

chicago foundation for women

2020 Fall Primary Cycle Proposal - Descriptions

Accion Chicago	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: For more than 25 years, Accion has been providing neighborhood entrepreneurs with the capital, coaching, and connections they need to grow businesses that create jobs and wealth in the communities most in need.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic, the inability to access business services was a significant barrier for women entrepreneurs that limits their business growth and overall financial health. These challenges have only intensified due to the pandemic. There is significant demand for its services; in the first six months of 2020, Accion funded more than 600 loans totaling \$16M compared to our lending volume of \$3.2M in all of 2019. Demand is so high that in just two quarters Accion lent \$5M to female entrepreneurs compared to the \$1.1M it lent to female entrepreneurs in all of 2019.</p> <p>Accion plays a critical role in removing these barriers by providing female entrepreneurs with the capital, coaching, and connections they need so that they can continue to operate businesses that preserve jobs in our region's most economically distressed communities during this challenging time.</p> <p>Capital: Accion provides small business loans up to \$100k (average loan size of \$9k) through term loans and a line of credit.</p> <p>Coaching: It offers a wide range of coaching services to meet the needs of clients at different stages of business. One unique service Accion is providing during the pandemic is business recovery action planning with clients to help them survive and rebuild as the economy slowly rebounds.</p> <p>Connections: Accion provides access to connections, which will be especially needed by its clients during and after the pandemic. It intends to help clients secure public procurement and corporate contracts, find more businesses online, and sell to other Accion clients.</p>		
Blue Tin Production	New Applicant	Amount: \$7,500
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Blue Tin Production (BTP) is an apparel manufacturing workers co-operative run by immigrant, refugee, and working-class women of color using a creative, arts-based approach to systems change. BTP works to fill a major gap in sustainable and ethical production within the fashion industry while centering the economic mobility of women of color who sit at the intersections of violence, trauma, and systemic oppression.</p>		

Members range from domestic violence survivors from Nigeria to mothers and refugees from Turkey. BTP re-imagines labor and centers those historically marginalized by the fashion industry and other systems of oppression, locally and globally. Members hail from across Chicagoland but are primarily from the South and SouthWest sides.

Along with providing holistic, wrap-around services for all of the members, BTP takes a radical shift from traditional factory allocations of funds. While the average fast-fashion factory globally only allocates less than 1% of total revenue toward their labor force, Blue Tin directs on average 60-80% of incoming revenue from contracts and client work toward labor. BTP mass-produces thousands of garments annually for designers globally, and completed 2019 with zero-plastic and negligible waste.

BTP works to destabilize the normalization of sweatshops and exploitative labor conditions that plague the industry, while developing long-term racial equity locally. To do so, BTP works with designers nationally to produce their clothing, host events and studio visits to educate the greater community of consumers on ethical and sustainable clothing, and work in collaboration with international human rights organizations and garment worker unions globally to develop a new standard in garment production.

Ultimately, BTP addresses a root cause of the racial wealth gap by building leadership potential and holistic economic self-determination, and is built and run by and for communities that sit at the various intersections of need.

Cara	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: Cara Eleanor Career Advancement Program</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds: Since 1991, Cara has placed more than 6,800 people into more than 10,600 jobs at one-year, same-company retention rates of ~70% or better for permanent placements, catalyzing families to stop the transfer of poverty from one generation to the next.</p> <p>Previously, Cara’s Eleanor Career Advancement Program (ECAP) has advanced Cara’s mission by preparing women who have been employed for at least six months for advancement in their personal and professional journeys.</p> <p>New this year, it is expanding the ECAP cohort to include a group of women who have reached the milestone of their first job placement or are being re-placed due to layoffs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This group is a step behind those engaged in Career Advancement services, as the focus upon placement in a job through Cara is largely on retaining employment for at least one year. This was motivated in response to observing hiring and promotion freezes, layoffs, and reductions in hours from some employers in its network; as such, it anticipates there will be a higher need for placement or re-placement services.</p> <p>Facing these challenges, empowering its ECAP cohort to pursue additional training, enroll in formal educational programs, negotiate a promotion, or find a more gainful job through which they can advance their compensation and benefits is more important than ever. Cara seeks to continue providing access to opportunities and skills that will ensure ECAP participants not only achieve economic stability, but also resiliency, now and in the future. Cara has been moved from the EN: Training and Stabilization cycle to the Primary cycle.</p>		

Chicago House and Social Service Agency	Current Grantee	Amount: \$10,000
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Project Name: TransWorks Program

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 For the past 35 years, Chicago House has empowered individuals and families vulnerable to or living with HIV/AIDS through four mission-critical pillars— Housing, Health, Employment, and the TransLifeCare Program—with the central purpose to lead healthy, dignified lives.

TransWorks advances employment and work opportunities for transgender and gender expansive individuals through 1:1 career counseling, resource sharing, networking opportunities, resource groups and employer trainings. TransWorks offers a quarterly skills-building workshop that focuses on community assets and specific issues facing the transgender and gender expansive community. The mentorship program pairs transgender and gender expansive individuals seeking work with those who are employed. The space provided in the mentorship program and the quarterly group creates an opportunity for transgender and gender expansive community members to build relationships and develop additional support focused on employment. TransWorks aids in the creation and maintenance of transgender and gender expansive affirming workplaces through outreach to employers and our Trans101 employer trainings. In addition to scheduling an appointment, weekly drop-in sessions are offered to transgender and gender expansive job seekers through the TransLife Care Program. Drop-in services are especially helpful for individuals who may need wrap around services and are unable to schedule a 1:1 appointment with a career specialist.

Chicago Youth Centers	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Chicago Youth Centers' Family Engagement Program

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 Chicago Youth Centers (CYC) provides some of the city's most divested communities with access to comprehensive Early Learning, Out-of-School Time Enrichment, and Family Engagement programs. It serves youth from early childhood through high school graduation with a wide range of experiences, tools, and resources to help them reach their full potential.

CYC's neighborhood- and school-based centers in the South and West sides of Chicago offer an extensive variety of learning avenues that are intentionally designed to help youth thrive academically as well as experience critical social-emotional growth in a safe and supportive environment. Programs such as academic enrichment, health and wellness, and STEAM incorporate social-emotional learning, communication, and hands-on problem-solving skills, providing youth with the confidence they need to succeed in the 21st century.

Funding from the Chicago Foundation for Women would support CYC's Family Engagement Program, where it offers a wide variety of workshops, mentoring opportunities, and one-on-one meetings throughout the year with caregivers to equip them with the tools they need to help their children meet cognitive and behavioral milestones. During COVID-19, its program offers one-on-one check-ins, referral services, and food and essential goods delivery in addition to "Family and Me" Zoom sessions.

Chinese Mutual Aid Association	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Young Women Warriors

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

CMAA was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Uptown in 1981 by Asian community leaders who were also ethnic Chinese refugees. Grateful for the assistance they had received as new immigrants themselves, they came together to help other newly arrived immigrants- leading to the formation of CMAA. Since then, CMAA has evolved into a pan-immigrant social services agency, serving immigrants and refugees from over 40 countries, with the majority of our clients being low-income and Limited English Proficient (LEP).

CMAA is seeking renewed funding for its Young Women Warriors (YWW) teen mentorship program. YWW provides mentorship services for first and second generation young women in the Chicagoland area. Mentees - the majority of which are women of color from low-income families - and adult mentors come together to build leadership skills, support college access and career preparation, and provide guidance through this transitional period in young women's lives.

YWW was founded to serve young Asian American women in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. Young Asian American women face a unique set of challenges due to their own immigration experiences, intergenerational trauma, and the model minority myth-a racial stereotype that, combined with gender, creates barriers for young women by over-generalizing them as smart and passive individuals. Due to language, culture, and technology barriers, these young women are required to navigate economic, educational, and social systems on their own, including high school, higher education, the professional workplace, political systems and policies, and now, due to COVID-19, the challenges of remote learning. This underscores the need for mentorship services for first and second generation women across all races and ethnicities, who may face acculturation stress, anxiety, and depression.

Communities United	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Communities United (CU) is a grassroots, survivor-led organization that advances racial, economic, and gender equity across key social determinants of health. At the heart of its mission is the transformative leadership development of youth and adult leaders to advance community-led systems change. It calls this approach its Healing through Justice (HJ) framework which recognizes that the process of turning experiences with injustice into action to create social change, and coming together to create a community of support through the process of organizing, can be deeply healing. CU has led critical work to:

- Advance a survivor-led approach to affordable housing preservation through our ROOTS initiative,
- Dismantle the school to prison pipeline and advance restorative school climates through its VOYCE project,
- Expand access to preventative health care for low-income families,
- Develop a long-term, survivor-led vision for healing-centered schools and communities; and more.

Intentional alliance building across Black and Brown historically segregated communities is core to its work. The majority of CU members and staff are women and girls of color from the communities of Belmont Cragin, Austin, Roseland, Albany Park and West Ridge which span the city's northwest, west, and south sides. CU's members, who are directly impacted by the issues at stake, decide key issues-areas and campaign strategy, and make decisions every step of the way. CU also engages over 60 organizations/institutions across the city to align and advance collective efforts.

Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)	Current Grantee	Amount: \$30,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI), founded in 1995, exists to develop the leadership and organizing capacity of low-income parents of color, mainly mothers and grandmothers, in Chicago’s and the state’s 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—from local communities to city, state and national arenas. COFI achieves its mission through leadership training, supporting the mothers in action and teaching other groups to do this work.

In Chicago, COFI focuses on low-income African American and Latinx communities highly damaged by the pandemic (and longer term disinvestment): Austin, Englewood, Garfield, Hermosa, Humboldt Park, New City, and Pilsen-Little Village. In partnership with local community groups such as Austin Coming Together, Southside Early Learning Network, and Enlace, COFI reaches out to low-income women of color, drawing them into a structured leadership training process described next that builds from personal goal setting to working collectively to make their voices heard in policy-making to improve life for low-income women, children, and families. Results: over 4,500 women trained and hundreds newly active in public life; dozens of local community improvements like safety corridors and afterschool and adult learning programs and child development resources; and significant policy victories in increased access to early learning, school reform, and family economic security.

The arrival of COVID-19 in March brought face-to-face community organizing to a screeching halt. COFI immediately reached out to each of its parent leaders to learn how the pandemic was affecting them, sought resources for those leaders as needed, and trained them in remote organizing methods, securing remote access for those in need. Parent leaders quickly became adept at Zoom and, meeting remotely, discussed their and their communities’ experiences and developed a policy response platform, “Fighting for Our Families” (available at bit.ly/2Lm6qrx). Including cash support, especially for ITIN filers denied federal stimulus, rent and utilities support and payment relief, fees and fines relief, special learning assistance to struggling children including increased remote technology access, and healthcare access regardless of insurance or immigration status, the platform has already had some early successes. But much more work remains.

Deborah's Place	Current Grantee	Amount: \$20,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
The Deborah’s Place community is made up of women and women-identified who are homeless and formerly homeless. With two main program sites in Chicago, as well as community-based housing, Deborah’s Place programs impact more than 400 women annually and include:

Interim and Permanent Supportive Housing (267 units/beds)

- Project-Based Permanent Supportive Housing: 129 units for women with histories of chronic homelessness and disabilities. 90 women are housed in E. Garfield Park and 39 are housed in Old Town.
- Community-Based Housing: 115 subsidized, scattered-site housing units through partnerships with private landlords, located primarily on the West and South sides of Chicago.
- Interim Housing Program: 10-bed short term residential program focused on rapid re-housing with referrals coming from the City and Catholic Charities.

- Safe Haven Program: Long-term housing for 15 women who have experienced chronic homelessness, have been diagnosed with a severe mental illness, and have been difficult to engage in services.

Comprehensive Support Services for Program Residents and Participants

- Case Management Services help women access services and resources to meet their needs, provide emotional support and assist with the identification and achievement of self-identified goals.
- Health Services: Crisis management, health education, healthcare referrals, and assistance with medical/dental expenses.
- Life Skills & Social Support: group-based and one-on-one activities through on-site Learning Centers.
- Moving On and Alumnae Services: ongoing assistance including case management, peer support groups, and semi-annual gatherings for former residents of Deborah's Place who have "moved on".

Enlace Chicago	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Supporting Spanish-speaking Immigrant Women as CHWs through the PAES Network

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Enlace Chicago convenes, organizes and builds the capacity of Little Village stakeholders to confront systemic inequities and barriers to economic and social access. It is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of Little Village residents by fostering a safe and healthy environment and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

Over the last six years, Enlace has supported the training and employment of community leaders as Community Health Workers (CHW) and, in 2015, it began convening PAES, a network of local Spanish-speaking CHWs. Enlace and PAES CHWs receive extensive training and build a holistic skill set that allows them to engage in a variety of activities, including community outreach, health education, support group facilitation, public benefits and health insurance enrollment assistance, healthcare and social service system navigation and referrals, public health research, and policy advocacy. The network worked with City Colleges of Chicago, Illinois CHW Association, Little Village Education Collaborative and Illinois Department of Public Health to launch a basic college certificate program for Spanish-speaking CHWs.

The CHW team has been a central part of Enlace's pandemic response strategy; they have been coordinating a range of resources and services and advocating for policy and systems changes, while staying abreast of the rapidly changing landscape. They are also a key part of the staff committee that was established to manage Enlace's emergency fund. Enlace is developing a Pandemic Response Team within its community health department that will allow it to expand and diversify its CHW model to address the current community need without straining its capacity. This will also allow it to provide more services and resources in-house and create more consistent organization-wide processes for referral and resource coordination. The team will be temporary, but Enlace anticipates that the organization will sustain many of the new structures that will be created and will retain many of the new staff, many of whom will be PAES members.

Erie Family Health Center	New Applicant	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Reproductive Health Program on Chicago's West Side

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Erie Family Health Centers (Erie) is a healthcare home to more than 80,000 patients, mostly low-income, who are served in the Chicago area at thirteen locations: seven large primary care centers, five school-based health centers, and our Teen Center. access to health.

A grant would support Erie’s reproductive health program at its Humboldt Park, Division Street, and Teen Health Center sites on Chicago’s West Side. In FY20, Erie served a total of 13,672 women and girls across these sites. This patient community is being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, job loss, poverty, and violence: over half live in the Humboldt Park and North Lawndale zip codes; almost 30% are uninsured; 80% are Hispanic or Latino; and 10% are African American. These women often experience substantial challenges in accessing high-quality, competent care. Their needs often come last as they juggle childcare, household responsibilities, and inflexible low-paying jobs with unpredictable hours. At the same time, they are navigating a complex care system with providers who may not speak their language or respect their culture.

Recognizing that the ability to determine whether and when to become pregnant is fundamental to good health and quality of life, Erie offers comprehensive reproductive services, including contraception (both short- and long-term methods), pregnancy testing, STI testing/treatment, pregnancy options counseling, and reproductive health education. Underpinned by its conviction that family planning is the woman’s decision, Erie’s approach to these services aims to empower and enable its female patients. While this program is focused mainly on women and girls, it also prioritize active engagement with men and boys as partners, advocates, and users of contraception.

Erie rapidly overhauled its service model at the outbreak of COVID-19 and has continued to deliver comprehensive women’s health services throughout the pandemic. In the initial months of the pandemic, it heard from patients that other practices had deemed family planning an elective procedure and reduced or discontinued these services as a result. In contrast, Erie has continued to provide these vital services, including same-day contraceptives, and it remains committed to working in partnership with patients to make the best decision available to them. Likewise, it has continued to address its patients’ fertility needs, including removing long-acting reversible contraceptives.

Family Christian Health Center	New Applicant	Amount: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: Eliminating Maternal Mortality in the Southland Communities</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Family Christian Health Center (FCHC) is a 501c3, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) providing health services to underserved communities across South Suburban Cook and Will Counties in Illinois.</p> <p>The racial disparities in maternal mortality for Black women across IL are profound. Black women in the state are 6 times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition as their non-Hispanic White counterparts. Over the past year, FCHC has elevated Black Maternal Child Health as a public health priority for IL galvanizing a sizable network of strategic allies including world class healthcare systems, FQHC networks, Fortune 100 vendors, and others. Through this strategic alliance, FCHC is poised to be one the first FQHCs of its kind to leverage the capabilities of AI to strategically improve Maternal and Child Outcomes this is particularly significant given the complex needs and disparities experienced by the communities served by the health center. FCHC is launching a multi-phased incorporation of Artificial Intelligence Ecosystem Assets into its technology stack to further extend the clinics evolving footprint in addressing health inequities. Phase 1 involves the integration of a conversational computing digital human into the call center to provide patients with a culturally relevant, HIPAA compliant, scalable, 24/7, multilingual / omnichannel experience. The goal of this initiative is to establish a new paradigm in healthcare delivery for</p>		

Chicago's Southland communities that will facilitate the elimination of disparities in maternal mortality for Black women and serve as a replicable model that can be scaled nationally and internationally. Fortunately, the evolving technical prowess of the FCHC network will incorporate Digital Human employees residing within its call center supporting its already overworked human team leaders. Full deployment is expected to increase the number of clinic-to-patient touch points 10 to 1. This increase in touch points is predicted to improve clinical outcomes, decrease the cost of care, and increase patient satisfaction.

The sizable increase in Family Christian Health Center patient touch points will enable a higher level of care quality, allowing a reduction in wait times and care coordination.

Firebird Community Arts

New Applicant

Amount: \$15,000

Project Name: ProjectFIRE

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Firebird Community Arts (FCA) works to empower and connect people through the healing practice of glassblowing and ceramics. Firebird Community Arts primarily serves populations that have been impacted by collective or individual trauma, including violently injured youth, veterans, formerly incarcerated individuals, and CPS neighborhood school students..

Firebird Community Arts' Intensive Trauma-Informed program work with populations that are at highest risk for further violence due to their trauma and partner with organizations that provide mental health and social service support.

FCA is requesting funding for its Spring 2021 female and gender non-binary cohort of Project FIRE, serving 7 young women. Project FIRE offers healing through glassblowing, mentoring, employment, and trauma informed support groups for young people who have been injured by gun violence in Chicago through weekly 4 hour sessions. The program is in partnership with Healing Hurt People - Chicago (HHP-C), a hospital based violence intervention program that provides case management support. Participants are identified at Stroger or Comer hospitals after their violent injury, and therefore live primarily on the South and West sides. Project FIRE strives to shift the way systems address violence, moving from a criminal justice to a public health perspective.

One health challenge participants face is PTSD--79% of all Project FIRE participants since 2015 have had this diagnosis. Another challenge is participants' Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), of which 87% report having three or more and 47% five or more. ACEs can increase the risks of injury, STIs, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and leading causes of death such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide. Project FIRE works to mitigate these risks and break cycles of violence by working at the intersection of violence prevention, mental health, and economic development.

GirlForward

Current Grantee

Amount: \$15,000

Project Name: General Operating

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

GirlForward is a community of support dedicated to creating and enhancing opportunity for girls who have been displaced by conflict and persecution. Founded in 2011, GirlForward is the first and only organization in the United States dedicated to this mission.

GirlForward Chicago runs three core programs: the Mentoring Program, Education Program and the Safe Spaces Project. Its Mentoring Program pairs girls with mentors to engage in "4W" activities (Wellness, Wisdom, Wallet and World) in order to explore their passions and graduate from high school. Its Education Program provides spaces for girls to simultaneously build their English skills while exploring their identities and learning about the world around them. The Safe Spaces Program provides safe spaces for girls to explore their identities, connect with other girls, and access the resources they need. All GirlForward programming is offered to girls at no cost to them or their families.

Healing to Action	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 Healing to Action’s (HTA) mission is to end gender-based violence by building the leadership and collective power of the communities most impacted. HTA develops the leadership of survivors of these communities, supports dynamic grassroots campaigns developed by survivor leaders, and builds organizations’ capacity to mobilize. Organizing survivors from low-income, black and brown, immigrant, disability and LGBTQ communities, HTA achieves its mission through survivor-led community organizing of grassroots campaigns, leadership development through its Healing Generations political education program, and capacity-building partnerships with grassroots social justice organizations. Healing to Action envisions a future free from gender-based violence.

HTA addresses the powerful connections between racial and socioeconomic inequality and gender-based violence. HTA’s constituents are survivors of gender-based violence from black and brown, immigrant, low-wage, low-income, disability and LGBTQ communities within the Chicagoland area. HTA supports the leadership of these survivors to address intersecting root causes of gender-based violence - structural racism, poverty, ableism, homophobia and transphobia. In short, gender-based violence is a racial and economic inequality issue that undermines the safety and dignity of thousands of survivors throughout Chicago. Gender-based violence disproportionately impacts these communities, further marginalizing them, driving up their healthcare costs, increasing their likelihood of criminalization, and devastating their chances of achieving economic security. HTA has already seen the impact of its powerful model: Since its founding four years ago, HTA has built a powerful base of over 30 survivor leaders, trained over a thousand community stakeholders and collaborated with over two dozen worker rights and grassroots organizations.

i.c. stars	New Applicant	Amount: \$7,500
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Project Name: Increasing Minority Women’s Financial Stability and Health in the Post-COVID-19 World

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 i.c.stars was established to create economic opportunity for underserved communities by bridging disconnected young adults with the high growth tech sector. More than 90% of the population i.c.stars serves are people of color. At least 48% receive Federal Benefits, approximately 15% have experienced homelessness, 16% had a felony, and 35% have children. All participants are from low-income communities, and 100% are unemployed or extremely underemployed. While participants hail from neighborhoods across the city the majority come from the South and West sides of Chicago.

Program participants build web-based applications to solve client challenges - with coding, business, and leadership instruction provided along the way. They also gain the professional network needed to jumpstart their careers. The program benefits women through technical job skills training, leadership building sessions, women-led salary negotiation workshops, and access to a broad employer network. Its counselor provides trauma-informed mental health support and its case manager assists with referrals to organizations who provide housing, health care, mental health support, child care, and emergency services. For program graduates, the average job placement rate is 83%, earnings increase is 300%, and industry retention is 80% at 12 months.

Illinois Prison Project	New Applicant	Amount: \$10,000
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Project Name: Incarcerated Women & Survivors Project

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 Founded in 2019, the Illinois Prison Project (IPP) works for a more sensible and humane prison system in Illinois by advocating for and on behalf of thousands of people who are needlessly incarcerated. IPP is the only legal organization in Illinois fully dedicated to commutation and post-conviction assistance for incarcerated people without traditional innocence or other legal claims.

IPP recently launched the Women & Survivors Project (W&S Project) to advocate for the release of incarcerated women and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The W&S Project currently provides legal representation to incarcerated survivors in cases of self-defense, postpartum psychosis, and accountability cases in which the survivor is convicted for the actions of their abusive partner. This work recognizes that the criminal justice system often disbelieves and criminalizes GBV survivors, especially survivors of color, LGBTQ survivors, and survivors who have engaged in sex work or who have mental health or substance use histories.

As IPP was developing the W&S Project, COVID ravaged several prisons in Illinois, leading to more than a dozen deaths. A July 2020 outbreak in Logan Correctional Center, the largest women’s prison in Illinois, imperiled incarcerated women, many of whom are housed in multi-person cells with limited ability to protect themselves. To respond to the pandemic, IPP has begun representing medically vulnerable people in prison, and has developed a robust toolkit to help incarcerated people and their loved ones pursue release pro se. IPP also hosts a weekly virtual legal clinic to provide support and give legal advice to family members of incarcerated people.

Responding to the emergency posed by COVID, the W&S Project has initially focused on incarcerated women most vulnerable to COVID. The project currently represents elderly and medically vulnerable women in clemency commutation petitions as well as administrative advocacy efforts.

The primary goal of IPP’s W&S Project is the liberation of incarcerated survivors, women, transgender, and gender-non-conforming people through commutation and administrative early release. Since its founding a year ago, IPP has already won the release of 23 people, sparing them more than 340 years in prison.

Jane Addams Senior Caucus	Current Grantee	Amount: \$25,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Jane Addams Senior Caucus (JASC) is a multiracial, grassroots organization led by seniors in the Chicago metropolitan area. It crosses neighborhood, racial, religious and socio-economic lines to find common ground upon which to act on its values. Through leadership development, organizing, and popular education, it uses the power of its collective voice to work for economic, social, and racial justice for all seniors, their families, and its communities. It believes that seniors who are often most affected by social and economic injustices, should lead in the development of solutions to address those inequities. Throughout the organization's 44-year history, JASC has worked on dozens of local, state, and national issue campaigns

In the wake of the COVID 19 global health crisis, JASC watched as COVID 19 has ravaged senior communities and nursing homes across the country.

In March, April and May, JASC members reached out to hundreds of seniors and had deep canvassing conversations to find out how seniors were being affected by the pandemic and how it can build power together in this moment. Seniors stories inspired it to launch Stay Safe campaign. JASC is canvassing at senior buildings and nursing homes, where organizers are engaging seniors in deep conversations about the kind of care and community it needs and deserveswe. It is also building digital communities with older women and others via virtual all member calls, town halls, and phone banks.

Healing Circle: During this unprecedented global pandemic and pivotal moment of civil unrest, JASC is creating a space for members to process and connect with one another. The healing circle is a space for JASC members to share their stories, resiliency, fears, joys, and grief.

Senior Safety Ordinance and Housing: In July 2020, JASC won the Senior Safety Ordinance, a piece of legislation written by its membership that will provide senior buildings with wellness checks, PPE for staff and frequent and diligent cleaning. JASC members will lead grassroots outreach and education on the Senior Safety Ordinance in low income senior buildings, with an emphasis on buildings on the south and west side of Chicago. Through virtual trainings, meetings and actions, it continues to train and support tenant associations in affordable senior buildings from afar.

Health Care: COVID 19 has exposed the harsh realities of an inadequate health care system and care infrastructure. COVID further showed the need for medication, care and a right to recovery. JASC members are fighting for Medicare for All, nursing home reform, and a quality care structure that allows seniors to age at home with dignity.

Ladies of Virtue	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Ladies of Virtue launched on October 1, 2011 with six girls and have now served over 1,000 girls. Its mission is to instill purpose, passion, and perseverance in girls, ages 9 to 18, while preparing them for college, careers and to become change agents in their communities.

It matches its participants with mentors and prepare them for leadership in three ways - character building, career readiness and civic engagement. It builds the confidence of our girls through its innovative project experiences lasting 2 - 4 months. Throughout this time, they hone their project management, collaboration, and communication skills which enables them to lead in the modern workforce. After graduating from high school, with successful completion of our leadership program, participants are mentored and supported for six additional years as LOV 4 Life alumni.

Ladies of Virtue prepares Black girls, ages 9 to 18, to lead in three ways: Character Development, Career Readiness, and Civic Engagement.

Due to the pandemic and recent unrest in Chicago, it expanded and provided new services in order to address the following issue areas of our community:

Education

- Trauma experienced by students from COVID
- No access to on-line learning
- Student loan debt

Access to Healthcare and mental health

- Counseling due to isolation, increased economic vulnerability/instability, increase in community violence, and grief
- Mental health
- Food insecurity

It offers differentiated programming to address the challenges that its community has faced:

- How the World Has Hurt Black Girls - a national conversation to address the injustices Black girls face
- LOV Grows – combats food insecurity by 1) teaching them how to grow their own food and 2) providing organic fruits and vegetables.
- STEMuTiful - summer experience promoting self-love, confidence, and beauty while increasing exposure to STEM careers
- Raising Black Girl Magic – parenting workshops in collaboration with Girls Like Me
- COVID19 Relief efforts

Latino Union of Chicago	Current Grantee	Amount: \$20,000
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Project Name: Household Workers Program

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Latino Union collaborates with low-wage immigrant and U.S.-born workers to develop the tools necessary 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.

The Household Workers Program is a transformative organizing and leadership development program for household workers who build power to create just conditions in their workplaces, homes, and communities. The program currently has 90 dues-paying members who are housekeepers, nannies, and home care workers who work in private homes. They organize to gain social recognition and respect for their work, reaching more than 300 women a year. In 2016, these workers won a five-year campaign to pass the Illinois Domestic Workers Bill of Rights. The core of the program is relationship-based organizing and deep leadership development..

The Covid-19 outbreak has pushed many of our activities online. It has also pushed us to begin taking steps to support our workers in creating their own co-ops, worker led businesses that would provide them the economic independence needed to insulate them from the worst of an economic downturn.

Logan Square Neighborhood Association	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Mobile Parent Mentor Program/Los Padres Mentores Ambulantes

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Founded in 1962, Logan Square Neighborhood Association (LSNA) soon began to connect economic, social, cultural, and education programs into a strategy to positively impact the neighborhood. In the 1970s and 1980s, Logan Square became majority Latinx, with the local public schools 90% Latinx and 95% low-income. LSNA worked closely with school leaders to help transform schools as community centers, with deep parent involvement. In 1995, LSNA founded the Parent Mentor Program to train largely low-income, immigrant parents as leaders in their local schools to provide tutoring and other support in classrooms. Over the years, LSNA has opened community learning centers, created workplace training programs, attracted affordable housing, fostered economic development, and implemented a number of community safety programs.

Parent Mentors (PMs), mainly Black and Brown mothers, commit to fill persistent equity gaps in classrooms by tutoring students two hours/day, 100+ hours per school year. During weekly bilingual professional development workshops on instructional practices and organizing, PMs form a long-lasting mutually supportive cohort.

Its nationally-replicated and award-winning PM team has been extremely nimble and flexible during this challenging time in both responding to the ongoing needs of its parents and families and in ensuring our program is successful and safe. PMs received crisis calls day and night; delivered masks, food, Chromebooks; translated for teachers; acted as unofficial contact tracers; connected people to emergency mini-grants; and stood up for Black lives. Between March 27-June 24, 2020 alone, PMs across the state made 5,919 texts; 3,150 phone calls; 283 teacher contacts; and provided 1,542 instances of individual support. Through funding raised by LSNA from foundations and individuals, and through referrals to partners, it connected 426 people to mini-grants of \$500-\$1,000 to help with rent, groceries, and medical bills, while continuing to raise additional funds (including through the \$7,500 CFW COVID-19 Community Response Grant).

This fall, the PMP is starting to get back to work with students—safely. Instead of entering the classroom, PMs can choose (with parents/guardians present): (1) Outdoor family sessions (socially distanced with masks); (2) Virtual family sessions; (3) Small group tutoring through Google Classroom; (4) Family engagement phone calls. For outdoor sessions, LSNA will partner with teachers at 10 schools who will each identify 3-5 students for extra support, with 60 PMs holding outdoor family sessions with 3-5 families. (For more info: <https://www.lsna.net/remote-learning> and <https://www.parentengagement.institute/covid19>).

Love, Unity & Values (LUV) Institute	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Ladies of Leadership

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Since 2012, the LUV Institute has been working to provide primarily African American and Hispanic youth and young adults with the skills that they need to succeed and become financially self-sustaining and positive influences and role models in their communities. Almost 90 percent of participants move on to college or find permanent part- or full-time job placement. It offers skills and support to young people in order for them to enter the job market with the potential for fulfilling careers or to continue their educational paths in college.

LUV Institute's Ladies of Leadership is designed to disrupt violence and other negative social behaviors while delivering intensive employment training to underserved young women, ages 16 to 24. The program runs for 6 weeks, four days a week and includes leadership development, college and career readiness, and social/emotional competence using a gender lens.

The program creates a therapeutic environment using restorative justice practice, trauma-informed care, and brain-based strategies to build empathy, respect, acceptance, and significance. Through this training the young women gain the skills and confidence to communicate authentically and openly. Participants work closely with mentors who help each young woman discover her potential. The program's ultimate goal is to develop a new generation of young female leaders in Cook County.

This year, in response to COVID-19, it has altered its program. It is hosting 4 to 8 online workshops to support women of color. In order to combat the effects of social distancing it will draw on Keys to Success by Napoleon Hill. As more young people find themselves on the computer for long periods of time, a new level of frustration and anxiety is setting in. Turning to the principles in the book can help to address this and prepare these young women for leadership at the same time. It is also inviting our women alumni to participate in the workshops.

Northwest Side Housing Center

Current Grantee

Amount: \$20,000

Project Name: Women Forward Chicago

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The mission of the Northwest Side Housing Center (NWSHC) is to identify and respond to the needs of the community by leveraging resources to improve the economic well-being and quality of life in Belmont Cragin and the surrounding communities.

Women Forward Chicago is intentionally designed to make changes in women's' lives by providing financial education and resources needed to set and achieve SMART goals. Using an educational and therapeutic approach, Women Forward Chicago engages low and moderate income Latinas (all mothers, grandmothers or guardians) in a program designed to build the financial and life skills necessary for economic security. It creates a safe space to build financial aptitude and set goals. The target population on the Northwest side of Chicago is one it has worked with for over a decade and benefits from its cultural competencies and a network of referral resources. Since launching the pilot program in 2015 supported by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, 9 cohorts have completed the program— over 120 graduates, with a thorough evaluation from the University of Chicago's National Opinion Resource Center (NORC). Participants have made progress towards financial goals and built confidence, connected with needed community resources for them and their families, and become more financially proficient for the future. In 2020, it graduated its first virtual cohort and plan to host two cohorts for 2021.

Women Forward runs as an 8-week cohort, meeting every Saturday. Program goals are centered on financial growth and stability.

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Current Grantee

Amount: \$30,000

Project Name: Women's Law and Policy Initiative

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The mission of the Shriver Center on Poverty Law (Shriver Center) is to provide leadership in advancing laws and policies that secure justice to improve the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty.

The Shriver Center's Women Law and Policy Initiative (WLPI) creates and promotes legal and policy solutions to improve the lives of low-income women and girls. The WLPI draws on the lived experiences of

women and girls to help secure their rights and combat the barriers they face in accessing training, employment, housing, family law, healthcare, public benefits, and safety. The current WLPI agenda centers on two goals: (1) ensuring economic justice for low-income women, particularly in the workplace and (2) promoting freedom from gender-based violence. In light of its workload, the Shriver Center transitioned leadership of the Ensuring Success in School coalition to CAASE earlier this year. The WLPI's work is especially critical as the pandemic and resulting economic crisis persist, and as women, girls, and families across Illinois struggle to safely live, work, and prosper.

In March, the Shriver Center quickly mobilized its Advocacy and Communications teams to address the emerging COVID-19 health and economic crisis. Shriver Center staff provided a comprehensive set of suggestions to Governor Pritzker's team about measures it should adopt to address the needs of people, including women and girls, living in poverty. Similar communications were sent to the Illinois Supreme Court, Mayor Lightfoot, President Preckwinkle, the Illinois congressional delegation, and others. Many of the Shriver Center's recommendations were implemented, including: suspending Medicaid redeterminations to keep people in health coverage; expediting applications for SNAP, TANF, and WIC; permitting SNAP recipients to use their benefits to order groceries online; disbursing stimulus payments to undocumented immigrants; halting all evictions and foreclosures from being executed in Illinois; and more. The Shriver Center also successfully advocated for expanded language in the City's Anti-Retaliation Ordinance, which prohibits employers from taking adverse action against employees for obeying quarantine, isolation, and other orders related to the pandemic. The Shriver Center will continue to work with federal, state, and local authorities to explore the safe implementation of its other recommendations and advocacy efforts; advocate for temporary solutions to be made permanent; and urge the State to extend protections to all populations, regardless of income or immigration status.

St. Leonard's Ministries	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Workforce Development and Supportive Services for Grace House Residents

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 St. Leonard's Ministries empowers formerly incarcerated men and women ("reentering citizens") to lead whole and productive lives. With the support of holistic services including emergency and permanent supportive housing, cognitive behavioral therapy, physical healthcare, substance use treatment, education, and employment training, participants work to improve critical areas of their lives and achieve successful reentry. At Grace House, it understands women need a holistic, gender-specific approach including housing, behavioral healthcare, substance use treatment, job training and life skills to achieve successful reentry.

Women exiting prison face a unique set of barriers upon their reentry including: lack of access to mental health, physical health and substance use treatment, inability to gain stable employment because of societal gender-bias of women with backgrounds, custody and/or caretaking responsibilities, and challenges to securing safe housing.

Grace House addresses these needs by providing safe housing and comprehensive supportive services to support reentry. Residents receive case management, life skills training, family reunification support, substance use intervention provided by Healthcare Alternative Systems, physical health care provided by RUSH University Medical Center and mental health support provided by Adler Community Health Services.

Target HOPE	Current Grantee	Amount: \$20,000
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Project Name: COVID-19 Emergency Education Initiative

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

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 & 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. Its close partnership with colleges and universities are based on strong academic preparation by its scholars and increases the level of financial support for its students while decreasing the burden of student loans. Its goal is to address the academic under preparation of minority students by creating a college going culture of success, support and excellence. It cultivates success in its students through college-style courses in core subjects offered at Saturday Academy, college tours, and support for students while in college, and introduction to graduate and professional school.

Young women and girls will understand and acquire the skills and knowledge required of a high achieving future professional. These young women and girls will also benefit from mentors, peer support and an emergency safety net leading to a reduction in stress and an improved sense of well-being to combat the impact of their environments and isolation due to lack of role models with shared interests and similar backgrounds.

The number of young women scholars who select a competitive college major upon graduation will increase to 75%. More disadvantaged girls will express an increased interest in pursuing competitive career fields. Students will meet a minimum 3.5 GPA, and score a minimum of 24 on the ACT. Outcomes will be measured by pre and post surveys regarding grades, SAT/ACT scores and math & science enrollment at their respective schools. Building young girls self-esteem & confidence is always its number 1 priority. Media coverage is devastating, it instills hope.

Telpochcalli Community Education Project	New Applicant	Amount: \$10,000
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Project Name: Provedoras Comunitarias - Community Childcare Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

For almost 20 years, Telpochcalli Community Education Project (Tcep) has served the most vulnerable population of Little Village and surrounding communities. During these challenging times, it continues to serve its communities given that the impact has been dramatically felt in the area. Tcep has provided services, resources, and support to infants, children, youth, and adults. More than 1000 individuals are served annually. These numbers include many single-parent households – most having only one income source.

During this Covid-19 pandemic, Tcep is connected to more than 800 families by phone and texts and distributes 70-80 deliveries per week that include: diapers, food boxes, baby formula, cooked meals, face masks, specials groceries for people with dietary restrictions, art supplies to families with children, and thermometers. 120 families are connected virtually for programming every week and “Provedoras Comunitarias – Community Childcare Support” program grew from the women meeting since July of 2020 as a way to respond to the need of childcare and needing to go back to work.

One of the needs it kept hearing from single parent homes, was the need for childcare so they can go back to work. Tcep responded to this need by creating a virtual space to converse with the women and to figure out together what to do. Twenty one women participated in a zoom meeting. This program, Provedoras Comunitarias, grew from this need and participation. This program, Provedoras Comunitarias will support them with childcare providers that will be trained to help their children with virtual classroom instruction and

also support them in sharing the cost of childcare at least for two or three months while they get back on track with their rent and bills and have some economic stability. The women will choose their childcare provider because there is a trust issue, and Tcep will train them and provide computer literacy training and support needed as the program emerges and continues. This program, Provedoras Comunitarias, will support single parent homes with sharing the cost of childcare and will also train the providers to make sure they can support the children with their virtual classroom instruction. Tcep will also provide covid-19 awareness and protection plan to prevent being infected as well as masks and disinfectants.

The Night Minsitry	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPPP)

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization whose mission is to provide housing, health care, and human connection to any and all community members struggling with poverty or homelessness. The Night Ministry’s Response-Ability Pregnant and Parenting Program (RAPPP) is located in the Lakeview neighborhood and provides shelter for up to eight residents and up to eight of their children at a time. Each year, the program provides safe, nonjudgmental services to homeless pregnant and parenting young mothers ages 14-21. Although equipped to provide services for as long as necessary, RAPPP partners with Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS) agencies to reunite minor-aged participants within 21 days with a supportive family member and strives to place all residents in housing within 120 days. RAPPP works to improve the physical and emotional health and wellness of pregnant and parenting homeless young people and their children. Recently, The Night Ministry has encountered an increased number of minors. RAPPP has responded to this critical need by welcoming non pregnant and parenting minors into the program when there are available beds. Although RAPPP programming still focuses on young pregnant and parenting women, this expansion supports The Night Ministry’s mission while allowing the program to serve a greater number of young people in need.

The Night Ministry has taken significant measures, using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to ensure staff and clients stay as safe as possible during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Both the Outreach and Health Ministry and Youth Housing Programs have adjusted procedures to protect the safety and health of all members within its community. All five of The Night Ministry’s Youth Housing Programs, including RAPPP, have continued to operate as close to standard operations as possible, to ensure young people have a safe place to stay and are not made more vulnerable to COVID-19 through lack of stable housing or access to resources.

Women Employed	Current Grantee	Amount: \$25,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
 Women Employed’s (WE) mission is to increase women’s economic status and remove barriers to economic equity. WE was founded as a grassroots membership organization, committed to “rights and respect” for working women and eradicating the practices that limited women’s opportunities and pay and demeaned their contributions to the workplace. WE has played a leadership role in economic advances women have made over the last 40 years, opening white-collar opportunities for women, winning stronger enforcement of laws, calling attention to discriminatory workplace practices and increasing participation in post-secondary education and training.

Building on this foundation, it currently focuses on increasing opportunities and security for millions of women – particularly women of color – in low-wage jobs. While low-paying jobs are growing, workplace conditions are worsening, leaving too many without stability or advancement, unable to afford the housing, health care, or education required for basic family wellbeing. WE addresses the problems of low-wage jobs so that workers are treated with respect by making workplaces fairer, ensuring quality job policies, and increasing access to and success in high-quality education and training that lead to careers with family sustaining wages.

A recognized leader on post-secondary educational access and success for low-income people, it also advocates for legislation to hold IL colleges accountable for equity targets, reforms to remedial education, and closing the racial achievement gap. Its efforts have improved financial aid for low-income students in IL, funding it more fully, defending it from cuts, and making it responsive to low-income women’s needs. It has played a critical role in City Colleges of Chicago’s expansion of career pathway bridge programs for adult education students. As a result, thousands of low-skilled Chicagoans can access education and training opportunities that increase skills and marketability for living-wage jobs.

Women's Business Development Center	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

WBDC’s mission is to support and accelerate business development and growth, targeting women and serving other underserved communities and veterans, in order to strengthen their participation in, and impact on, the economy.

WBDC currently delivers 11 business development curricula, accompanied by 1:1 coaching, direct lending, and debt and equity placement. In partnership with community-based organizations, it delivers programs locally throughout Greater Chicago, in-person prior to the pandemic and currently virtually. Its community partners are champions and advocates, helping to spread awareness of WBDC service offerings that support their respective communities. It knows that community-based partners understand their communities and how to best address the most pressing needs of residents. As such, WBDC recently created a program targeted at closing the wealth gap for Black/Brown businesses by educating community business service organizations about contracting/procurement opportunities.

The pandemic has shown that the availability of local services and businesses is critical to community resident’s sustainability and opportunity to thrive. The closure of the economy due to the pandemic created an unprecedented liquidity crisis impacting community businesses. Over the past 6-months, WBDC has worked closely with small business owners in LMI communities throughout Greater Chicago. To close a support gap experienced by the government, WBDC administered Chicago’s Microbusiness Recovery and Together Now Grant Programs and Illinois’ Business Interruption Grants; distributing \$13,521,510 in grants to 1,195 small businesses to assist with the economic devastation caused by COVID-19. WBDC also created an applicant guide to help clients access capital through the federal loan and grant programs under the CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program (‘PPP’), and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (‘EDIL’) program; clients have reported over \$1Mil in economic impact as of 9/30/20.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago	Current Grantee	Amount: \$15,000
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Project Name: Economic Empowerment

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Founded in 1876, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As a leading association among a national network of more than 200 YWCAs, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago impacts tens of thousands of women and families annually through comprehensive human services provided across the region. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leading service provider in the areas of sexual violence support services, early childhood and child care provider services, family support services, youth STEM programming, and economic empowerment services. Located in the third-largest American city with the third-highest percentage of women in the U.S., YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as a national incubator for innovative programming, outreach and engagement strategies. Contributing to its diverse and balanced economy, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is working at the individual and systems levels to create an inclusive marketplace where everyone thrives. The organization is also an active member of many national, state, county and city-level coalitions, representing the interests of and advocating for policies that positively affect women and families.

YWCA Economic Empowerment Services continues to expand and enhance its programs and service offerings, leveraging opportunities to holistically empower the community through four main components - career service programs, business and entrepreneurship services, financial empowerment training, and technology skills training. Through these services, we create a path to economic empowerment—either through careers or entrepreneurship—that allows its clients to stabilize and sustain themselves financially, build wealth, and contribute to rebuilding the communities in which they live.