Facts about Diabetes and the Lawndale Communities

- The prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in North Lawndale is **29.1%**.
- The diabetes mortality rate in North Lawndale is **62% higher** than for the U.S. and 37% than Chicago's.
- Two out of three people with diabetes will die from a heart attack or stroke.
- Diabetes now **kills more Americans** than breast cancer and HIV/AIDS combined.
- Lawndale is considered a “food desert” community, meaning there is a big imbalance between grocery stores providing quality food and the number of fast food outlets selling food high in fat, calories and sugar.
- **One third** of Chicago's “food desert” residents are children.
- The childhood overweight and obesity rate in Lawndale is 67% vs. 26% in all of the U.S.

What is The Lawndale Diabetes Project?

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) is providing a $1.2 million grant to fund this important community health project with the Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) at Mount Sinai.
- This high-priority project continues previous anti-diabetes efforts by SUHI in North Lawndale, and enables the project to expand to now include the South Lawndale community and residents.
- Two-year effort aims to reach 10,000 adults and 2,500 children in North and South Lawndale.
- The Lawndale Diabetes Project is committed to working with the community to:
  1. increase knowledge,
  2. offer resources to support change, 
  3. foster individual and community action.
- Community health workers will conduct household screenings for diabetes and childhood obesity, and will help promote diabetes self-management to their neighbors.
- For residents willing to participate, the Lawndale Diabetes Project team may provide follow-up home visits and phone calls, offer medical and doctor referrals, free diabetes testing, and invite residents to attend health fairs, healthy cooking schools and diabetes self-management classes.

What the community and residents can expect

- As fellow Lawndale residents, SUHI community health workers understand your challenges and respect you and your privacy. Most of all, they care about the health of you and your family.
- Community health workers will visit homes. If residents are willing to participate, they will be asked a brief survey, measure height, weight and blood sugar levels with a minor finger stick, and gather information about medical care they receive, doctors they have visited, medications they take and their diet. Children can be checked for body mass index (BMI) to measure how healthy their weight is, and how physically active they are.
- The Lawndale Diabetes Project will share information about its progress during the two-year program.

Where will the Community Survey and Outreach take place?