



# Understanding Collaboration in City Government: Chicago's Inter-Departmental Task Force on Childhood Obesity

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# + IDTF Evaluation Team

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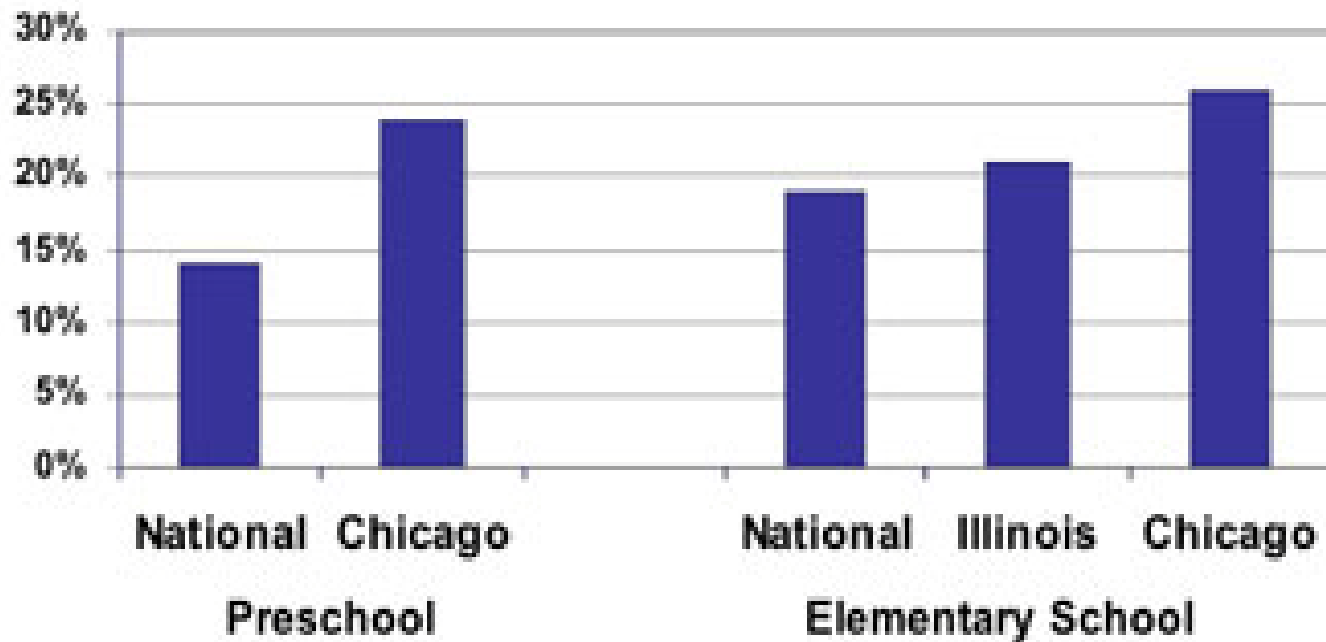
# The Challenge

- Childhood obesity has emerged as a significant public health crisis (Surgeon General's Call to Action, 2001).
- Health disparities exist, especially for children in lower-income, urban, African American and Latino/a families (TFAH, 2012 report).
- Young children in Chicago have higher obesity rates than children of similar demo. in the U.S. and Illinois (CLOCC, 2012 website).



# + Chicago children are overweight at more than twice the national rate

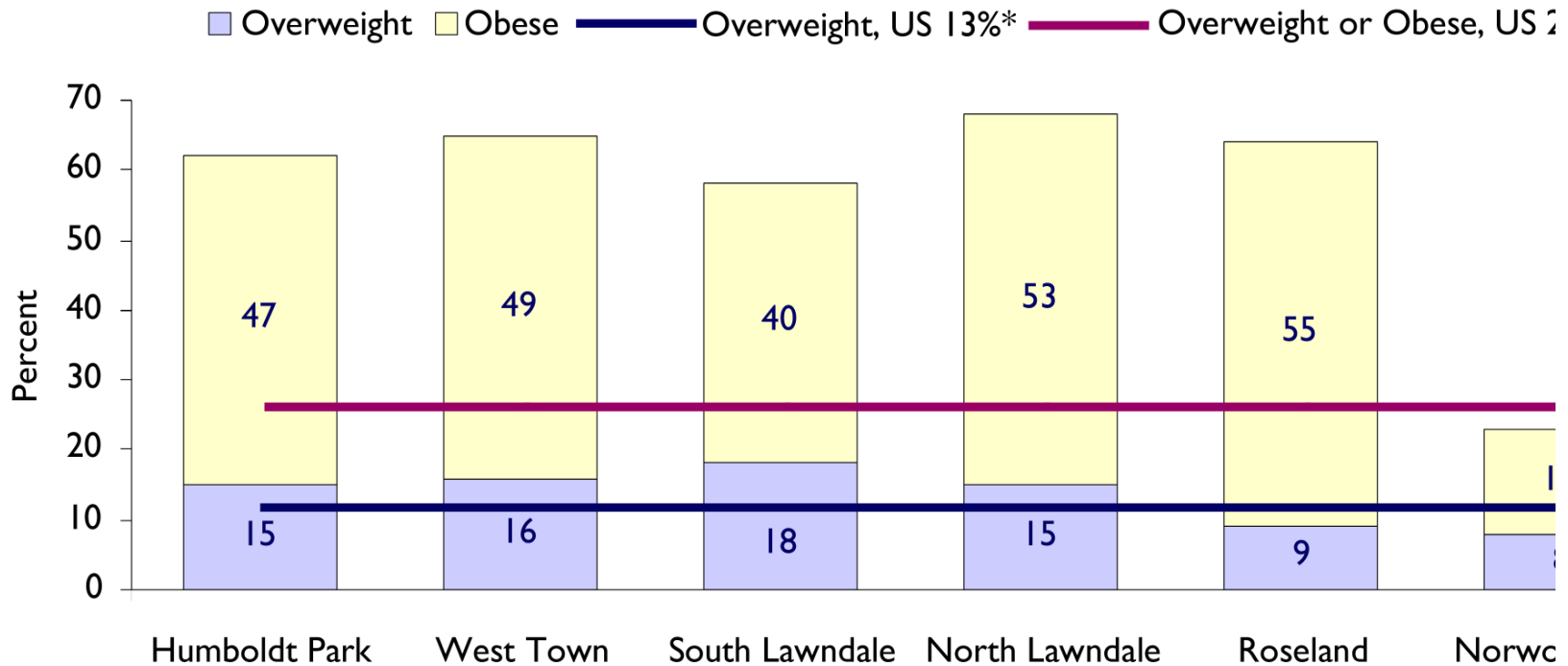
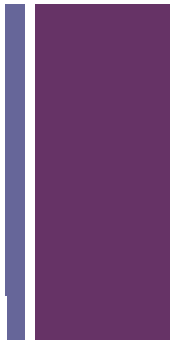
Child Overweight, 2003-2004



Source: CLOCC at: <http://www.clocc.net/coc/prevalence.html>



# Percent of Children (2-12 yrs) Who Are Overweight and Obese

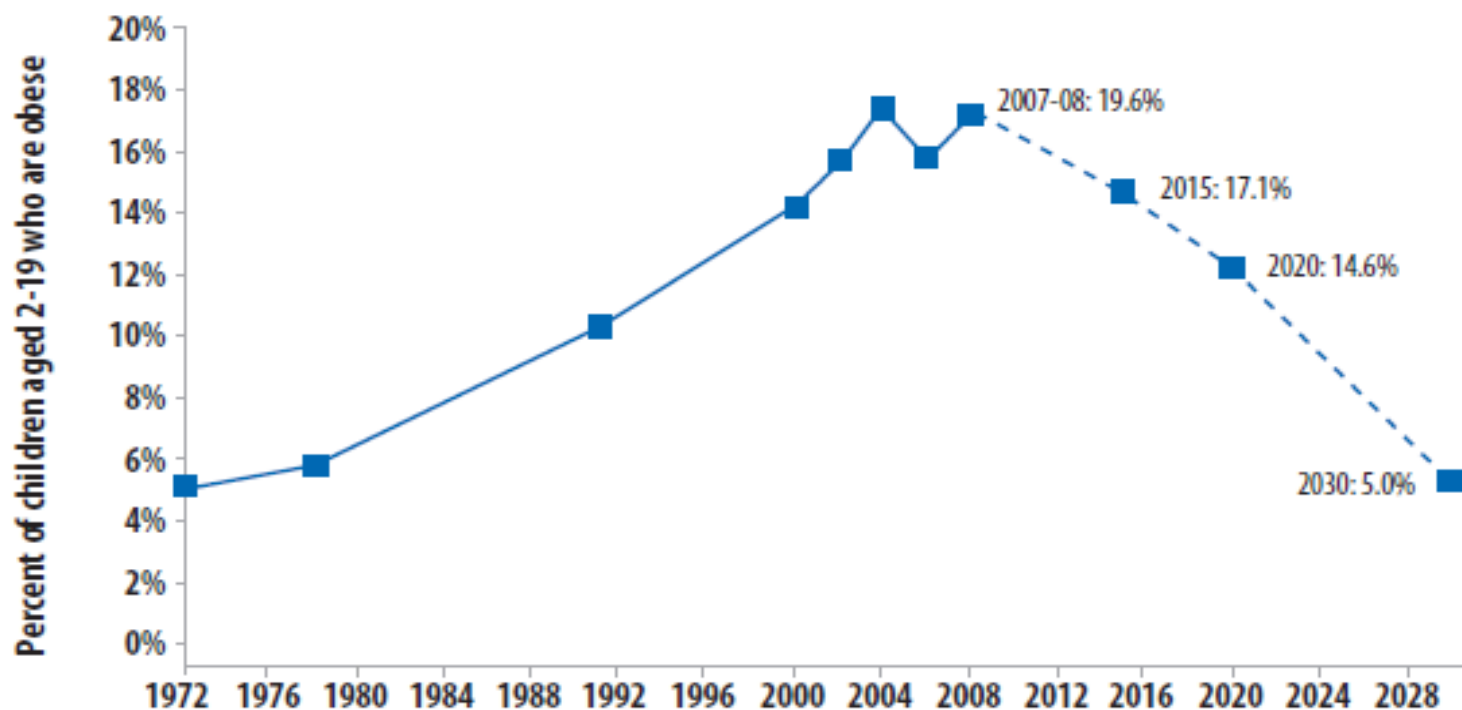


\* Comparison data is for children ages 2-11 years, National Health and Examination Survey, 1999-2000

Source: Improving Community Health Survey

# + Bending the Curve

Bending the Curve: Childhood Obesity, 1972 to 2030

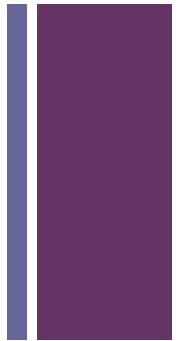


Source: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys.

Note: Obesity is defined as BMI  $\geq$  gender- and weight-specific 95th percentile from the 2000 CDC Growth Charts.



# Cause for Optimism



- Obesity among 3-7 year olds in Chicago declined between 2004 and 2009 (CLOCC 2012).
- Chicago's multisectoral approach to childhood obesity prevention engaged in a wide variety of interventions during this period (CLOCC, Progress in Ped. Cardiology).





# Obstacles to forming a city-wide, multi-agency task force



- Prioritizing childhood obesity prevention at the City level amidst other pressing issues
- Complexity of childhood obesity – no easy solution
- Adapting to re-structuring of agencies
- Funding
- Staffing (hiring freezes, staffing shortages, travel restrictions)



# + IDTF History

- Initial Leadership Meeting
- IDTF formed (4 agencies) - staffing established
- Strategic priorities identified
- City Council Hearing on Obesity
- Agencies establish shared processes
- Chicago Park District pilots first Wellness Center
- 4 new agencies join
- CLOCC's 5-4-3-2-1 Go! message adopted as IDTF public education message



# + IDTF History

- Linking services and resources in original Wellness Campus. Establishing a second wellness campus
- Revising IDTF Plan to incorporate new agencies' initiatives
- Formed partnership with RWJF Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities: Chicago Initiative
- Modifying existing child care regulations
- Creating business plan for Wellness Campus development and funding





# IDTF Operations and Structure



- Leadership: CDPH is the lead city department; CLOCC provides technical assistance
- Membership: Each IDTF agency commissioner selects a senior staff member to represent the agency on the IDTF
- Activities: Working groups established to develop the Wellness Campus concept
- Funding: CLOCC raises philanthropic funds to support facilitation and technical assistance, each city department provides in-kind support

# + IDTF

- Mission: *“Chicago’s city government will play a leading role in confronting childhood obesity through an unprecedented level of coordination, the strategic provision of services, and the advancement of evidence-based practices and policies to improve nutrition and physical activity in a wellness-enhancing environment.”*



# + IDTF

## ■ Overarching goals:

- 1. reduce prevalence of childhood obesity at school entry
- 2. promote physical activity and healthy eating
- 3. maximize efficient use of scarce resources to improve the health, well-being, and academic performance



# + IDTF Agencies

- **Department of Public Health**
- **Department of Transportation**
- **Housing Authority**
- **Public Library**
- **Police Department**
- **Public Schools**
- **Transit Authority**
- **Housing and Econ. Develop.**
- **Family and Support Services**
- **Mayor's Office - Disabilities**
- **Park District**





# + CLOCC

- Childhood obesity advocates met leading to CLOCC.
- CLOCC part of Lurie Children's Hospital, to help children and their families engage in healthier eating and more physical activity.
- Partners cut across medicine, government, corporate, academic, advocacy, and other sectors. Over 3,000 individuals/1,300 organizations who participate in the consortium.
- CLOCC identified as leading community model by the Institute of Medicine, AMA and CDC.





# Major Elements of Three-tiered Plan



## ■ Tier 1 – Primary Prevention Activities

- All Chicago children (approximately 750,000)
- Public education
- Coordinated policy-making
- Data surveillance and environmental assessments
- Cross-agency professional development

## ■ Tier 2 – Early Childhood Focused Activities

- Chicago children ages 3-5 (approximately 100,000)
- Physical activity and nutrition education for child care providers
- Conduct environmental assessment in child care institutions
- Modify child care regulations

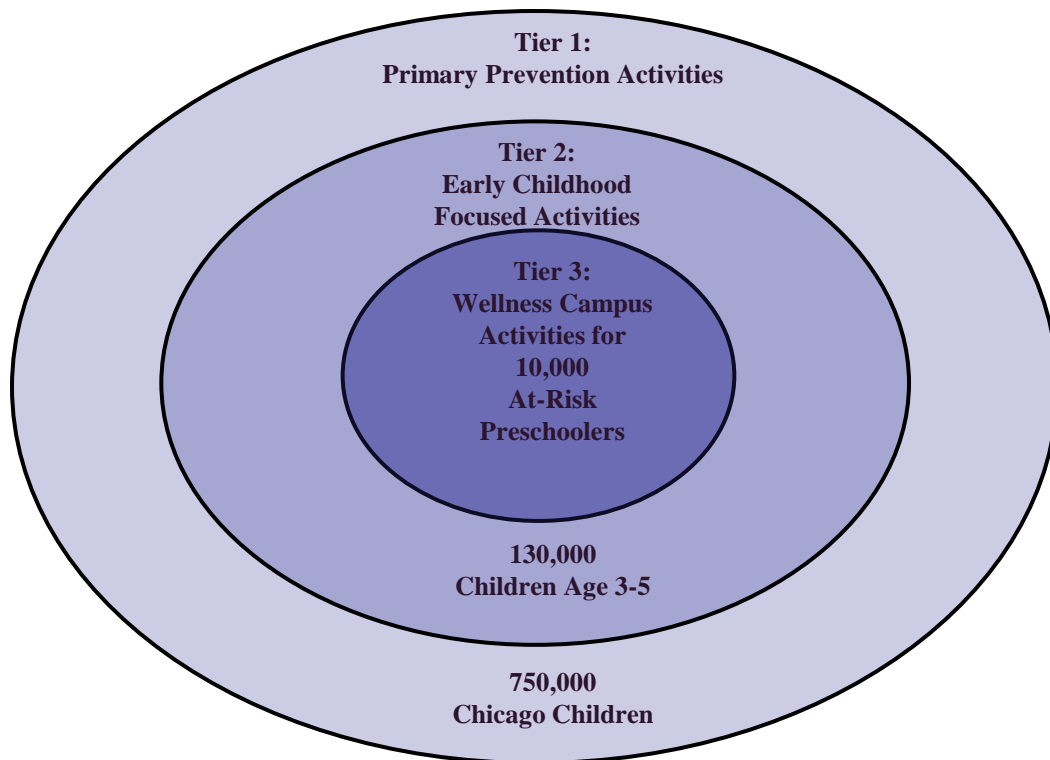




# Three-Tiered Plan

## ■ Tier 3 – Wellness Campus Concept

- Chicago children in high obesity communities (approximately 10,000)
- Establish 6 wellness campuses throughout the City
- Coordinate agency preventive services for families



# + Evaluation Purpose and Data Sources

- The visual logic model highlights agency efforts
- Successes of City Departments connected to the Chicago Inter-Departmental Task Force (IDTF) to lower childhood obesity.
- The goal of the model is to objectively assess member agency efforts
- Task force interactions
- Contribute to future planning.



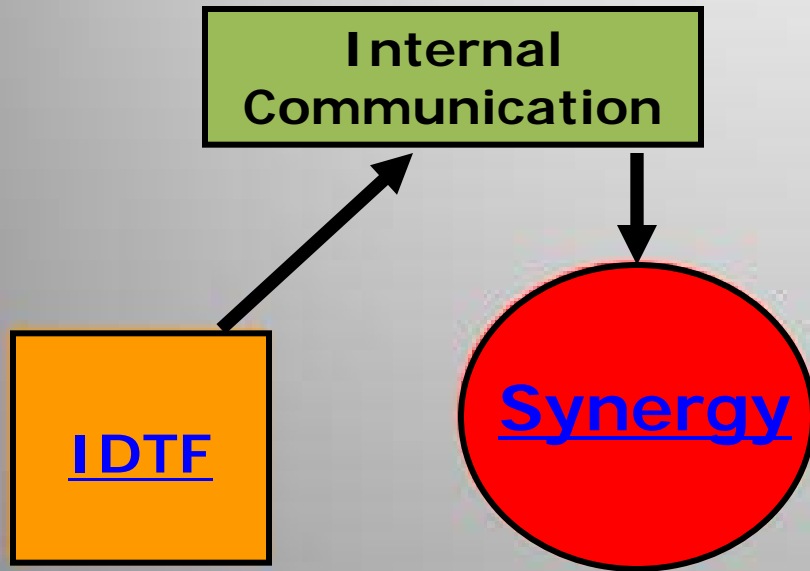
# + Data Sources



- 1. Monthly meeting minutes (2008-2011)
- 2. Systematic meeting observations (5 meetings in 2011)
- 3. Eleven structured, narrative-based interviews with agency representatives
- 4. Two interviews with CLOCC staff/leadership
- 5. Additional IDTF documents and other discussions

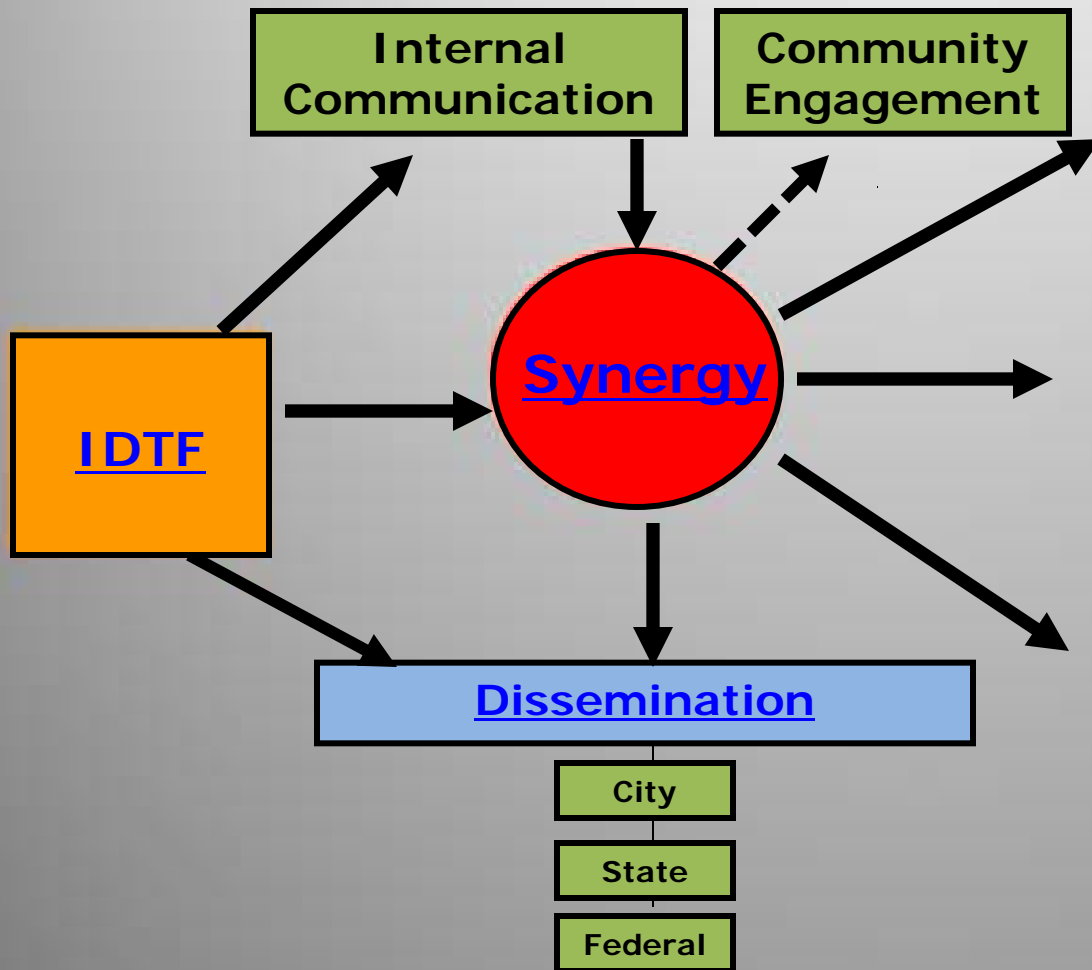
# Integrated Visual Logic Model

Challenges/Opportunities

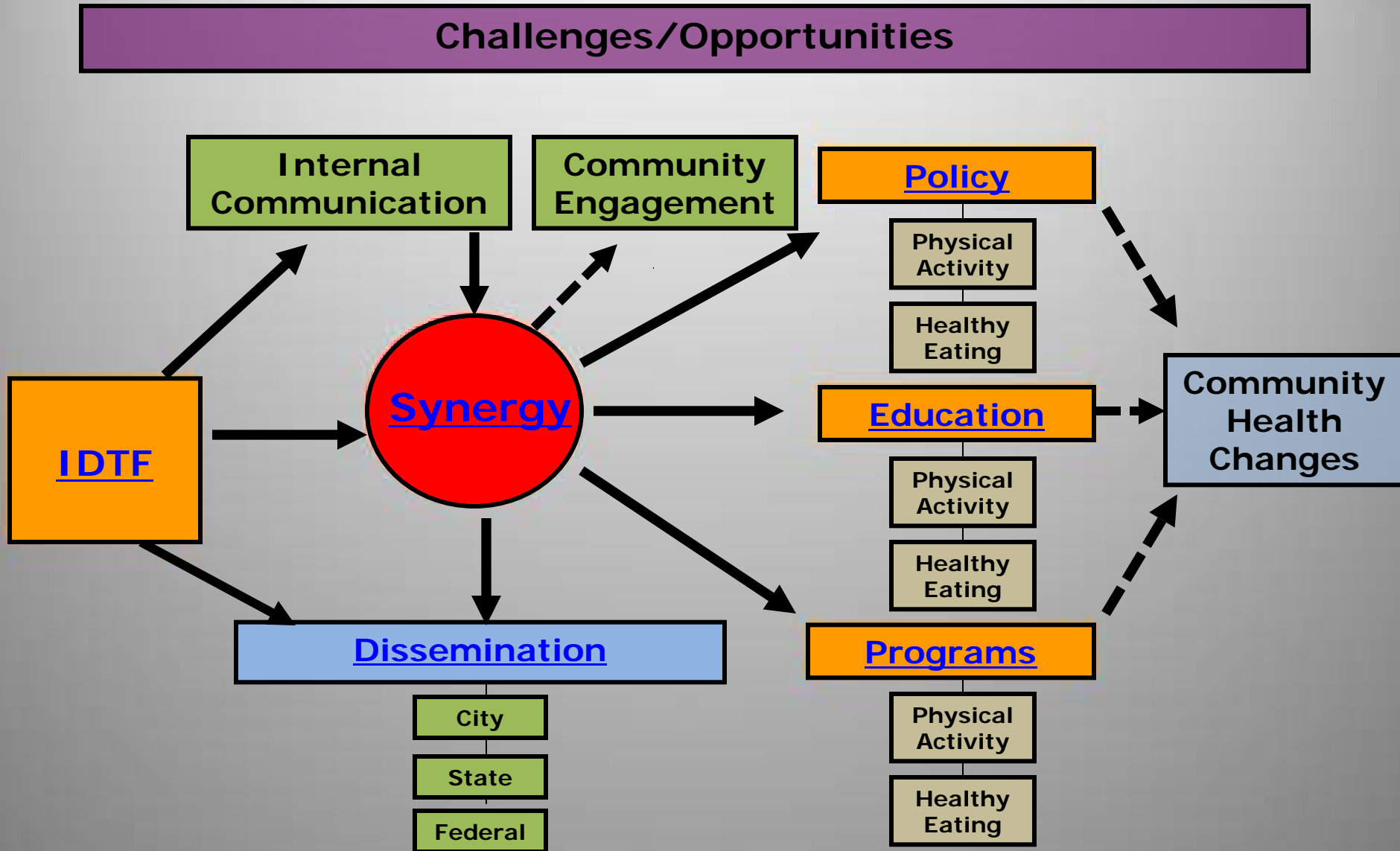


# Integrated Visual Logic Model

Challenges/Opportunities



# Integrated Visual Logic Model

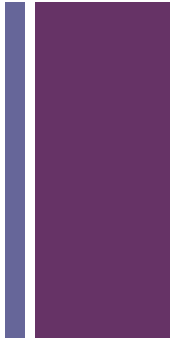


# + Synergy includes:

- Sharing information about intra-agency policies
- Helping each other connect to city residents
- Coming together quickly for grant opportunities
- Distribution of messaging campaigns
- Collaboration on presentations & recognition of task force
- Professional development/training/planning across agencies
- Collaboration on joint data collection



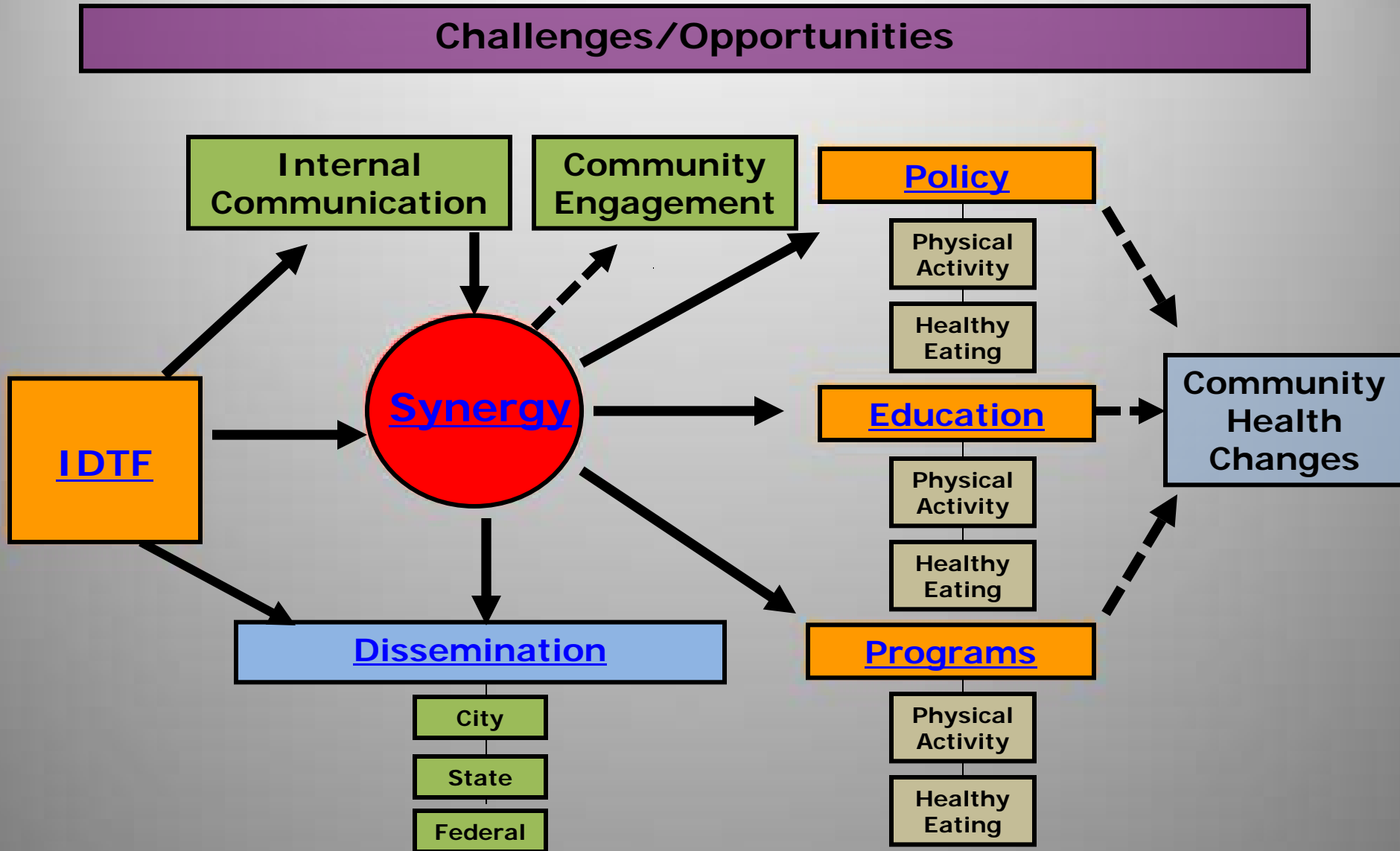
# + New and/or Improved Connections (beyond obesity prevention) of Several Member Agencies



- **CDPH**  $\leftrightarrow$  **CTA**    **CDPH**  $\leftrightarrow$  **CDOT**    **CDPH**  $\leftrightarrow$  **DHED**
- **DHED**  $\leftrightarrow$  **DFSS**    **DHED**  $\leftrightarrow$  **CDOT**    **CDOT**  $\leftrightarrow$  **Parks**
- **CDOT**  $\leftrightarrow$  **DFSS**    **CDOT**  $\leftrightarrow$  **CPS**    **CTA**  $\leftrightarrow$  **CHA**
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- **CHA**  $\leftrightarrow$  **CDPH**



# Integrated Visual Logic Model



# + Policy-Physical Activity

- IDTF has impacted member agency & city policies.
- Physical Activity
  - Complete Streets Policy
  - CDOT Pedestrian Plan
  - Safe Routes to Parks



# + Policy-Healthy Eating

## ■ Healthy Eating

- Healthy Vending
- CPS Competitive Food Policy
- CDPH, DHED, DFSS, CLOCC providing leadership to the Chicago Food Plan, “Healthy Food Chicago”
- Childcare Standards Resolution & recent amendment
- DFSS went to zero sugar with juice restrictions and 1% milk. Connection through IDTF with CPS.

## ■ Comprehensive Obesity Prevention

- CDPH agenda, “Healthy Chicago.”
- Healthy Places Policies
- Park District Wellness policy.
- IDTF creating Three-year Policy Plan



# + Education-Physical Activity

- Cross agency professional development trainings
- Info about active transportation communicated at Park events
- Safe routes to school/Ambassadors
- Bike Ambassadors
- Sunday Parkways - Open streets
- Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities - Safe routes
- Wellness Centers Strengthened through IDTF
- Park District sets up Fitness Related Training.
- Youth Activities Centers, interactive gaming
- *5-4-3-2-1 Go!®* I Am Moving, I Am Learning.



# + Education – Healthy Eating

- Healthy Eating
  - Messaging Campaigns (e.g., *5-4-3-2-1 Go!*® messaging through bus depots & summer food program).



- Information sharing about Park's Harvest Gardens, Farmer's markets
- Greater Chicago Food Depository partner to get food to families



# + Education – Healthy Eating

- Parks - Family dinners
- CHA –Information distribution.
- Corner Stores Initiative
  - Future Food Access
- Educating Humboldt Park
  - Food Trailer vendors on healthy options



# + Programs: Wellness Centers/ Campuses

- Identify diverse health-related resources around wellness centers
- Urge appropriate adaptation and development of existing resources
- Maximize utilization (e.g., safe passage efforts; coordinated schedules).





# An ideal wellness campus involves all agencies

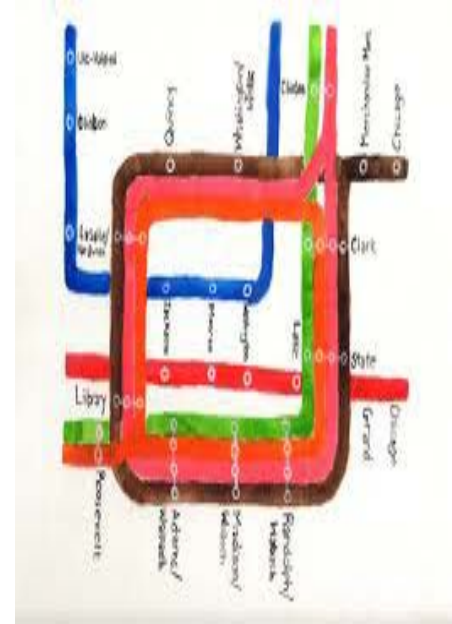
A Chicago  
community



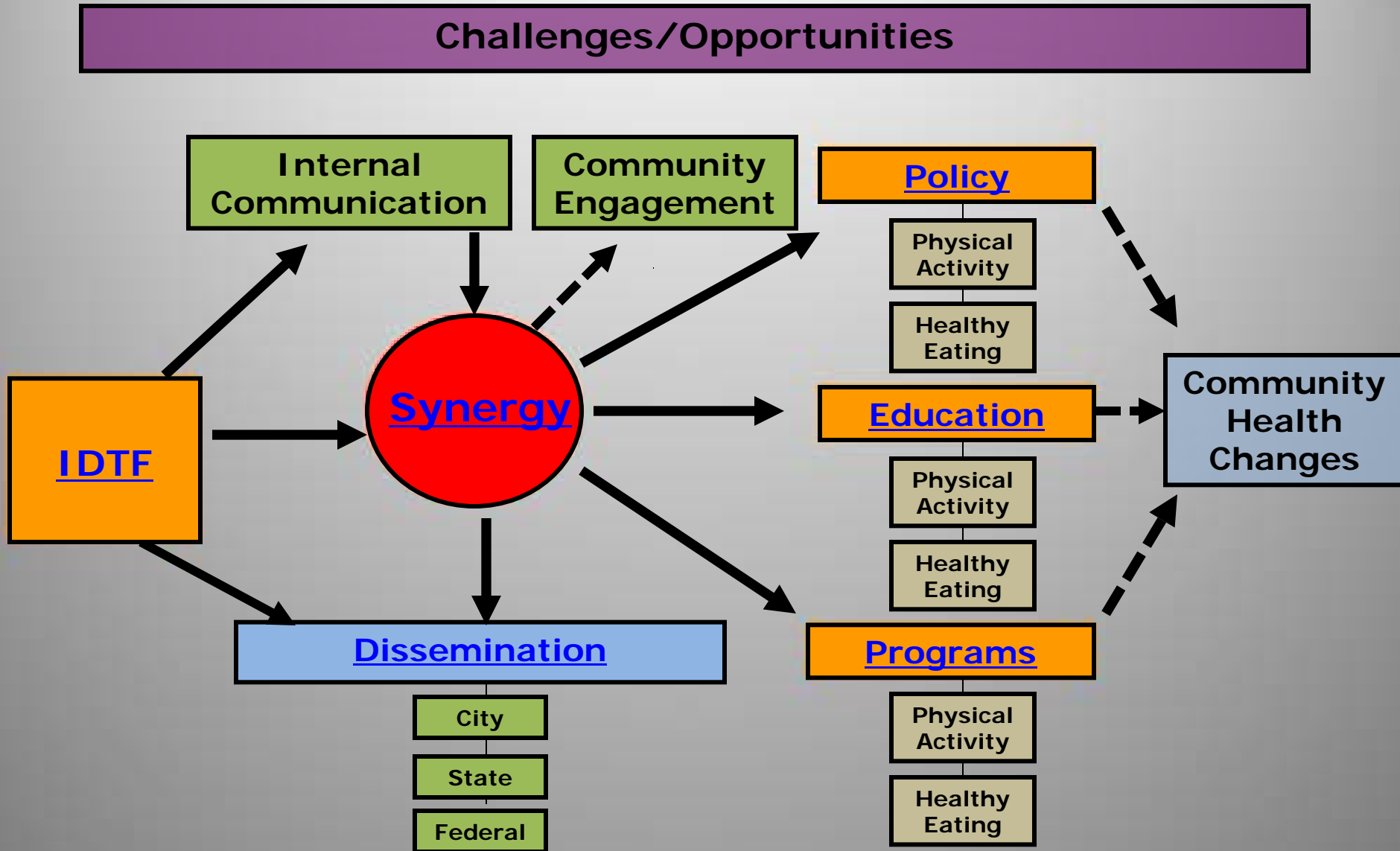


# + Programs: Wellness Centers & Campuses

- Have primarily involved CDPH & Park District
- CDOT: Maps, Signage
- CTA: Maps, Public transit to campuses
- Parks: Running programming, housing Wellness Centers & Family Dinners
- CDPH: Health Screenings, Diabetes & Smoking Cessation



# Integrated Visual Logic Model





# For those hoping to create a similar task force...



- Identify one department to lead and coordinate.
- Recruit city agencies with related missions or elements, consistent with the vision and work of your task force, but think broadly.
- Provide budgetary support for work across agencies.
- Create inter-agency agreements.
- Develop joint communications to educate and inform executive and legislative branches of city government.



## Further recommendations...

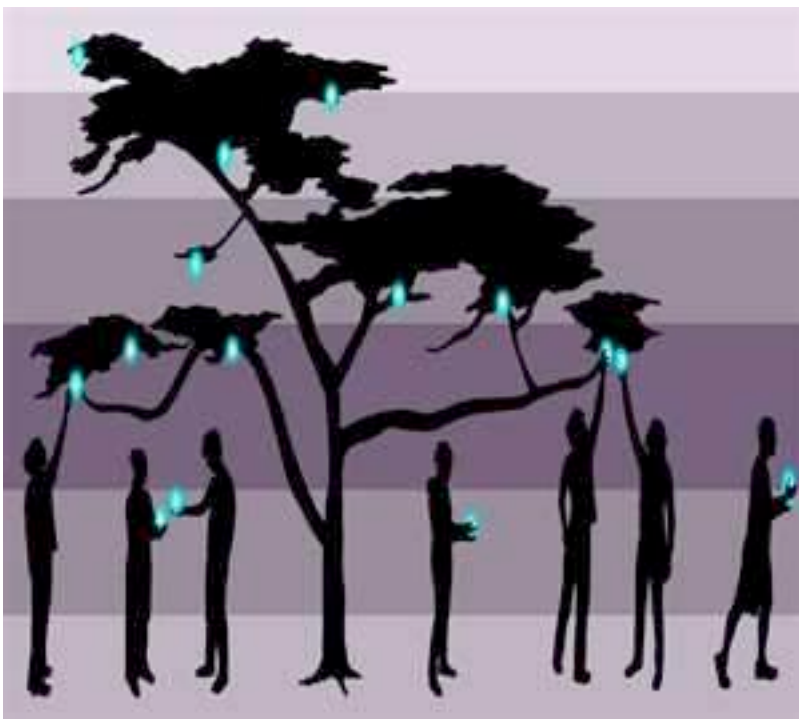


- Develop understanding of local childhood obesity problem and its many contributing factors (zoning, food access, safety concerns)
- Advocate for and encourage development of local policies that increase opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity
- Explore legal underpinnings of policies of interest
- Monitor federal legislative agenda and potential impacts at the local level – connect to local agenda as appropriate

# + Conclusions

- IDTF has used and is committed to continuing to use the evaluation for their work in lowering obesity in Chicago Children.
- The evaluation is also will also a primary mechanism utilized to continue the CDC-funded *Healthy Places* initiative.
- IDTF will work to ensure Complete Streets guidelines and a Food Plan for the City are actualized.
- IDTF demonstrates that for a public health problem, such as childhood obesity, that requires a social ecological approach for prevention, collaboration among diverse government partners is both instrumental and feasible.





**THANK YOU!!**