



## Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes

### Strategic Focus for 2024 (draft)

#### About the Commission

The Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes is a Governor-appointed, 21-person state commission tasked with developing resources, training, and information to counter hate incidents while identifying and uprooting sources of hate and bias. This Commission brings together subject matter experts, community leaders, law enforcement, and state agencies and constitutional offices so that Illinois can become the model state for combatting discrimination and the reality of hate crimes.

The Commission's work is responsive and preventative, focused not only on security and enforcement, but also preventative, public health approaches.

We work to: **Strengthen responses to hate** (by strengthening laws and their enforcement); **Develop and support preventative efforts** (including the launch of a statewide helpline); **Increase understanding about hate; Develop research, data, systems and approaches** to serve the entire state; and **Coordinate** between the many private and public bodies working to counter and prevent acts of hate.

Central 2024 projects: Illinois v Hate Helpline; state study of hate; educational sessions and trainings

#### CDHC Areas of Work

- 1. Strengthen responses to hate**, including efforts to strengthen legal protections, increase reporting and prosecuting, and improve effective responses to hate incidents. (Legal Committee)
  - Mandate comprehensive hate crimes training for local law enforcement agencies and continuing legal education for legal professionals.
  - Research value and feasibility of creating educational programs to satisfy requirements for order of probation or conditional discharge for offenders.
  - Strengthen legal protections through ongoing legislative and policy work. This includes initiating and supporting legislation, reviewing and offering analysis to other's legislation, and engaging with legislative efforts as necessary.

2. **Develop tools and resources** -- and support the development of tools and resources on the local level -- to support people affected by hate and to prevent future acts of hate. (Resource Network Committee)
  - Launch Illinois v. Hate, a statewide hate and bias incident helpline with online reporting. Soft launch in March and full launch in September 2024.
  - Consider launching a grant program for community-based social services agencies to develop local resources and programs to serve victims of hate. For review, with possible start in 2025.
3. **Increase education and understanding about hate** through trainings, educational programs, outreach, public statements, and public appearances. (Understanding Hate Committee)
4. **Data and Research:** In partnership, build data collection systems and conduct research to increase knowledge about bias and hate, which will, in turn serve to improve programs, policies, and fiscal allocations. (CDHC staff)
  - Contract with an academic or research institute to conduct a statewide study of hate.
  - Partner with an agency or institution for evidence-based, public health-driven approaches to reduce the number of bias and hate incidents in Illinois.
5. **Coordinate efforts** between government, community-based organizations, law enforcement, academia, etc. That may include convening; and making connections between disparate efforts; and elevating and supporting others' work. (CDHC staff and various committees)
  - Convene a Partner Network comprised of the communities most targeted by hate. Acting as a statewide anti-hate network, this group will be key supporters and advisors to Illinois v. Hate. (Resource Network Committee)
  - Convene a statewide summit on hate in Fall 2024. (Understanding Hate Committee)