the number of block clubs through mentorship and workshops - see Housing 1.2	Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS)   West Chesterfield Alliance, Target Area Development Corporation (TADC)	Mid-term
<b>1.2</b> Use student community service hours to clean up and beautify the neighborhood	Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Network 11	Short-term
<b>1.3</b> Strengthen current recycling/clean and green programs through more education and facilities	City of Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation   Block clubs; Waste Management; Cleanslate; Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC); Midway Recycling	Mid-term
<b>1.4</b> Expand crime prevention programs such as DARE and increase participation	DARE   CAPS, CPS, Red Ribbon Campaign	Mid-term
<b>1.5</b> Adopt-a-block clean and patrol program for faith-based institutions and police beat groups	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>1.6</b> Organize a shred-a-thon during National Night Out	GADC	Early Action Project

### Strategy 2: Enhance neighborhood pride programs by sharing methods of organization and collaboration

<b>2.1</b> Encourage neighborhood maintenance, support for the elderly and block club membership through 'neighbor to neighbor' programs	National Federation of Block Clubs	Short-term
<b>2.2</b> Increase positive interactions through block club activities, 'meet and greets' and non-profit resource connections	Be Strong Families   Advocate Health	Long-term
<b>2.3</b> Create an Auburn Gresham Good Neighbor engagement campaign	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.4</b> Support Block Club Convention	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.5</b> Create summary of local safety and security initiatives	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.6</b> Create a 'Park Showcase' for residents	GADC	Early Action Project
<b>2.7</b> Host an event communicating safety initiatives/resources	GADC	Early Action Project

### Strategy 3: Increase participation in community crime prevention programs such as CAPS

<b>3.1</b> Recruit more youth for CAPS participation	CAPS/Chicago Police Department (CPD) 6th District   TADC, GADC	Short-term
<b>3.2</b> Increase resident participation in CPD 6th District sub-committees	CAPS   CPD 6th District, TADC	Mid-term
<b>3.3</b> Bring ex-offenders and law enforcement together for safety and crime prevention education	CAPS   CPD 6th District, TADC, Safer Foundation, Andrew Holmes, CeaseFire	Mid-term



STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
3.4 Host a leadership luncheon	Dr. Carol Collum   GADC	Early Action Project
3.5 Host a panel discussion event between ex-offenders and police officers	TADC	Early Action Project
3.6 Host a motivational speaker	Dr. Carol Collum   GADC	Early Action Project

#### Strategy 4: Create opportunities for faith-based institutions to share resources and establish relationships to better serve the community

4.1 Coordinate safety resources and programming among all faith-based organizations	CAPS	Mid-term
4.2 Build relationships and joint accountability between faith-based and other institutions focused on safety	CAPS   CPD 6th District, TADC	Long-term
4.3 Create effective safety partnerships among faith-based institutions	CAPS   CPD 6th District, TADC	Long-term
4.4 Create a comprehensive database of faith-based institutions	GADC	Early Action Project

**NOTE:** Short-term: one year    Mid-term: two to three years    Long-term: three to five years

#### Outcomes:

1. Increase the number of block clubs south of 79th Street.
2. Increase resident, youth and ex-offender participation in community crime prevention programs.
3. Increase the number of faith-based institutions involved in community-based crime prevention initiatives.

**SENIORS GOAL:**

**We envision involved seniors that are active in the community, through services that provide social, recreational and educational events, improve transportation options and encourage healthier lifestyles.**

Seniors in our community make up 16% of the population. They are very active in the community and participate in park district, block clubs and other senior focused programming. Seniors are the backbone of many families in Auburn Gresham and are frequently the primary caregiver to small children. We will continue to support seniors in our community by creating opportunities for more activities geared towards this age group. Seniors provide the community with knowledge and history and continue to be shining examples of community pride.



“As a senior citizen within the Auburn Gresham community, I had the privilege of going through the first Quality-of-Life process 11 years ago and this year was even better. People are excited about moving forward to create great change.”

— Betty Swanson, Task Force Member







## SENIORS

### Leverage existing organizations that currently offer senior programs

There are several existing organizations that focus on senior concerns including healthcare institutions, senior living facilities, and senior centers. We value the input of our seniors and support their efforts to contribute to our community. The creation of a directory with current senior resources can help facilitate good communication and ensure seniors receive the services they need.

### Recognize and celebrate seniors through intergenerational connections

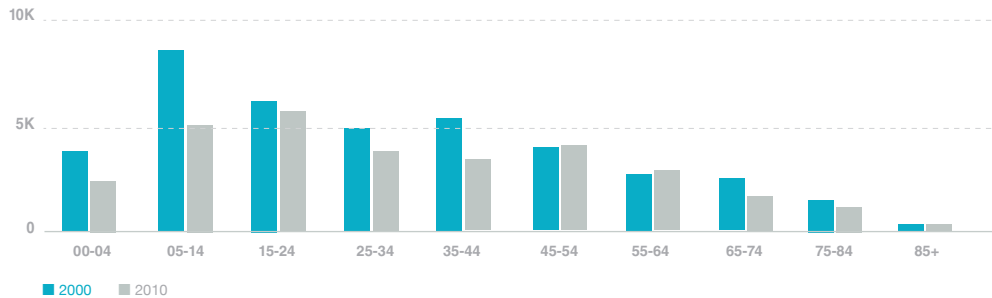
Our community has both a large population of seniors and a very large population of young children. Intergenerational learning and exchange of experiences can enrich the lives of both old and

young. By providing a space for this exchange, we will address the needs of seniors to stay current and involved and teach our youth about their community.

### Emphasize preventative measures to improve senior quality-of-life

Auburn Gresham has several health related resources and facilities that seniors can access. Our community also has very high rates of chronic disease and other health conditions. We will make prevention and early intervention priorities with the goal of supporting the health of aging adults in our community. Physical fitness and nutritional awareness have been identified as the most important aspects of keeping our seniors healthy. We will ensure senior's access to the resources they need and remove barriers to their participation in these programs.

### We Have a Strong and Growing Senior Population



Source: US Census Bureau/ACS, 2009-2013 5-year estimates, tables SO601, S1701



# Strategies and Projects

## **STRATEGY 1**

### **Expand efforts to integrate public health, continuing education, fitness and wellness services for the aging**

Our aging adults deserve the best care possible. We will promote caregiving and intervention services and ensure access to healthcare. To accomplish this goal, we will partner with local, state and county agencies to expand existing programming and create new programming that respond to their unique needs. For seniors to continue to contribute to our community and relate to youth, we will provide computer literacy classes and intergenerational mentorship opportunities. We feel that the relationships between youth and seniors should be fostered and is of value to our community. Seniors have challenges with transportation as well. We will work with local transportation agencies to ensure seniors have adequate access to important destinations, such as the library and hospitals, as well as recreational spaces.

## **STRATEGY 2**

### **Enhance outreach of senior activities through creation of an enhanced communications network**

Seniors in our community can be engaged in a more comprehensive way through creation and distribution of a directory that includes services, health care professionals and programs. This directory will be available in places that seniors frequent. We will raise awareness about existing programs for seniors by hosting senior fairs to highlight resources available in the community and other senior-focused engagement activities.

## **STRATEGY 3**

### **Provide options for seniors to participate in fitness and movement-based programs**

Maintenance of senior health is a priority in Auburn Gresham. Expansion of local exercise and fitness options for seniors can provide needed preventative care and enhance senior's lives. In addition to general healthcare, age-appropriate fitness and movement classes for seniors of all ability levels is an important compliment to other kinds of services. It has been shown that movement and fitness classes can increase their quality-of-life and overall health.

## **STRATEGY 4**

### **Create a walkable/transit-accessible (see *Health and Wellness Strategy 4*)**

The node at 79th & Halsted has many opportunities for development and redevelopment of vacant buildings. Once these building are redeveloped, they will serve as a catalyst for continued development in the community. The idea of the healthy lifestyle building is to generate continual foot traffic and highlight the strategy of collective impact by incorporating health, wellness, fitness, education, living wage jobs and economic development all in one development or phased in multiple developments at/near key nodes in the community.

## SENIORS

STRATEGIES	LEAD   PARTNERS AND POTENTIAL RESOURCES	TIMEFRAME
<b>Strategy 1: Improve health by connecting seniors in the community to service providers and eldercare specialists</b>		
1.1 Improve health by connecting seniors in the community to service providers and eldercare specialists	Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA)   Senator Collins; Advocate Health Care; Jesse Brown VA Medical Center; St. Sabina Elders Village; New Pisgah Haven Homes; Chicago Police Department (CPD) 6th District; 21st, 17th, 18th and 6th Wards	Mid-term
1.2 Expand local, county and state agency partnerships to bring or create new programming for seniors	IDoA   Senator Collins; Advocate; Elders Village; New Pisgah; CPD 6th District; Wards 21, 17, 18, 6; Catholic Charities	Mid-term
1.3 Provide low or no cost computer literacy, preventative education, fitness classes and transportation access for seniors	Chicago Park District   Chicago Public Library; Oak Street Health	Short-term
1.4 Develop an intergenerational mentorship program for seniors and youth	CPD 6th District Senior CAPS   Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GADC)	Short-term
1.5 Provide transportation to and from important destinations and events	Southwest Federation of Block Clubs   Chicago Transit Authority, Pace Suburban Bus Service, Chicago Department of Transportation, New Pisgah, Community Car Pool	Mid-term
1.6 Create an intergenerational pipeline program	New Pisgah   GADC	Early Action Project
1.7 Create a garden wellness party	GADC   Oak Street Health	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 2: Enhance outreach of senior activities through creation of an enhanced communications network</b>		
2.1 Develop a comprehensive database of senior services	Southwest Federation of Block Clubs   CPD 6th District	Short-term
2.2 Promote existing senior focused fitness and recreational programming	IDoA   Senator Collins; Elders Village; New Pisgah; CPD 6th District; Wards 21, 17, 18, 6	Short-term
2.3 Host an annual seniors fair	GADC   Oak Street Health	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 3: Provide options for seniors to participate in fitness and movement-based programs</b>		
3.1 Increase participation in low-impact health maintenance programs such as yoga, tai chi and meditation	IDoA   Senator Collins; Advocate; Oak Street; Elders Village; New Pisgah; CPD 6th District; Wards 21, 17, 18, 6; Catholic Charities	Short-term
3.2 Create age appropriate fitness and movement classes for all ability levels		Long-term
3.3 Encourage outdoor activity with walking clubs, routes and signage		Short-term
3.4 Create a mobile yoga and meditation service	GADC   Oak Street Health	Early Action Project
<b>Strategy 4: Create a walkable/transit-accessible Healthy Lifestyle Hub</b> <i>(see Health and Wellness Strategy 4)</i>		
4.1 Create a gathering and service space for health, wellness and educational activities for seniors and all ages	GADC   Potential citywide health partners such as: Advocate, UIC, Oak Street, University of Chicago	Mid-term

**NOTE: Short-term:** one year    **Mid-term:** two to three years    **Long-term:** three to five years

A person in a wheelchair is shown in profile, facing right. The image is heavily overlaid with a teal color, making the details somewhat obscured. The person appears to be wearing a light-colored shirt and glasses. The background shows a fence and some foliage.

**Outcomes:**

1. Increase the number of fitness classes for all mobility levels offered in the community.
2. Increase intergenerational mentoring opportunities between seniors and youth in the community.
3. Increase the number of locations for social exchange for seniors.









*“The GAGDC planning process was systematic, thorough, highly interactive, and dramatically effective. I felt honored to be able to participate.”*

—Jah Ranu Menab, Task Force Member

## The Planning Process

Auburn Gresham’s Quality-of-Life Plan was designed to be community-led and community-authored to capture the concerns, aspirations and ideas of residents and local stakeholders. The formation of the ‘Your Voice Matters’ initiative rose out of the community as a way to include a broad range of stakeholders in the planning dialogue. Our community stakeholders are dedicated to serving Auburn Gresham and are deeply invested in our collective future.

The current Quality-of-Life Planning process began with a kick-off meeting on October 29, 2015 at Simeon Career Academy to invigorate the community and raise excitement for the future of Auburn Gresham. More than 200 residents, community leaders, youth, school staff, business owners, religious leaders and staff from local non-profits attended the event. The meeting included identification of priority issue areas within the community and established working groups or ‘Task Force’ groups who would meet monthly to create a vision, goals, objectives, strategies and an action plan. Residents self-selected into Task Force groups based on their own interests and affiliations. Several of these built on the existing work and collaborations established through the 2005 plan. The Quality-of-Life Plan also seamlessly informed the work of the Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Network, a collaborative effort led by the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and

GADC to achieve bold goals around education outcomes while also considering health and income supports.

The Auburn Gresham Steering Committee and Task Force groups shared their visions for the future, identified opportunities and challenges, created strategies and action items for implementation. Over a 12 month period, the eight Task Force groups each brought together more than 1,500 residents. The Steering Committee provided a high-level of expertise and was composed of community religious leaders, four Aldermen, State Senator, State Representatives, business owners and public safety officials. Their input into the process was instrumental in moving the strategies to implementation.

Early action projects will carry the process forward to implementation and maintain the momentum created during the Your Voice Matters initiative.

### **Lead Agency: the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation**

The Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) serves as the lead agency for the Auburn Gresham Quality-of-Life Plan as part of the New Communities Network. In this role, GAGDC convened residents and stakeholders to create the plan, and facilitates its implementation by the issue area committees.

GAGDC works to foster and promote revitalization of the low-to-moderate income communities that we serve using comprehensive community development strategies. Since 2001, the GAGDC has worked in all, or parts of, Ashburn, Auburn Gresham, Englewood, Greater Grand Crossing, Washington Heights, West Englewood, and West Chatham.

### **LISC Chicago**

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago connects neighborhoods to the resources they need to become stronger and healthier. Community planning is among the most critical of those resources, and over the last two decades LISC has pioneered a system to help neighborhoods develop those plans. In 2003, LISC's New Communities Program embarked on a decade-long process to not only develop comprehensive plans in 16 Chicago neighborhoods, but to follow through with the implementation of those plans.

NCP has since been expanded to the New Communities Network, allowing additional communities to create their own plans, which are designed to strengthen neighborhoods from within through planning, organizing and human development. The comprehensive approach helps broaden opportunities for local residents through better education, broader job choices, safer streets, new economic opportunities and stronger personal finances. This strengthened community is better equipped to take advantage of larger market forces, including attracting retail and housing development, achieving economic balance in neighborhoods where working-class residents fear displacement by higher-income newcomers, and creating stronger connections to metropolitan-wide business, employment and educational opportunities.

Today, the NCP methodology of Engage, Plan, Act, Communicate, Evaluate, and Repeat is embedded in every aspect of LISC Chicago's work. And it's paying off. LISC has supported quality-of-life plans in 16 Chicago neighborhoods, leveraging more than \$600 million in new community investment.



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**Photo Credit:**

**Gordon Walek**

**Data Sources & References**

**Page 14**

Homeowner/renter costs/income: US Census Bureau/ACS, 2009-2013 5-year estimates

**Page 23**

High school graduation: US Census Bureau/ACS, 2009-2013 5-year estimates, tables S0601, S1701

**Page 43**

Residential vacancy: US Census Bureau/ACS, 2009-2013 5-year estimates, City of Chicago

View the plan online: [www.auburngreshamportal.org](http://www.auburngreshamportal.org)

For more information:

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