Cicero has many quality partner agencies and dedicated leaders who have made a long-term commitment to improving the lives of their residents. Although the town has many advantages in economic development and public safety, local community and education leaders wanted United Way of Metro Chicago to work with on improving education attainment rates for its growing population.

**LEAD AGENCY**
Cicero Community Collaborative

**COMMON AGENDA**
Increase parent and community engagement to support educational needs of Cicero families.

**BOLD GOAL**
10,000 Cicero children and youth will successfully meet academic and developmental milestones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NETWORK FUND</th>
<th>COMMUNITY FUND</th>
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<td>FY16</td>
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Looking back

Once considered a Czech town, today most of the European-style restaurants and shops on 22nd Street have been replaced by Latino and immigrant owned businesses. The 1980s and 1990s saw a heavy influx of Latino (mostly Mexican) residents to Cicero and now 90% of the town identifies as Latino. The town has seen a revival in its commercial sector, with many new mini-malls and large retail stores. New condominiums are being built in the city as well as the second largest middle school in the country. Cicero is a factory town. As of 1999, about a quarter of the city contained one of the greatest industrial concentrations in the world. There were more than 150 factories in 2.8 km (1.75 miles), producing communications and electronic equipment, printing presses, steel castings, tool and die makers’ supplies, forging and rubber goods.
The Cicero Community Collaborative is the new entity that was formed to include the elementary and high school districts as partners in the multi-year work plan. Research has shown that family engagement remains critical to student achievement in the American schools system therefore the major goals of this neighborhood network are to improve student academic success by increasing parent involvement in all grades. Partner agencies have been recruiting parents and conducting trainings and will be launching an awareness campaign in mid-April.

Other Cicero Neighborhood Network highlights include:

- Built collaborative relationships with local school districts to support the network's bold goal.
- Held two education forums, reaching over 100 community members and school officials to roll out the bold goals and the network's initiatives.
- Thirty additional parent ambassadors have been recruited, oriented and mobilized for the Early Childhood Committee. Ambassadors will be receiving community outreach training and will begin door-to-door canvassing in April 2018 to increase parent involvement in schools.
- 170 referrals were made to early childhood services, with 29 enrollments in early childhood education services.
- To create a community that understands trauma and provides appropriate care, the Safety Committee members conducted a seven-hour trauma training with 136 Cicero Police Department officers and 72 high school staff members, with excellent feedback and post-survey results.
- The community has been recognized by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation who has just selected Cicero as one of only ten national finalists for their Culture of Health Prize.