

CHICAGO BETTER TOGETHER BREAST CANCER DISPARITIES THINK TANK

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Co-Conveners:



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank entered a critical phase of maturation—moving from vision-setting and relationship building into early alignment around shared priorities, community-informed strategies, and pathways toward action. Anchored by The Pinkprint: Chicago Edition, published in December 2024, and an enhanced hyper-local focus on Washington Heights on Chicago’s South Side, the Think Tank convened community leaders, advocates, subject matter experts, and residents with lived experience to examine the structural drivers of breast cancer inequities and identify opportunities for intervention across the cancer care continuum, environmental justice, nutrition justice, and social-emotional well-being.

Throughout the year, the Think Tank strengthened its community leadership model through an active Advisory Committee, a trained Community Ambassador cohort, and focused workgroups that surfaced both policy-relevant insights and programmatic solutions.

Measuring Impact

Think Tank impacts were assessed using multiple surveys administered across the year, including Community Ambassador pre- and post-training assessments, post-workshop evaluations, and an end-of-year member survey. Surveys used structured rating scales, including 5-point Likert scales, to calculate averages and identify trends in learning, engagement, and capacity building. Open-ended responses provided additional context. Findings are presented as descriptive indicators of impact, consistent with community-centered evaluation practices.

Pre- and post-training evaluations showed increased confidence in understanding breast cancer disparities, navigating the cancer care continuum, engaging in advocacy, and identifying environmental and nutrition-related risk factors. Participants also reported greater readiness to educate others, engage decision-makers, and take follow-up action, with high satisfaction ratings reinforcing the relevance and accessibility of the trainings. Together, these findings indicate that the Think Tank strengthened community capacity to translate knowledge into advocacy and policy-aligned action.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendations

Across focus areas, community members made one message clear: policy only works when it is grounded in lived experience, trusted relationships, and clear pathways to action. Below are the recommendations developed by the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Think Tank's four focus area work groups.

- **Cancer Care Continuum:** Establish a coordinated, community-delivered breast cancer care and education program that integrates screening, genetic testing, clinical trial access, navigation, and mental health support.
- **Environmental Justice:** Advance a community-led environmental monitoring and accountability approach that documents carcinogenic exposures and engages City and State leaders in transparent oversight.
- **Nutrition Justice:** Implement hands-on, culturally relevant cancer-preventive nutrition programming that translates dietary guidance into accessible, community-based practice.
- **Social-Emotional Well-Being:** Strengthen mental health support for breast cancer patients through a hospital-community partnership focused on identifying gaps and improving access to care.

Next Steps

Looking ahead to 2026, the Think Tank is energized by the opportunity to deepen this work—shifting from exploration toward greater coordination, targeted policy engagement, and broader community activation. With strong relationships in place and a clearer understanding of where policy, systems, and practice intersect, the Think Tank is poised to elevate community-informed recommendations, cultivate legislative champions, and continue building an ecosystem committed to eliminating breast cancer inequities on Chicago's South Side.

Learn more about the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank by visiting Elevated Survivorship's website at www.elevatedsurvivorship.org.

BACKGROUND

Breast cancer mortality rates on Chicago’s South Side and South Suburbs—particularly among Black women—remain among the highest in the nation, reflecting decades of structural inequities, disinvestment, and fragmented systems of care. These disparities are driven by the intersection of environmental exposures, food insecurity, limited access to high-quality care, social-emotional stressors, and policy decisions that shape neighborhood-level health outcomes.

In response, Patient Advocate Foundation, in collaboration with local breast cancer organizations including Elevated Survivorship, convened a community-led conversation with South Side residents and advocates to identify root causes of inequitable breast cancer outcomes and persistent gaps in services and resources affecting African American women. This process surfaced four focus areas for intervention—Cancer Care Continuum, Environmental Justice, Nutrition Justice, and Social-Emotional Well-Being—as critical levers for reducing breast cancer morbidity and mortality.

Four Focus Areas of Intervention



Cancer Care Continuum

Improve access to quality care and clinical trials



Environmental Justice

Address pollution and its link to cancer rates and outcomes



Nutrition Justice

Increase access to nutrient-dense food



Social-Emotional Well-Being

Enhance culturally relevant mental health and emotional support options

BACKGROUND

Hyper-Local Implementation Focus

From its inception, the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank was designed with an intentional hyper-local focus. Data and community testimony consistently point to South Side neighborhoods experiencing both elevated rates of invasive breast cancer and chronic food access challenges, conditions that compound risk, delay diagnosis and treatment, and undermine survivorship outcomes.

To ensure that strategies move beyond broad recommendations toward actionable change, the Think Tank prioritized concentrating its initial implementation efforts within a single community area where inequities are well-documented and where community leadership and partnership infrastructure are strong. After reviewing data, community feedback, and readiness for collaboration, the far South community area of Washington Heights was selected as the focal community for implementation.



Think Tank members reconvene in Washington Heights in June 2025 to discuss the hyper-local focus of the Implementation Phase.



EQUITY & COMMUNITY-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

The Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank was intentionally designed as a community-led, equity-driven infrastructure for change—grounded in lived experience, informed by interdisciplinary expertise, and accountable to Black women on Chicago’s South Side who continue to experience disproportionate breast cancer mortality and diminished quality of life. Our principles center community leadership, shared power, and action across systems to move from dialogue to durable impact.

Community Leadership Model

At the core of the Think Tank is a community leadership model that prioritizes the voices, wisdom, and leadership of those most impacted by breast cancer inequities. Community members are co-architects of strategies, priorities, and implementation pathways.

EQUITY & COMMUNITY-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

The Community Leadership Model emphasizes:

- Elevating community voice in agenda-setting and decision-making
- Convening trusted community-based organizations alongside implementation-lead partners
- Anchoring all work in the goal of eliminating breast cancer mortality and quality-of-life inequities for Black women on Chicago's South Side

Advisory Committee

The Think Tank is guided by an Inaugural Advisory Committee, established in 2025, comprising nine members from diverse fields, including oncology, public health, environmental justice, nutrition and wellness, behavioral health, policy, and community advocacy. Importantly, the Advisory Committee also includes members with lived experience as breast cancer survivors and caregivers, ensuring that personal insight and professional expertise are equally valued.

The Advisory Committee:

- Serves as a core group of community leaders, healthcare professionals, subject-matter experts, and advocates
- Provides strategic guidance to inform the development and implementation of the Chicago Better Together Network Think Tank
- Meets periodically throughout the year to steward vision, align priorities, and support accountability to community-defined goals

This multidisciplinary body ensures that the Think Tank's work remains responsive to real-world conditions while advancing systems-level change.

Community Ambassador Program

The Inaugural Community Ambassador Program operationalizes the Think Tank's commitment to grassroots leadership and policy-to-practice impact. Community Ambassadors are equipped to translate lived experience and community insight into advocacy, education, and systems influence.

A required Advocacy Skills Training component builds participant capacity in:

- Health and racial equity advocacy
- Policy literacy and systems navigation
- Storytelling as a method for change
- Community-to-institutional bridge-building

EQUITY & COMMUNITY-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

The Community Ambassadors are truly at the core of this work. The diversity in their levels of knowledge allowed us to co-create educational models that not only built capacity but benefited everyone. They are now equipped to not only talk to women and others in their communities but also to elected officials and policy makers. Having community voices included in this work is paramount to the success of our implementation efforts. - Angela K. Waller, MA, Founder & CEO, Elevated Survivorship

Outreach and Community Connection

In 2025, Elevated Survivorship continued its efforts to build awareness of the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank by fostering genuine connections on the South Side of Chicago, specifically in Washington Heights. Angela K. Waller attended conferences and health and resource fairs at community-based organizations, as well as the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library, an anchor institution located in the heart of Washington Heights. In 2025, she interfaced with over 150 people on behalf of the Think Tank. In addition, the co-implementation team also sought the cultivation of “community connectors”. Community connectors provided invaluable insight and introductions to longstanding active residential associations and organizing bodies within Washington Heights.

As a result, Elevated Survivorship received thirteen applications for the 2025 Community Ambassador Program. A formal application process was held, which included a written application and a virtual interview. Ten residents from six communities across the South and West Sides of Chicago joined the inaugural cohort of Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank Community Ambassadors.



Third advocacy workshop entitled, “How to Create an Advocacy Agenda for Lasting Impact”, facilitated by Dr. Yamile Molina, Advisory Committee member, also supported by guest speakers Ally Lopshire and Alimyon Allen.

EQUITY & COMMUNITY-CENTERED ENGAGEMENT

Think Tank Membership and Focus Area Work Groups

The Think Tank's broader membership reflects a cross-sector, cross-disciplinary coalition committed to advancing breast cancer equity. Members engage through Focus Area Work groups.

Work groups function as collaborative spaces to:

- Develop policy and program recommendations
- Identify implementation partners and pathways
- Align community-driven solutions with institutional levers

Think Tank Core Activities



Brainstorming as a collective at November's Think Tank meeting.

The Think Tank's principles are activated through a set of integrated activities designed to build knowledge, capacity, and momentum:

Think Tank Convenings: Three regular meetings that foster shared learning, relationship-building, and strategic alignment

Advocacy Skills Training Workshop Series: Four capacity-building sessions that equip members and Ambassadors to advance equity-centered change.

Focus Area Workgroups: Action-oriented working groups translating community priorities into policy and implementation strategies



Examples of advocacy training series promotional materials.

4

Advocacy Trainings led by subject matter experts in Washington Heights

10

Community members participated in the inaugural year of the Think Tank's Community Ambassador program

45

Attendees of 2025 Think Tank Advocacy Workshops

100%

Think Tank member meetings held in Washington Heights

MEASURING IMPACT

Our Approach

The Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank's evaluation approach utilized multiple complementary survey instruments to assess learning, engagement, and impact across participant groups and over time. Community Ambassador outcomes were measured using pre- and post-training self-reported confidence surveys, while post-advocacy workshop evaluations captured immediate feedback on relevance, satisfaction, and intended application of skills. An end-of-year Think Tank member survey assessed longer-term changes in knowledge, capacity, engagement, and perceived value of participation. All surveys employed structured response scales, including 5-point Likert scales. Open-ended responses were reviewed to identify recurring themes and contextualize quantitative findings. Results are presented as descriptive indicators of learning, capacity building, and process effectiveness, given the sample size.

Impact Measurement Domains

Outcome Evaluation measured changes in participant knowledge and skills through pre-post comparison of confidence ratings across core advocacy competencies. Individual workshop evaluations provided specific data on immediate learning related to specific objectives.

Impact Evaluation assessed improvements in organizational and individual capacity to implement advocacy interventions, measured through behavioral intention questions, planned actions, knowledge-sharing likelihood, and estimated community reach.

Process Evaluation tracked participant engagement, workshop relevance ratings, and perceived usefulness of training session content and activities to inform ongoing program improvement and identify which components were most effective for skill building and knowledge transfer.

2025 THINK TANK IMPACT

Outcomes: Knowledge, Skills, and Confidence Gains

The Advocacy Training Series produced substantial gains in advocacy knowledge and self-confidence among Community Ambassadors, particularly in areas tied to policy engagement, coalition building, and translating lived experience into effective advocacy action. Across all six advocacy competencies measured, participants demonstrated meaningful increases in confidence from pre- to post-test (see Appendix B for participant response averages).

Advocacy Competencies Measured

- Explaining breast health disparities affecting Black & Latino women
- Speaking confidently at public meetings
- Identifying key decision-makers for health policy action
- Writing effective advocacy messages
- Building coalitions with other advocates
- Utilizing social media as a tool for advocacy

Key Outcome Insight

The largest gain (+2.29) occurred in participants' ability to identify key decision-makers, indicating that the training significantly strengthened policy literacy and systems navigation—an essential competency for community-led advocacy.

Why This Matters

These results show a clear shift from awareness-level understanding to applied advocacy readiness, positioning Community Ambassadors not just as informed participants, but as emerging leaders.

Impact: Capacity Building, Behavioral Intent, and Community Reach

Beyond skill acquisition, the Advocacy Training Series strengthened ambassadors' readiness to take action, sustain engagement, and extend advocacy messages into their personal and professional networks.

Evidence of Capacity Building

Post-test responses indicate that participants (see Appendix A for pre- and post-training questions):

- Report high confidence across all advocacy domains, with post-test averages consistently above 4.0 (Very Confident)
- Express strong intent to continue participation in the Think Tank beyond the current year
- Describe applying what they learned to real-world conversations and opportunities for exchange with others.

Behavioral Signals of Impact

Qualitative responses suggest that ambassadors are:

- Sharing breast health and policy information with others
- Participating in public meetings and advocacy-adjacent spaces
- Increasing their comfort speaking with decision-makers and stakeholders



Attendees listening intently during an advocacy workshop.

Process Evaluation: Training Relevance, Engagement, and Participant Experience

Participants found the Advocacy Training Series to be relevant, empowering, and practical. Value was found in understanding the balance between policy knowledge, storytelling, and peer learning (an example of a post-advocacy training evaluation survey may be found in Appendix D).

Engagement & Relevance Themes (Qualitative)

- Appreciation for clear, accessible explanations of complex policy topics
- Increased confidence in speaking “to anyone” about breast health disparities
- Desire for continued small-group discussion and deeper dives into advocacy tools
- Strong affirmation of the training as a safe and affirming learning space

Theme 1: Increased Knowledge and Awareness

“There are multiple factors that can be a catalyst to increase the risk of getting breast cancer.”

“The difference cancer recaptors. The screening process. Tip that will help me help others.”

Theme 2: Finding Voice and Advocacy Identity

“I have a voice.”

“Finding My Voice and moving from awareness to action!!!”

Theme 3: Application to Advocacy and Community Action

“By asking the right question and knowing the appropriate response when advocating for early detection.”

“Have a Mammogram Drive on 119th with Roseland.”

Theme 4: Empowerment, Relevance, and Participant Experience

“This was wonderful. I feel empowered to share and educate others.”

“Very knowledgeable im hyped 😎”

RECOMMENDATIONS

While the Think Tank was convened to inform policy priorities, workgroup deliberations surfaced a clear pattern: participants converged on one priority recommendation per focus area, many of which are programmatic by design. These recommendations are presented as *policy-enabling strategies*—implementation pathways that operationalize policy intent, address equity gaps, and generate the evidence and partnerships necessary for sustainable systems change.

Each recommendation represents the most urgent and feasible leverage point identified by community members and subject-matter contributors.



Cancer Care Continuum

Priority Recommendation: Coordinated Breast Cancer Care & Education Program

Policy-to-Implementation Role: Bridge between coverage policy and equitable outcomes

Summary: Establish a coordinated care and education program for women ages 18+ that integrates breast cancer screening education, genetic testing awareness, clinical trial access, mental health support, and healthy lifestyle coaching—delivered through trusted community settings and healthcare partnerships.

Why This Matters: Black women continue to experience later-stage diagnoses and higher breast cancer mortality despite comparable incidence rates. Fragmented care pathways, limited access to trusted information, and systemic barriers contribute to delayed detection and treatment.

How This Advances Policy Goals:

- Operationalizes existing screening and coverage policies through culturally competent delivery
- Demonstrates how navigation, education, and trust-based outreach improve policy effectiveness
- Identifies gaps in reimbursement, workforce capacity, and trial access that policy must address

RECOMMENDATIONS



Environmental Justice

Priority Recommendation: Community-Led Environmental Monitoring & Accountability Infrastructure

Policy-to-Implementation Role: Community-grounded compliance and accountability mechanism

Summary: Advance a phased approach that combines community education on environmental carcinogens, localized air-quality monitoring (NO₂, PM2.5, PM10), and formal engagement with City and State leadership to memorialize community findings, establish accountability thresholds, and leverage environmental justice settlements to fund monitoring and reporting.

Why This Matters: Communities in and around Washington Heights face cumulative environmental exposures with limited transparency, inconsistent enforcement, and shifting federal standards that risk further disenfranchisement.

How This Advances Policy Goals:

- Produces community-generated data to inform enforcement and regulatory thresholds
- Creates public records that anchor accountability amid changing policy frameworks
- Demonstrates how policy intent fails without locally grounded monitoring capacity

RECOMMENDATIONS



Nutrition Justice

Priority Recommendation: Community-Based Cancer-Preventive Nutrition Programming

Policy-to-Implementation Role: Equitable access infrastructure for nutrition policy

Summary: Implement a structured, community-based nutrition program emphasizing cancer risk reduction through plant-forward, whole-food dietary practices, paired with hands-on activities such as cooking demonstrations, food tastings, family meal prep, and culturally relevant nutrition education.

Why This Matters: Nutrition plays a critical role in cancer prevention, yet access to culturally relevant education, affordable healthy foods, and practical skill-building remains uneven—particularly in under-resourced communities.

How This Advances Policy Goals

- Translates dietary guidelines and public health recommendations into lived practice
- Demonstrates how education and access gaps limit the impact of nutrition policy
- Builds community capacity that policy alone cannot achieve

RECOMMENDATIONS



Social-Emotional Well-Being

Priority Recommendation: Hospital-Community Partnership for Cancer-Related Mental Health Care

Policy-to-Implementation Role: Delivery system for mental health parity

Summary: Establish a partnership with Roseland Community Hospital to assess and strengthen mental health services for breast cancer patients, including identifying service gaps, improving access, and exploring academic partnerships to expand care capacity by November 2026.

Why This Matters: Mental health needs are often under-addressed across the cancer care continuum, despite their direct impact on treatment adherence, quality of life, and long-term outcomes.

How This Advances Policy Goals:

- Operationalizes mental health parity within oncology settings
- Identifies workforce and service gaps that policy must address
- Demonstrates scalable partnership models between hospitals and community institutions

IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

Year one of implementation affirmed that community-driven policy and program change moves at the speed of trust, not fixed timelines. While the Think Tank successfully established governance structures, partnerships, and engagement pathways, implementation revealed key challenges related to time, capacity, and infrastructure. Community engagement and ambassador recruitment required sustained, relationship-based outreach that could not be compressed into traditional project milestones. Limited funding and staffing constrained the ability to provide intensive individualized coaching and rapid policy mobilization across multiple engagement groups. Logistical barriers—such as limited access to affordable meeting spaces in Washington Heights – impacted program delivery at the beginning of the program year.

In response, organizers adapted by prioritizing relationship-first strategies, adjusting timelines and formats, and leveraging existing partnerships rather than building new systems. Year one centered education, advocacy skill-building, and grounding participants in *The Pink Print: Chicago Edition*, recognizing that meaningful community-led policy action requires a phased approach over 12–18 months.

CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS

In the near term, the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank will continue focused education and relationship-building with local and state elected officials to advance shared understanding of breast cancer inequities affecting Chicago's South Side. This includes identifying and engaging potential legislative champions whose priorities align with the Think Tank's equity-driven goals. Think Tank members and community partners will be activated to support advocacy efforts, elevate community voice, and participate in relevant local policy forums as opportunities arise.

Recognizing current resource constraints, project activities will proceed at a sustainable pace, emphasizing strategic alignment, learning, and groundwork for longer-term impact. Core activities will include ongoing partner convenings, community outreach and education, and monitoring of policy and systems-level developments relevant to breast cancer equity.

As the initiative progresses, the Think Tank will synthesize learning, document emerging outcomes, and share insights with partners and stakeholders. Evaluation and reflection will be integrated throughout to inform continuous improvement.

CALL TO ACTION

The Pinkprint is our blueprint for change.

We call on communities, institutions, and decision-makers to move beyond awareness and into action—by implementing solutions that center Black women, honor lived experience, and address the full picture of health: biological, environmental, emotional, and structural.

Elevated Survivorship means more than living longer—it means living well, educating ourselves, lifting voices, and effectuating change. The Pinkprint demands accountability, collaboration, and sustained investment so that health equity is no longer a promise, but a practice—now and for generations to come.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2025 Advisory Committee

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Cook County Health
Comprehensive Cancer Center,
UChicago
Equal Hope
The Ellevest Group
Heal Thy Life Center
HEY Sister, Inc
My Density Matters
People for Community Recovery
TD Emerald Corp
UIC Cancer Center
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Catering Out The Box
Phalanx Family Services
South Side Help Center
Black Researchers Collective

APPENDICES INDEX

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2026 Coalition Building

Community Partner Priority Identification

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APPENDIX - A

COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PRE- AND POST-TRAINING SURVEY INSTRUMENT

This survey will help us understand your baseline knowledge and confidence related to advocacy. Your responses will be kept confidential and will be used only for evaluation and learning purposes.

Section 1: Background Information

1. What is your age range?

- ☐ 18–29
- ☐ 30–44
- ☐ 45–59
- ☐ 60+

2. How do you identify racially or ethnically?

(Select all that apply)

- ☐ Black / African American
- ☐ Hispanic / Latino
- ☐ White
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native American / Indigenous
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. Have you previously participated in any formal advocacy training?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

continues on the next page

APPENDIX - A

COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PRE- AND POST-TRAINING SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Section 2: Advocacy Confidence Assessment

Please rate how confident you currently feel in each of the following areas.

Confidence Scale:

1 = Not confident at all

2 = Slightly confident

3 = Moderately confident

4 = Very confident

5 = Extremely confident

4. I can explain breast health disparities that impact Black and Latino women.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

5. I feel confident speaking at public meetings or community forums.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

6. I know how to identify key decision-makers related to health or breast cancer policy.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

7. I can write effective advocacy messages (e.g., emails, talking points, testimony).

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

8. I feel confident building coalitions with other advocates or organizations.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

9. I know how to use social media as a tool for advocacy and awareness-building.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

APPENDIX - B

ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES OUTCOME EVALUATION

Advocacy Skill Area	Pre-Test Average	Post-Test Average	Average Change
Explaining breast health disparities affecting Black & Latino women	2.67	4.14	+1.48
Speaking confidently at public meetings	3.67	4.29	+0.62
Identifying key decision-makers for health policy action	2.00	4.29	+2.29
Writing effective advocacy messages	2.50	3.57	+1.07
Building coalitions with other advocates	3.00	4.43	+1.73
Utilizing social media as a tool for advocacy	2.83	4.29	+1.45

N = 6 Community Ambassadors. Averages reflect valid responses to each confidence item on a 5-point Likert scale. 5 being the highest score.

APPENDIX - C

COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Age Range	Number of Respondents	%
45–59 years	5	83%
60+ years	1	17%
Total	6	100%

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Respondents	%
Black / African American	6	100%

Prior Advocacy Training	Number of Respondents	%
Yes	6	100%
No	0	0%

APPENDIX - D

POST-ADVOCACY WORKSHOP EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

Post-Advocacy Workshop Evaluation Survey (representative example)

Workshop Title

Elevating Early Detection: Addressing Breast Density and Personalized Screening Options

Section 1: Workshop Experience and Relevance

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

(1 = Strongly disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neutral | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly agree)

1.The workshop objectives were clearly explained.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

2.The information presented was relevant to my interests or work.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

3.The workshop increased my understanding of breast density and screening options.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

4.The content was presented in a clear and accessible way.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

5.The workshop addressed issues that are important to communities on the South Side of Chicago.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Section 2: Confidence and Application

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

(1 = Strongly disagree | 2 = Disagree | 3 = Neutral | 4 = Agree | 5 = Strongly agree)

6.I feel more confident discussing breast density and screening options as a result of this workshop.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

APPENDIX - D

POST-ADVOCACY WORKSHOP EVALUATION INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

7. I can apply what I learned today in conversations with others (e.g., community members, patients, peers).

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

8. This workshop strengthened my ability to advocate for early detection and equitable screening.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Section 3: Overall Assessment

9. Overall, I am satisfied with this workshop.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Section 4: Open-Ended Feedback

10. What was the most valuable part of this workshop for you?

11. What questions do you still have or what topics would you like to learn more about?

12. How do you plan to use the information from this workshop?

APPENDIX - E

END-OF-YEAR THINK TANK MEMBER SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Survey Objective: To comprehensively assess the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank's effectiveness across process, outcome, and impact dimensions.

Please complete this survey as soon as possible to help us improve the Think Tank and member experience.

Survey completion time: about 15 minutes

Respondent Information

First Name Last Name

Email Address

Think Tank Participation and Engagement

1. Which Think Tank workgroup did you participate in?
2. How would you describe your level of engagement in the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Think Tank?
 - ☐ Very low
 - ☐ Low
 - ☐ Moderate
 - ☐ High
 - ☐ Very high
3. Briefly describe what influenced your engagement level. What circumstances affected your engagement as indicated above?

Think Tank Support and Infrastructure

4. How would you describe the quality of support provided to Think Tank members?
 - ☐ Very poor
 - ☐ Poor
 - ☐ Fair
 - ☐ Good
 - ☐ Excellent

APPENDIX - E

END-OF-YEAR THINK TANK MEMBER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

5. What infrastructure components would most enhance our collective impact as a Think Tank?

Think Tank Meetings

6. How would you describe the effectiveness of Think Tank meetings?
(Please respond to each item below)

Clarity of agenda

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

Participant engagement

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

Clear expectations

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

Advocacy Training Series Effectiveness

7. How would you describe the effectiveness of the 2025 Advocacy Training Series sessions listed below?

(Please respond to each session)

Policy 101 and Overview of the Breast Health Landscape in Illinois

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

September 20th: Implementation of BEST Act and Why It Matters

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

October Session: Addressing Breast Density and Early Screening Options

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

November 8th: How to Create an Advocacy Agenda for Lasting Impact

☐ Very ineffective ☐ Ineffective ☐ Neutral ☐ Effective ☐ Very effective

Workgroup Experience

8. Tell us about your workgroup experience:
(Please respond to each item below)

Level of collaboration

☐ Very poor ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent

APPENDIX - E

END-OF-YEAR THINK TANK MEMBER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Productivity

☐ Very poor ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent

Clear expectations

☐ Very poor ☐ Poor ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Excellent

Skill Development and Impact

10. Advocacy Training Series:

To what extent did the training series improve your advocacy skills?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Slightly
- ☐ Moderately
- ☐ Significantly
- ☐ Extremely

11. If advocacy skills improved, how so?

(If not applicable, type “N/A”)

12. Think Tank Membership:

To what extent did participation in the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank help improve your coalition-building skills?

- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Slightly
- ☐ Moderately
- ☐ Significantly
- ☐ Extremely

13. If coalition-building skills were improved, how so?

(If not applicable, type “N/A”)

Outlook and Continuation

14. How hopeful are you that the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank can help reduce breast cancer mortality disparities on the Southside and South Suburbs?

- ☐ Not hopeful
- ☐ Slightly hopeful
- ☐ Moderately hopeful
- ☐ Very hopeful
- ☐ Extremely hopeful

APPENDIX - E

END-OF-YEAR THINK TANK MEMBER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

15. Please elaborate on your answer for Question 14.

16. Are you interested in continuing to participate in the 2026 Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

Final Reflection

17. Please share any constructive feedback, partnership ideas, or suggestions for the Think Tank's continued growth and impact.

APPENDIX - F

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BREAST HEALTH EQUITY POLICY PRIORITIES PARTNER SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Washington Heights Breast Health Equity Policy Priorities Partner Survey

Building on The Pink Print: Chicago Edition framework released last year by Elevated Survivorship and Patient Advocate Foundation, the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank seeks to engage fellow advocates and community partners to develop hyper-local strategies that eliminate breast health inequities for Black women in Washington Heights. This survey seeks to identify legislative, administrative, and community policy priorities across four interconnected domains that impact breast health outcomes: cancer care continuum, environmental justice, nutrition justice, and social-emotional well-being.

Please note: While we are interested in whether your work serves Washington Heights, our primary goal is to understand your overall reach and impact across the South Side, not solely within Washington Heights.

Your expertise and partnership are critical. We seek to understand ground-level barriers, existing assets, and actionable policy solutions that can drive measurable change in our community. If you are not already an organizational partner of the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank, we invite you to join us in this community-driven initiative. Learn more here about the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank.

Estimated time to complete: 15 minutes

Section 1: Partner Information

1. Organization / Agency Name

Type "N/A" if you are responding as an individual advocate.

2. First and Last Name

3. Title

4. Phone Number

5. Email Address

6. Website

7. Preferred Mode of Contact

- ☐ Email
- ☐ Phone
- ☐ Either

APPENDIX - F

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BREAST HEALTH EQUITY POLICY PRIORITIES PARTNER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Section 2: Geographic Focus and Community Presence

8. Zip codes served

Please use commas to separate zip codes.

9. Does your organization/agency/work serve Washington Heights?

If unsure about community area boundaries and zip codes, consult the Chicago Health Atlas.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

10. Years serving Washington Heights

Enter "N/A" if not applicable.

Section 3: Services and Programmatic Focus

11. What services does your organization/agency offer?

Select all that apply. This list is not comprehensive. Select the categories that best match your work.

- ☐ Direct health services
- ☐ Health education / outreach
- ☐ Advocacy / policy
- ☐ Environmental justice
- ☐ Food access / nutrition
- ☐ Social or behavioral health
- ☐ Community organizing
- ☐ Other: _____

12. If you provide breast health services, which of the following do you provide?

Select all that apply.

- ☐ Screening / navigation
- ☐ Education / awareness
- ☐ Survivorship support
- ☐ Patient advocacy
- ☐ Referral services
- ☐ Other: _____

13. We'd love to hear more about the services you provide and how they support community members.

If none, type "N/A".

APPENDIX - F

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BREAST HEALTH EQUITY POLICY PRIORITIES PARTNER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Section 4: Priority Areas for Breast Health Equity

Please rank the four areas below from MOST urgent to LEAST urgent.
(1 = Most urgent, 4 = Least urgent)

14. Cancer Care Continuum

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

15. Environmental Justice

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

16. Nutrition Justice

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

17. Social-Emotional Well-Being

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

18. Please explain your ranking.

Section 5: Cross-Cutting Barriers and Alignment

19. How does your organization's work connect to the four focus areas above?
If none, type "N/A".

20. From your standpoint, which systemic or structural barriers cut across all four areas?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Racism / structural inequities
- ☐ Access to care
- ☐ Funding constraints
- ☐ Policy barriers
- ☐ Workforce limitations
- ☐ Data gaps
- ☐ Other: _____

21. Please elaborate on your response.

APPENDIX - F

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BREAST HEALTH EQUITY POLICY PRIORITIES PARTNER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Section 4: Priority Areas for Breast Health Equity

Please rank the four areas below from MOST urgent to LEAST urgent.
(1 = Most urgent, 4 = Least urgent)

14. Cancer Care Continuum

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

15. Environmental Justice

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

16. Nutrition Justice

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

17. Social-Emotional Well-Being

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

18. Please explain your ranking.

Section 5: Cross-Cutting Barriers and Alignment

19. How does your organization's work connect to the four focus areas above?
If none, type "N/A".

20. From your standpoint, which systemic or structural barriers cut across all four areas?

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Racism / structural inequities
- ☐ Access to care
- ☐ Funding constraints
- ☐ Policy barriers
- ☐ Workforce limitations
- ☐ Data gaps
- ☐ Other: _____

21. Please elaborate on your response.

APPENDIX - F

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS BREAST HEALTH EQUITY POLICY PRIORITIES PARTNER SURVEY INSTRUMENT (CONTINUED)

Section 6: Policy and Systems-Level Priorities

22. Cancer Care Continuum:

What specific legislative or administrative actions should be prioritized?

Enter “N/A” if your work does not intersect with this area.

23. Environmental Justice:

What specific legislative or administrative actions should be prioritized?

Enter “N/A” if your work does not intersect with this area.

24. Nutrition Justice:

What specific legislative or administrative actions should be prioritized?

Enter “N/A” if your work does not intersect with this area.

25. Social-Emotional Well-Being:

What specific legislative or administrative actions should be prioritized?

Enter “N/A” if your work does not intersect with this area.

Section 7: Partnership and Follow-Up

26. Would you be willing to have a follow-up conversation with the Think Tank organizers to discuss your responses?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

27. Preferred day(s) and time(s) for a follow-up conversation:

28. Are you or your organization interested in joining the Chicago Better Together Breast Cancer Disparities Think Tank?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Maybe

29. If you answered “maybe,” please share your questions or what would be helpful to know before deciding.

30. Help us build a stronger coalition. Who else should we engage?

Please include names, contact information, and area of work. If none, type “N/A”.