



**JANE ADDAMS HULL HOUSE ASSOCIATION  
CENTER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY**

When Jane Addams founded Hull House in 1889, she realized that poverty and need would never end if the people who understood the problems their neighborhoods were facing did not somehow affect public policy. Through her experience, she learned the responsibility to not just serve people by addressing their immediate needs, but also to change the conditions of their lives that created those needs.

Social change is inextricably linked with social policy and politics. By keeping these entwined in the work of Hull House, Miss Addams was able to concentrate her efforts on the root causes of the issues faced by underserved and unserved communities while working to create change at a systemic level.

Today, Hull House continues this work by coupling direct service, through 50 community-based programs, impacting 60,000 children, families and each year, and policy reform. By providing social service programs we address the symptoms of the problems. By advocating for public and social policy reform, we are looking for remedies to the causes of the problems.

The goals of the Center are:

- To research systems, institutions and conditions that create and maintain racial and socioeconomic disparity.
- To educate policymakers, community leaders, concerned individuals and organizations about the implications of systemic racism, economic disadvantage and the barriers erected in people's lives.
- To create dialogue opportunities within and across diverse communities which generate relevant public discourse about social issues.
- To collaborate with community organizations, advocacy groups, government officials, religious, philanthropic and business leaders, media representatives, etc.
- To develop advocacy strategies for systemic change, engaging a diverse, broad-based coalition of people inclusive of low-income and marginalized communities; and
- To create advocacy groups to support the agenda of the Hull House Association
  - Women's Policy Board
  - Men of Color Initiative
  - Chicago Dinners Dialogue Project

For more information, contact Terri A. Johnson at 312.235.5391 or [tjohnson@hullhouse.org](mailto:tjohnson@hullhouse.org)