



# A Call for Health Equity: Addressing the Physician Shortage

In 1984, the federal government noted the racial and ethnic disparities in health. That year, a report commissioned by Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler documented a “persistent and distressing disparity” across more than 40 disease categories for minority groups when compared to the non-minority population.

For nearly 40 years, the U.S. has struggled as population diversity has dramatically increased, while access to health care and diversity of physicians has lagged significantly behind community need. Ultimately, health access is not a single solution but a full continuum of evolving choices contingent on growing and diversifying the workforce of physicians.

Access to medical care impacts everything including mortality rates, employment, and a healthy economy. This is especially true for the Midwest:

- In Chicago, residents of South and West Side zip codes, and throughout rural Illinois, are less likely to have access to health care than those in well-resourced neighborhoods and towns.
- A resident of Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood can expect to live to 60, equal to someone in the Republic of Congo. Nine miles away, residents of Streeterville have a life expectancy of 90.

**We deserve more.**

## CONSIDER THESE Factors

- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2021 the maternal **mortality rate for Black women in the U.S. was 2.6 times greater** than that of white women.
- The proportion of Black physicians to the Black population **has increased only 4% in 120 years**, and the share of Black male doctors is unchanged since 1940.<sup>1</sup>
- **5.7% of all physicians are Black**, compared to 13% of the U.S. population.<sup>2</sup>
- The U.S. faces a projected **shortage of up to 124,000 physicians** by 2034.<sup>3</sup>

**No place is immune to this growing disparity.**

<sup>1</sup>2021 UCLA Study: “Historical Trends in the Representativeness and Incomes of Black Physicians, 1900-2018”

<sup>2</sup>Association of American Medical Colleges’ 2022 Physician Specialty Data Report

<sup>3</sup>Association of American Medical Colleges’ 2021 Annual Study: “The Complexities of Physician Supply and Demand”

## THE CHICAGO SCHOOL AT A Glance



Founded in  
**1979**

**44**  
Study Abroad  
Program Sites

**40+**  
Programs

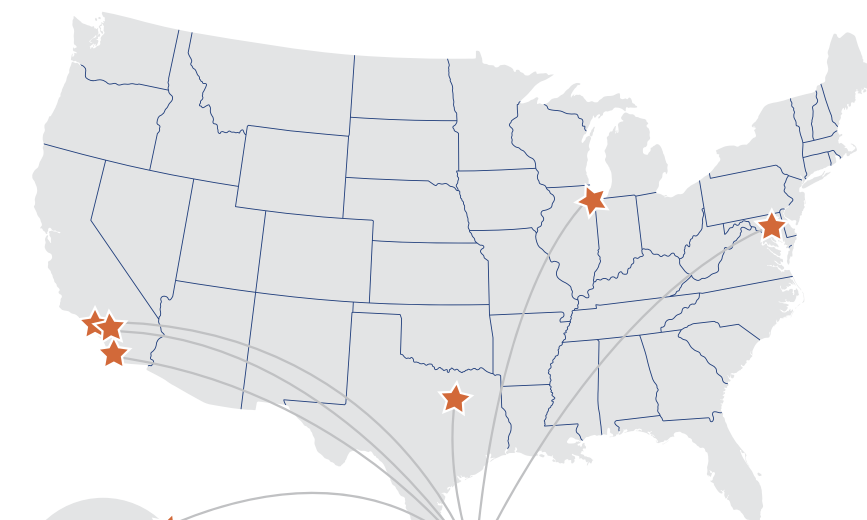
**18**  
Global  
University  
Partnerships

**\$4**  
Million  
Awarded in  
Scholarships  
Annually

**500+**  
Community  
Partners

More than  
**22,000**  
Alumni

**6**  
Metropolitan  
Locations



**THE CHICAGO SCHOOL**

Anaheim, CA  
Chicago, IL  
Dallas, TX  
Los Angeles, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Washington, D.C.

# BE PART OF THE **Solution** FOR CHICAGO

Key to addressing the complexities of health equity is building a workforce pipeline that is uniquely qualified to address the health of a culturally diverse patient population. For 45 years, The Chicago School has led the country in educating culturally competent mental health practitioners. One in 15 clinical psychologists in Illinois graduated from The Chicago School. **We are committed to changing access to health for all. It is our mission.**

Osteopathic medicine brings a holistic approach to patient care by partnering with patients to develop attitudes and lifestyles that don't just fight illness but prevent it. The Chicago School's experience positions it to address health equity by educating culturally competent, mental health informed osteopathic physicians.

**By 2030, the proposed IllinoisCOM could place hundreds of osteopathic physicians in settings where they're most needed.**

Building a **STATE-OF-THE-ART** integrated health campus in Chicago is the first step.



**IMMERSIVE MEDICAL CAMPUS**  
with more than 200,000 square feet



**FIRST CLASS**  
expected to begin in 2026



**\$1 BILLION IMPACT**  
projected in first 12 years



**GROW THE PIPELINE**  
of culturally competent physicians  
across Chicago and Illinois



**PIONEER PHYSICIAN TRAINING**  
alongside mental health practitioners  
on a single integrated campus

# THE **Challenge**

The time is now to address the physician shortage that continues to cripple access to health care in this country. The Chicago School's goal is simple—to educate more culturally competent physicians and expand access to health care.

**With your support, we can be a nexus of change for the whole health of our community.**

We invite you to help make this new educational facility a reality. You can make gifts of cash or pledge your gift over time. We will be pleased to review the naming opportunities for this project.

All gifts of \$1,000 or more will be listed in our main campus space as a tribute to your commitment to our mission.

## Budget for the proposed IllinoisCOM

Capital Requirements	\$60,000,000
Personnel Requirements	\$10,000,000
Program Development and Student Support	\$20,000,000
<b>Total Campaign</b>	<b>\$90,000,000</b>

