

# 2024 Impact Report

Annual Summary of CHI Initiatives to Make  
Healthcare More Equitable



## Facing the Challenges that Lie Ahead

Dear Center for Healthcare Innovation Community,

2024 was a year that brought both opportunities and challenges in the health equity space. Many healthcare organizations remained steadfast in addressing healthcare disparities while also experiencing growing pushback to health equity initiatives. As health equity has become increasingly politicized, healthcare companies are now tasked with addressing the disparities millions of Americans continue to face, including the disproportionate impact of chronic diseases on communities of color and the growing maternal health crisis, while simultaneously navigating an increasingly polarized discourse in America.

Despite this challenge, many healthcare organizations remain committed to this work, and the Center for Healthcare Innovation (CHI) remains steadfast in our commitment to advancing health equity. In 2024, We've continued to be a leader at the forefront of many of the country's critical health equity challenges. We hosted multiple in-person events and virtual fireside chats to further dialogue and action on patient engagement, clinical research diversity, and other health equity topics. We also continued to mentor and inspire young women interested in STEM and healthcare through the Science Runway and support diverse job seekers by connecting them to healthcare companies through our virtual career fairs.

As we look to 2025, CHI continues to adapt to the political landscape while remaining unwavering in our health equity work. We continue to approach achieving health equity as a collaboration and look forward to working with new and existing partners to make healthcare more equitable. CHI will continue to serve as a convener, bringing together diverse groups within healthcare to discuss best practices, innovative solutions, and resources for addressing health disparities in the United States.

We continue to prioritize programs and initiatives that address health equity across the healthcare ecosystem, from organizations to patients, and are committed to advocating for underserved communities. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities the new year will bring as we remain resolute in our commitment to fostering meaningful change toward health equity.

Sincerely,

**The Center for Healthcare Innovation Team**



# Our Education

Our events bring a robust variety of influencers together into the same room to create collective impact.



## 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium

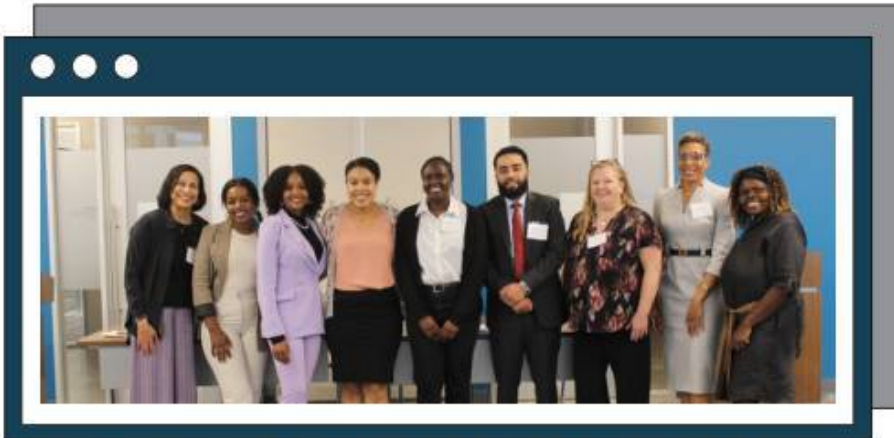
The 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium is one of the country's leading and longest-running events focusing specifically on health equity, health disparities, and critical diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues impacting healthcare in the U.S. The Symposium features panel discussions, keynote addresses, a case competition, and a career fair in a 3-day hybrid format. Focusing on the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the marketplace and workplace, the Symposium convenes key opinion leaders and participants in a collaborative forum to discuss health equity and DEI. The Symposium brings together leading healthcare executives, physicians, researchers, patient groups, students, academics, clinical trial professionals, and DEI advocates to consider new ideas and perspectives on (1) community engagement and diversifying clinical trials, (2) new and existing challenges to health equity and DEI in the United States, and (3) reducing systemic health disparities that disproportionately affect communities of color and other underserved groups. The Symposium also features CHI's Health Equity Challenge, a case competition, and CHI's Virtual Diversity Career Fair, which connects participants with many of the country's leading healthcare organizations, specifically focusing on hiring underrepresented talent. Participants will learn the latest insights and industry-tested solutions, share new ideas and perspectives, network, and meet new colleagues while working to create a more equitable healthcare landscape for all communities.

[VIEW THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY](#)

# 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium

## DAY 2 - Health Equity Challenge

The CHI Health Equity Challenge is a case competition focused specifically on developing innovative solutions to pressing health disparities impacting underserved communities. Inspired by CHI's commitment to embracing new perspectives to make healthcare more equitable, the CHI Health Equity Challenge provided undergraduate & graduate students and early-stage professionals the opportunity to work together on relevant and impactful solutions to a health equity case. Teams presented on Day 2 of CHI's 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium.



**THE WINNING TEAM RECEIVED A \$500 PRIZE.**

[VIEW CHALLENGE PROMPT](#)

## TEAM PROPOSALS



**TEAM 1**

Alida Mugisha and Jordan Smith

[VIEW PROPOSAL](#)



**TEAM 2**

Mohammed Abba, Stefanie Cruz, Katie Delaney, and Bre Westbrook

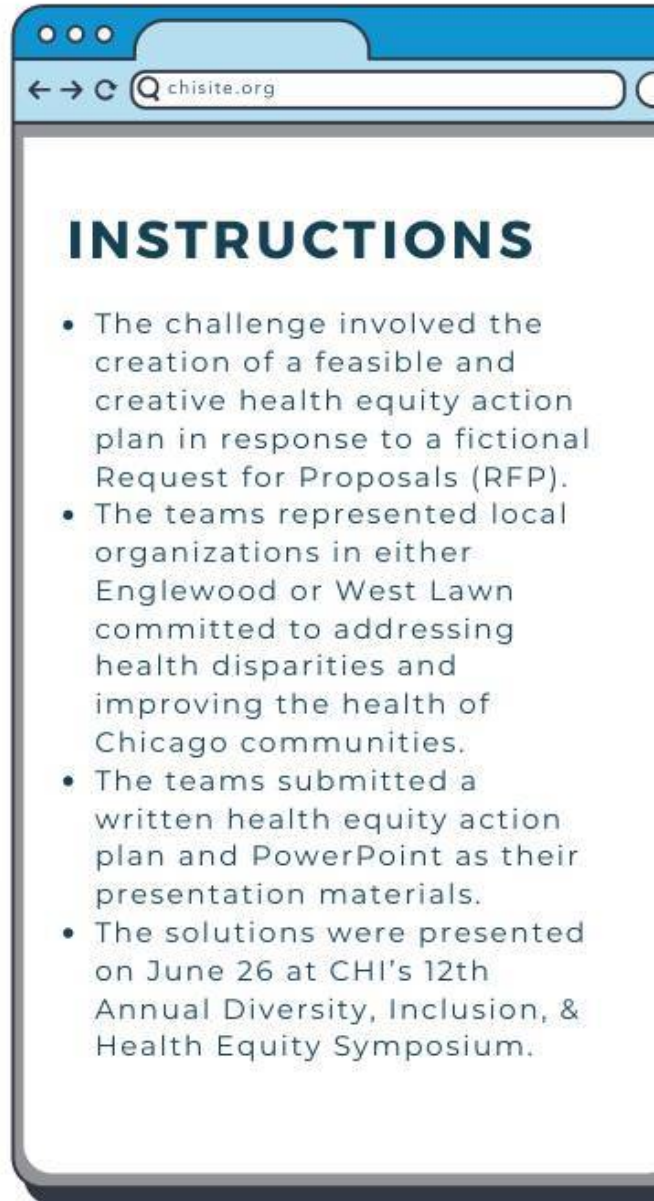
[VIEW PROPOSAL](#)



**TEAM 3**

Oeinna Jackson

[VIEW PROPOSAL](#)




### INSTRUCTIONS

- The challenge involved the creation of a feasible and creative health equity action plan in response to a fictional Request for Proposals (RFP).
- The teams represented local organizations in either Englewood or West Lawn committed to addressing health disparities and improving the health of Chicago communities.
- The teams submitted a written health equity action plan and PowerPoint as their presentation materials.
- The solutions were presented on June 26 at CHI's 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium.

# 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium

## DAY 3 - Virtual Diversity Career Fair

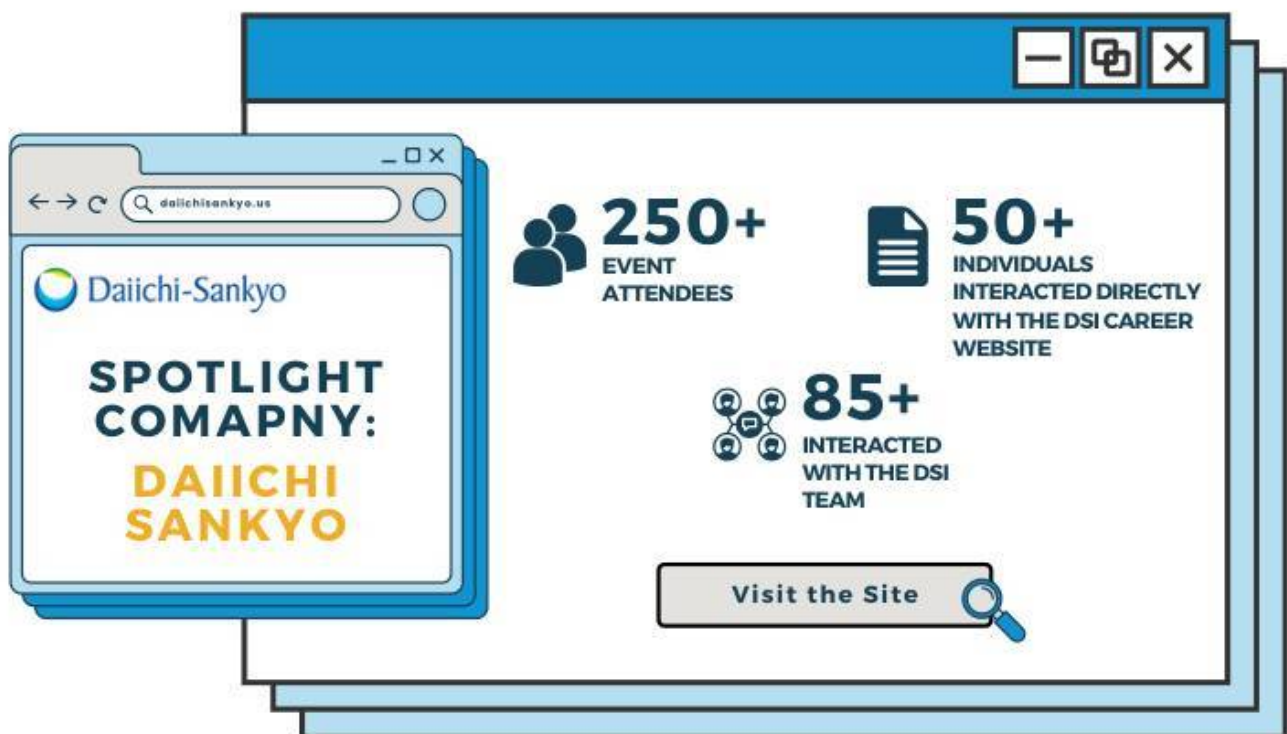


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [diversetalenthealthcare.org](https://diversetalenthealthcare.org). The main heading is "CHI'S VIRTUAL DIVERSITY CAREER FAIR". Below the heading is a paragraph of text describing the platform's purpose and target audience. At the bottom of the page is a button labeled "June 27, 2024".

### CHI'S VIRTUAL DIVERSITY CAREER FAIR

Diverse Talent in Healthcare is a virtual career fair platform to connect innovative, DEI-focused healthcare and ancillary organizations with diverse and underrepresented professionals, including people of color, women, LGBTQ+ community, veterans, and the differently-abled. The career fair welcomes diverse job seekers of all career stages and all subsets of healthcare, including the provider, pharma, technology, and other domains. Employers will have the opportunity to meet and interview diverse jobseekers, collect résumés, and position your company in a competitive labor market.

**June 27, 2024**



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [dalichisankyo.us](https://dalichisankyo.us). The page features the Daiichi-Sankyo logo and the text "SPOTLIGHT COMPANY: DAIICHI SANKYO". To the right, there are three statistics: "250+ EVENT ATTENDEES", "50+ INDIVIDUALS INTERACTED DIRECTLY WITH THE DSI CAREER WEBSITE", and "85+ INTERACTED WITH THE DSI TEAM". At the bottom is a button labeled "Visit the Site" with a magnifying glass icon.

**250+**  
EVENT ATTENDEES

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**85+**  
INTERACTED WITH THE DSI TEAM

**SPOTLIGHT COMPANY:  
DAIICHI SANKYO**

**Visit the Site**



## Patient Engagement and the Importance of Diversity in Clinical Research - Workshop

Increasing representation and diversity in clinical research has long been a top priority within the healthcare community, and in recent years, significant steps have been taken toward formalizing efforts to increase clinical trial diversity. Despite these efforts, gaps in representation remain, and mistrust and lack of access are often cited as two main barriers for underrepresented groups in clinical research. Building trust and increasing access look different across communities, and progress depends on recognizing the need for diverse approaches. Building upon the themes from the Community Collaboration, Access, & Clinical Research panel at CHI's 12th Annual Diversity, Inclusion, & Health Equity Symposium, this workshop will foster a collaborative exchange of ideas on patient engagement and the importance of diversity in clinical research. Workshop attendees will discuss actionable strategies to impact change across the healthcare ecosystem and help inform a roadmap to action, equipping individuals with tools to create new solutions within their organizations to drive progress toward health equity.

[VIEW THE EVENT SUMMARY](#)



# Equity Projects

Projects addressing health disparities, biases, and systemic inequities affecting Black and Brown communities and other marginalized groups.

# The Future of Science Starts Here



## The Science Runway

The Science Runway is a national mentorship and educational program that encourages, inspires, and mentors girls interested in STEM and healthcare-related fields. The Science Runway is a curated collection of personal stories of women who have inspiring careers in the STEM and healthcare fields and a mentorship program designed to inspire girls by showcasing the multitude of careers possible with a scientific foundation through mentoring sessions and virtual resources. The program welcomes girls from all backgrounds to participate and strongly encourages the participation of females from underrepresented backgrounds and minorities. The Science Runway aims to address the alarming gender disparities in STEM and healthcare-related fields by inspiring, encouraging, and mentoring girls to reach their full potential and follow their passion and excitement for science. In addition, we aim to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion themes into our programming to uniquely address barriers for BIPOC girls. More info can be seen at [thesciencerunway.org](https://thesciencerunway.org).

In 2024, the Science Runway continued its partnerships with local area high schools to conduct monthly mentoring sessions and provide virtual mentorship opportunities to college students. Throughout the year, the program supported over 100 mentees. Additionally, during the 2024 summer, the Science Runway conducted a mentor survey to gather feedback on mentors' experiences and identify areas for growth within the program. Based on the feedback, we have begun implementing changes for the 2024-2025 school year. We are excited about 2025 and to continue working to inspire the next generation of female STEM professionals.

[ENTER THE RUNWAY](#)



## Connecting the Dots: Brain Health, Nutrition, & Health Disparities

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), more than 795,000 people in the United States have a stroke every year, correlating with a stroke every 40 seconds. Furthermore, Black and African Americans are 2 times as likely to have a first stroke as white Americans. Research shows that cognitive impairment is a common complication of a stroke, and stroke survivors are two times more likely to develop dementia than the general population. In an effort to prevent this cognitive and memory decline, the NOURISH (Nutrition Effects on Brain Outcomes and Recovery in Stroke After Hospitalization) Study aims to explore the potential impacts of nutrition and diet on brain health. In exploring nutrition's impact on brain health, food insecurity is a key social determinant of health. According to Feeding America, Black, Native American, and Latino individuals are 2 to 3 times more likely to live in food-insecure households than White individuals. The Connecting the Dots - Fireside Chat Series will discuss brain health, nutrition, and the health disparities surrounding food insecurity and stroke risk, care, & outcomes. With an intentional focus on recruiting from communities of color and underserved/underresourced populations, the NOURISH Study will serve as a Chicago-based model for the Connecting the Dots series.

[WATCH THE VIDEOS HERE](#)



WATCH THE VIDEOS



The background is a solid teal color with a faint, repeating pattern of hanging light bulbs. The bulbs are of various shapes and sizes, some with visible filaments, and are suspended by thin wires. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

# **Other Projects & Collaboratives**



## Understanding Stroke and the Social Determinants of Health: A Synopsis of the Connecting the Dots Series

Stroke remains a leading cause of disability in the United States, affecting approximately 795,000 people each year. It disproportionately impacts adults over age 65, African Americans, and those in lower socioeconomic groups.<sup>1</sup> To address this issue comprehensively, it is essential to consider not only the medical risk factors but also the social determinants of health that influence stroke outcomes.

[READ FULL BLOG POST](#)



## Aging with Dignity: Ensuring Equity in Nursing Homes

In recent years, intense scrutiny has been directed toward nursing homes regarding inadequacies in quality of care, as staffing issues and thin profit margins have forced many to close since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Research has revealed a two-tiered system of these facilities based upon the primary payer, in which nursing homes with large percentages of residents enrolled in Medicaid are far more likely to provide substandard or inadequate care than those with mostly private-pay or Medicare patients. [1]

[READ FULL BLOG POST](#)



## Unveiling the Hidden Pandemic: Sleep Inequity and Its Far-Reaching Consequences

In our relentless pursuit of health equity, we often overlook a critical factor that silently shapes the landscape of disparities - sleep. As we embark on this enlightening journey through a series of blog posts, we invite you to consider sleep not just as a personal health matter, but as a profound public health issue intertwined with equity, human rights, and the very fabric of our society.

### The Unseen Equalizer

Sleep, often relegated to the backburner of health discussions, is in fact a powerful equalizer – or more accurately, a stark revealer of inequalities. Quality sleep is not just a luxury; it's a cornerstone of emotional, mental, physical and social well-being. Yet, for far too many of all ages in many communities, a good night's rest remains elusive, perpetuating a cycle of health disparities that ripples through every aspect of life.

### Why This Matters

As healthcare leaders and equity advocates, we understand that disparities in one area of health inevitably impact others. Poor sleep quality is not just about feeling tired; it's a gateway to a host of health issues, from cardiovascular diseases to mental health disorders. By addressing sleep inequities, we have the potential to make significant strides in overall health equity.

### A Call to Action

In this series of information packed, evidence based content, we invite you to join us in recognizing sleep as a cornerstone of health equity. Together, the opportunity for all to sleep better and achieve restorative sleep is possible as we push for policies, programs, and innovations to achieve equity in sleep health.

Let's awaken to the power of equitable sleep – for healthier individuals, stronger families, better communities, productive schools and workplaces and a more just society.

[READ FULL BLOG SERIES](#)



# Our Impact



75+

Events Around the  
Country Since 2011

16,500+

Monthly Digital Impressions



5750+

Total Event Participants  
Since 2011



850+

Girls Served by Mentoring  
Sessions via Science Runway

5,500+

Receipients of  
Research Reports

93%

Event  
Satisfaction



3,000+

Social Media Followers

# Supporting Innovation

CHI offers our deepest gratitude to all the generous supporters who assist our efforts to make the world a healthier place through communication, education, training, symposia, reports, and research. We would like to give special thanks for the support, donations, gifts, and resources made by the following supporters:

**Abbott**

**Astellas**

**Daichii Sankyo**

**INTERPHEX**

**Amicus Therapeutics**

**BeiGene**

**Fresenius Kabi**

**Novo Nordisk**

We would also like to extend special thanks to our promotion partners:

**Loyola University Chicago**

**NOURISH**

**BHMA**

**Sleep Equity Project**



**Our vision is to be  
the leading  
global platform  
for meaningful  
change in health  
equity.**



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Platinum  
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2024

**Candid.**

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