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HEALTH

Cook County DEPT. of
Public Health

BUILDING
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITIES

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March 28, 2024

Angela Tovar
 Commissioner, Department of Climate and Environmental Equity
 City of Chicago
 121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 406
 Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Tovar:

Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) fully supports the City of Chicago's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. We recognize the connections between climate change and health, and believe that the Chicago/Cook County CPRG coalition is well-positioned to implement the strategies set forth in the proposal.

CCDPH, the state-certified public health department for most of suburban Cook County, Illinois, strives to optimize health for all people in our jurisdiction. Aligned with key priorities of suburban Cook County's community health improvement plan, this proposal will advance highly effective Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies that also have significant environmental justice benefits. It further will pursue aggressive energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy strategies in public buildings in low income and distressed communities to reduce air pollution, provide jobs, and create educational working models for aggressively addressing climate change. Additionally, this proposal will broaden current efforts underway in the City of Chicago and Cook County to advance the Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP), a procurement strategy that promotes environmental sustainability. CCDPH coordinates Cook County's GFPP, including a partnership with the Cook County Department of Environment & Sustainability to prevent and reduce food-related waste across Cook County Government. Additional funding will support the creation of municipal food scrap collection programs and the infrastructure to support them.

This proposal advances critical evidence-based strategies that will significantly improve the health of our region, and we look forward to working closely to support this effort.

Sincerely,

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, MBA
 Chief Operating Officer
 Cook County Department of Public Health