

# chicago foundation for women

## Fall 2016 Grants

### *ELEANOR NETWORK AT CHICAGO FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN*

The Eleanor Network at CFW supports women's economic security through funding for workforce development training, direct services and advocacy work.

#### ***Access Living - \$10,000***

Established in 1980, Access Living is committed to fostering an inclusive society that enables Chicagoans with disabilities to live fully-engaged and self-directed lives. Access Living challenges stereotypes, protects civil rights, and champions social reform, and is nationally recognized as a leading force in the disability advocacy community. Governed and staffed by people with disabilities, Access Living combines knowledge and personal experience to deliver programs and services that equip people with disabilities to advocate for themselves. Access Living is at the forefront of the disability rights movement, removing barriers so people with disabilities can live the life they envision.

#### ***Accion Chicago- \$15,000***

Accion is a nonprofit that helps communities grow by investing in people who build businesses and generate jobs in their neighborhoods. They provide customized capital solutions and one-on-one coaching to underserved entrepreneurs in Illinois and Northwest Indiana who cannot access traditional and affordable credit. Accion's mission is to revitalize underserved communities through entrepreneurship, with a focus on supporting minority, women, and low-income entrepreneurs who address the economic distress of their communities by generating jobs and economic growth.

#### ***All Chicago Making Homelessness History – \$50,000***

All Chicago Making Homelessness History effectively combines immediate resources with strategies to address the complex issue of homelessness, leading the city's long-term strategy to end and prevent homelessness. The Emergency Fund program provides critical financial assistance to people experiencing an emergency that could lead to homelessness. We quickly provide payments on a person's behalf, for things like rent or even bus passes. Funding from Chicago Foundation for Women supports the Flexible Financial Fund, which allows All Chicago to provide targeted funds for women and fill gaps in the social safety net. The objective of the Flexible Financial Fund and the Emergency Fund is to provide financial assistance needed to help each person or family achieve and maintain stability.

#### ***Cara – \$30,000***

Cara was founded in 1991 by entrepreneur and philanthropist Tom Owens in order to empower adults affected by homelessness and poverty to find quality employment through job training and placement. The Eleanor Career Advancement Program advances Cara's mission in that it

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helps to prepare employed Cara women for the next step in their professional journeys, whether that be additional training, enrolling in formal educational programs, or finding a more suitable job through which they can advance their pay.

### ***Chicago House and Social Service Agency – \$20,000***

Chicago House serves individuals and families who are disenfranchised by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ marginalization, poverty, homelessness, and/or gender nonconformity by providing housing, employment services, medical linkage and retention services, HIV prevention services, legal services, and other supportive programs.

### ***Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) – \$25,000***

Community Organizing and Family Issues, a 21-year-old nonprofit organization, exists to develop the leadership and organizing capacity of low-income parents of color, mainly mothers and grandmothers, in Illinois' low-income African-American, Latina, and racially diverse communities to strengthen the power and voice of low-income families at all levels of public life. COFI works intensively with moms, supporting them on personal goals and then working collectively to make their voices heard in policy making to improve life for low-income women, children, and families. COFI achieves its mission through leadership training, supporting the mothers in action and teaching other groups to do this work.

### ***Chicago Women in Trades – \$65,000***

Founded by tradeswomen in 1981, Chicago Women in Trades exists to improve women's economic equity by increasing their participation in skilled, blue-collar occupations traditionally held by men. Celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, CWIT continues to pursue its mission through two complementary strategies: creating opportunities for women to enter and advance in the industry through policy, advocacy and technical assistance initiatives; and ensuring that women are informed about and prepared to compete and succeed in these occupations through direct service programs.

### ***Chicago Youth Centers – \$15,000***

For 4,000 children and families, Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) provides a pathway out of poverty and violence. CYC's mission is to empower Chicago's children to discover and experience their full potential. At seven Centers throughout Chicago, CYC equips children ages 3-18 with the tools needed to succeed in school and ultimately the workforce: innovative spaces to learn; engaged families and mentors; and programs that expand children's abilities to think critically, create, communicate and collaborate. A robust STEM education program gives low-income students access to technologies, equipment and one-on-one instruction.

### ***Deborah's Place – \$20,000***

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Deborah's Place opens doors for women experiencing homelessness in Chicago. Supportive housing and services ensure women can heal, achieve their goals and move on from the experience of homelessness. Through the years, Deborah's Place has evolved to address the broader needs of women experiencing homelessness by expanding our housing options, adding wrap-around supportive services, and adopting a "Housing First" approach. Over 31 years and more than 4,000 women later, Deborah's Place is Chicago's largest provider of supportive and interim housing exclusively for women.

### ***Facing Forward to End Homelessness – \$20,000***

Facing Forward to End Homelessness (FF) transforms the lives of Chicago's homeless and disabled families and individuals by empowering them with the stability of a real home and the tools they need to move toward independence. Through internal programming and referrals to resources in the community, residents receive the support needed to tend to their educational, familial, financial, healthcare (mental and physical), and life-skill needs. Facing Forward offers a "hand-up" not a "hand-out" because we know that our "Eleanor Women" do not lack desire, energy, or ambition, but need support. Through our programming, Chicago's most vulnerable women are empowered and given the opportunity to put to work their skills and potential to transform their lives, their families and their communities.

### ***Fund for Justice dba Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice – \$15,000***

Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice is a social impact research and advocacy organization that identifies community injustices, conducts research necessary to develop proposed solutions, and advocates for their implementation. Chicago Appleseed focuses on making court systems fair and effective for all persons, and is an affiliate of the Appleseed National Network of Social Justice Centers.

### ***GirlForward – \$15,000***

GirlForward is the first and only organization dedicated to creating and expanding opportunities for refugee girls who have resettled in the United States. Founded in Chicago in 2011, GirlForward provides adolescent refugee girls with individual mentorship, educational programs and leadership opportunities, creating a community of support that serves as a resource and empowers girls to be strong, confident and independent.

### ***Grow Your Own IL – \$35,000***

Grow Your Own Teachers (GYO) is a unique partnership of community organizations, higher education institutions and public school districts that supports low-income parents and community members in becoming highly effective teachers in neighborhood schools. GYO creates a career pathway for individuals who have a passion for teaching but don't have the

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means or opportunity to realize that passion. The majority of GYO candidates are low-income working mothers. They are returning to school after a long hiatus or entering a higher education classroom for the first time. For many, the dream of returning to, or starting college, is elusive. Through forgivable loans for tuition and intensive wraparound services, the barriers that prevent many working women from returning to school are lifted. GYO is helping to move low-income women out of poverty and into a stable profession that also allows them to give back to their community.

### ***Heartland Human Care Services – \$50,000***

Heartland Human Care Services (HHCS) has 128 years of experience providing the most vulnerable populations with the services they need to build a stable, successful life. HHCS' mission is to achieve freedom from want, fear, and injustice for people marginalized by poverty, displacement, or situations of vulnerability by developing and providing a continuum of services that meet basic needs, safeguard human rights, and provide opportunities for positive change. HHCS' IDEA program is the cornerstone of its asset building services. IDEA promotes the economic stability of women and their families by increasing women's financial capability and access to affordable products and services, and helping them build assets.

### ***Jane Addams Resource Corporation – \$75,000***

Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC) promotes strong communities, businesses, and households to ensure people who work do not live in poverty. Created in 1985 to promote industry in the Ravenswood community on the northwest side of Chicago, JARC's programs have grown to include workforce development, manufacturing job training, financial support services and adult education. Launched in 2009 with the support of the Chicago Foundation for Women, JARC's Women in Manufacturing Program (WMP) prepares low-income women for living wage careers in the metal manufacturing sector. WMP targets strategic skills gaps, including Welding, Computer Numerical Control (CNC), and Press Brake; JARC focuses on these sub-sectors because they are a source of living wage jobs and career paths.

### ***Jane Addams Senior Caucus – \$25,000***

Jane Addams Senior Caucus is a multiracial, grassroots organization led by seniors in Chicago. Through leadership development, organizing and popular education, we use the power of our collective voice to work for economic, social and racial justice for all seniors and our communities.

### ***Kinzie Industrial Development Corporation (KIDC) – \$75,000***

The Kinzie Industrial Development Corporation (KIDC), the charitable organization of the Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago, was formed in 1984 to advance economic development on the near West Side of Chicago. To fulfill its mission, KIDC offers early stage small

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businesses affordable space to operate, business advising and workforce development services. These resources include job placement and training services, and small business development in the areas of finance, strategic planning, marketing, information on grants and loans, neighborhood planning, education and more. KIDC's EMT training program has been successfully training low-income women for the healthcare field since 2009.

### ***Latino Union of Chicago – \$20,000***

Latino Union collaborates with low-wage immigrant and U.S.-born workers to develop the tools to improve social and economic conditions. The organization wins improvements in working conditions, develops leadership and builds a larger movement for immigrants and workers rights. Immigrant women founded Latino Union in 2000 to organize against wage theft and sexual harassment in temporary employment agencies. Since their founding, Latino Union has worked with day laborers to pass labor protection laws, and with nannies, caregivers and domestic workers to pass the Illinois Domestic Workers Bill of Rights.

### ***Literature for All of Us – \$15,000***

Literature for All of Us believes literacy is a basic and essential human need, and supports literacy growth and development through a unique book group model in which participants read and discuss culturally relevant literature. Starting with just fifteen low-income teen mothers in a single book group, over a nineteen-year span, Literature for All of Us has aided over 8,500 participants. Through collaborative relationships with schools and community-based organizations. Literature for All of Us offers a holistic approach to literacy that reflects best practices in literacy learning, the English Language Arts, social-emotional learning, and trauma-informed methodology. Literature for All of Us also facilitates a workforce Development Book Group with materials selected to reflect the lives of working women in traditionally-male jobs.

### ***Love, Unity & Values (LUV) Institute – \$15,000***

The Love, Unity & Values (LUV) Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which supports young people, ages 11-24, who face challenges with college- and career-readiness. LUV provides the foundational skills young people need to be work-ready by using literacy, art and wellbeing as a pathway to the workforce of tomorrow. LUV's mission is to provide hope, skills and opportunity to economically challenged young people to disrupt violence and other negative social behavior, while preparing them for academic success and sustainable employment. With the help of a staff of 15, the organization provides after school programs, job-readiness training, vocational skills development, workplace internships, entrepreneurship training, job placement and other intensive supportive services to nearly 500 youth annually.

### ***Midwest Academy – \$15,000***

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The Midwest Academy is a national training institute committed to advancing the struggle for social, economic and racial justice. From local neighborhood groups to statewide and national organizations, Midwest Academy has trained over twenty-five thousand grassroots activists, staff, and leaders from hundreds of organizations and coalitions. Midwest Academy teaches an organizing philosophy, methods and skills that enable ordinary people to actively participate in the democratic process. The Academy has been instrumental in helping to build statewide coalitions and provides training to organizations of all sizes.

### ***New Moms, Inc. – \$15,000***

Founded in 1983, New Moms is a 501(c)3 agency with a mission to express the love of God by surrounding young moms and their children with all they need to transform their lives—providing individualized case management; housing and supportive services; workforce development; parenting and life skills training; and child health and development monitoring. The Workforce Development Program serves homeless and high-risk adolescent mothers, equipping them with critical job-readiness training and paid transitional employment at New Moms' social enterprise., Bright Endeavors.

### ***Project Exploration – \$15,000***

Founded in 1999, Project Exploration (PE) uses science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to address challenges to equity, access, and opportunity in public education, higher education, and the professional STEM world. PE is a nationally recognized science education and youth development organization. Project Exploration is guided by a mission to empower and mentor underrepresented youth through experiential STEM programs led by university students and skilled STEM professionals. PE's Sisters4Science seeks to positively impact girls' educational goals, career aspirations, confidence and attitudes towards science through after-school programming led by women in STEM.

### ***Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law – \$30,000***

The Shriver Center provides national leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. The organization achieves this mission through two interrelated programs: (1) Advocacy and (2) Advocate Resources & Training. Advocacy encompasses a broad agenda that includes promoting access to affordable health care, income supports and child care assistance, education equity, fair housing, employment and training, and civil rights/community justice. To achieve these aims, the Shriver Center utilizes a variety of strategies including impact litigation, policy development and advocacy, and racial equity advocacy. Through Advocate Resources & Training, the Shriver Center provides intensive training programs and resources that enable advocates across the U.S. to come together to enhance their skills, share knowledge, and advance anti-poverty advocacy campaigns and drive systems change.

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### ***Target HOPE – \$15,000***

Target HOPE is a nonprofit organization with a mission to enhance educational opportunities for minority students attending public high schools in the Chicago metropolitan area. Healing, Opportunity, Pride and Empowerment are the concepts through which Target HOPE creates innovative academic retention strategies to combat the high school dropout crisis and increase minority graduation rates in higher education. Our close partnership with a consortium of colleges and universities based on strong academic preparation by our scholars increases the level of financial support for our students while decreasing the burden of student loans. Our goal is to address the academic under-preparation of minority students by creating a college-going culture of success, support and excellence.

### ***The Night Ministry – \$15,000***

Founded in 1976, The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide housing, healthcare and human connection to youth and adults struggling with poverty or homelessness. The Night Ministry operates a youth shelter network, a street-based youth outreach team and a health outreach program. The Night Ministry serves some of the most vulnerable communities in Chicago including homeless or precariously housed, at-risk individuals. All Ministry programs are non-denominational, and open to all regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

### ***Triton College – \$15,000***

Triton's innovative and unique STEM program, GADgET (Girls Adventuring in Design, Engineering and Technology), is open to girls ages 12-16. The program operates in the Chicagoland area and focuses on recruiting young women living in near-west Chicago (Austin and North Lawndale) and nearby Proviso Township (Bellwood, Stone Park, Maywood, and Melrose Park), in order to build a pipeline to STEM careers for underrepresented women. GADgET strengthens each participant's sense of self-efficacy through the ownership of an idea, from the concept phase through the build phase, by employing practices, methods, and tools used in a variety of STEM careers.

### ***Upwardly Global – \$40,000***

Upwardly Global's (UpGlo) mission is to eliminate employment barriers for skilled immigrants and refugees, and to integrate this population into the professional U.S. workforce. UpGlo is an award-winning workforce organization with offices in San Francisco, New York, Chicago and Silver Spring (MD). UpGlo operates an innovative online training platform with over 1,000 active volunteers and 355 employer partners. UpGlo has been at the forefront of solving the "brain waste" challenge and has assisted over 3,767 skilled immigrants and refugees, including over 1,806 women, in securing professional positions in high-demand sectors nationwide.

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### ***Voices for Illinois Children (Research) - \$15,000***

Voices for Illinois Children is an independent advocacy organization that champions strong public policies and investments for all children in Illinois. Voices for Illinois Children conducts analysis on the current state of investment in women and girls, and the impact of state budget cuts.

### ***THE CATALYST FUND FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE***

The Catalyst Fund for Reproductive Justice at Groundswell supports reproductive justice advocacy organizations led by women of color. The Catalyst Fund focuses its support on organizations that address reproductive justice issues disproportionately affecting communities of color, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, including the right to: reproductive health care; bear and parent children; access a safe and legal abortion; live free from violence; and live and work in a healthy environment.

### ***A Long Walk Home - \$15,000***

A Long Walk Home (ALWH) is a women-led nonprofit that uses art to educate, engage and empower young people to end violence against women and girls. The Girl/Friends Young Leaders Institute, located in the North Lawndale community, is the only program in Chicago to equip and empower cis, queer, and trans girls of color to 1) advocate for themselves and other girls and 2) create systematic change to end gender violence. ALWH recognizes the lack of representation of girls of color in leadership roles in the movement to end violence. The goal of the Girl/Friends Leadership Institute is to transform adolescent girls into advocates, policymakers and key stakeholders in order to ultimately change and diversify the face of leadership in the women's rights movement.

### ***Black on Both Sides – \$25,000***

Black on Both Sides (BBS) provides training, mentorship and support in community organizing for Black foster youth and parents through a rigorous curriculum in community organizing focused on the history and tactics of the foster care and prison systems in the United States. For the past three years, the central program has been the youth cohort. BBS recruits and trains a cohort of youth leaders who are dual-system involved - they have had contact with both the foster care system and the criminal justice system -- for a four-month curriculum that focuses on developing and practicing the skills of leadership development, team building, participatory research, creative writing, civic participation and restorative justice.

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### ***Cabrini Green Legal Aid – \$43,000***

Cabrini Green Legal Aid (CGLA) pursues justice and mercy for those impacted by the criminal justice system by providing legal services and advocating for systemic change that strengthens lives, families, and communities. CGLA, which acquired Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) and its critical programming in 2014, is Illinois' leading expert and advocate on real-life effects of the criminal justice system. The advocacy work is organized into two overarching campaigns: Reunite Moms & Kids, which focuses on achieving reproductive justice and addressing the needs of incarcerated mothers and their families, and Breaking Down the Barriers, which tackles a range of collateral consequences affecting people's abilities to live full and meaningful lives.

### ***Chicago Freedom School – \$21,000***

The mission of the Chicago Freedom School (CFS) is to create new generations of critical- and independent-thinking young people who use their unique experiences and power to create a just world. CFS provides educational opportunities for youth and adult allies to develop leadership skills through the lens of civic action and through the study of the history of social movements and their leaders. CFS operates in the spirit of the original freedom schools in Mississippi in the 1960s, serving as a catalyst for young people across Chicago to discover their own power to make change. Project HealUs activates and prepares young people of color ages 14-20 from marginalized communities to explore, engage and expand the work of the reproductive justice movement within their communities.

### ***EverThrive Illinois – \$40,000***

EverThrive Illinois works to improve the health of women, children and families over their lifespan through community engagement, partnerships, policy analysis and advocacy. EverThrive trains students as youth peer educators in order to increase the capacity of young people to share reproductive health information with their peers and community. The Health Reform Initiative will provide training and education related to programs and policies affecting access to coverage and care. EverThrive IL will continue to train youth on advocacy topics, but this year will also engage low-income women who are consumers of state and federally funded maternal and child health (MCH) programs from Englewood and neighboring communities in the advocacy efforts.

### ***Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health – \$43,000***

Founded in 1977, the Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH) is a network of empowered youth and allied adults who transform public consciousness and increase the capacity of family, school, and healthcare systems to support the sexual health, rights, and identities of youth. For more than three decades, ICAH has organized and trained young people to advocate for issues

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that directly affect their lives and communities. ICAH emphasizes building youth leadership skills and serving marginalized populations.

### ***Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force – \$48,000***

The mission of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force is to save women's lives by eliminating health disparities for women of color in Illinois, through the lens of breast cancer. We address women's health holistically with the goal of eliminating inequities in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship for all women.

### ***National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum – \$15,000***

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) continues to be the only national Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women's multi-issue advocacy organization in the United States, organizing AAPI communities for reproductive justice through an intersectional lens. By growing a base of AAPI champions, NAPAWF can strengthen the community's reproductive rights, health, and justice advocacy efforts and amplify the voices and leadership of AAPI women and girls.

### ***Warehouse Workers for Justice – \$20,000***

Warehouse Workers for Justice (WWJ) was founded in 2009 to transform work in the distribution industry from poverty-level temp jobs into living wage jobs with dignity that can sustain families. Their mission is to shape policies that improve the lives of low-income people, engage and activate communities to support workers taking action to resolve systemic inequities, and promote economic justice and racial and gender equality. Warehouse Workers for Justice looks at the intersection of economic justice and reproductive justice and how the lack of family-supporting jobs limits women's reproductive justice. A woman cannot raise a family with unstable scheduling, low wages, lack of access to health benefits, gender discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual assault in the workplace. WWJ has made significant progress on developing legislation and organizing support of its passage in the coming year.