

## **Practice Change Leaders Preventive Services Referral System Project Description**

AgeOptions will be developing a Preventive Services Referral System (PSRS) under the Cook County Department of Public Health's Healthy HotSpot initiative. A vision to transform communities across suburban Cook County towards healthy living and health equity using far-reaching multi-sector approach. The PSRS will increase access and utilization of evidence based preventative resources through healthcare provider referrals. A formal connection between health care providers, community based organizations and consumers to evidence-based community preventative resources such as Stanford Patient Education Research Center Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and Diabetes Self-Management Program will expand healthy equity access to valuable education. The system will be HIPPA compliant and include a feedback mechanism to inform providers of the outcome of their referrals to assist them in supporting patient self-management.

Suburban Cook County encompasses 130 municipalities spanning a total 700 square miles with a population of 2,466,060. In 2010, 14% of the population was over the age of 65; by 2030, older adults will make up 26% of the population. African-American and Latino older adults and their health care providers will be a main focus of the project in an effort to increase access to preventative resources within their communities. Disparities in health status across suburban Cook County are worsening, as migration of the urban poor to the suburban communities' increases and funding for health and social services remains flat or has been reduced.

The development and implementation of the PSRS will deepen a cutting edge relationship between AgeOptions, an Area Agency on Aging and Cook County Department of Public Health. Data gathered, protocols and policies developed during the length of the project will provide a model and best practice for other public health and aging partnerships.