### Polk Bros. Foundation Emerging Organization Award - Descriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicago Desi Youth Rising</td>
<td>Emerging Organization</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. Foundation</td>
<td>Emerging Organization</td>
<td>$2,450</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Chicago Desi Youth Rising

**Project Name:** General Operating Support

**Proposed Use of Funds:**
Chicago Desi Youth Rising (CDYR) seeks to empower Chicago youth to combat racial, economic, and social inequity. CDYR works with youth ages 15 – 21 who trace their heritage to South Asia and the diaspora, and who want to grow as changemakers. CDYR conducts outreach to youth with heritage from South Asia, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the diaspora (collectively often called “Desi”), prioritizing marginalized South Asian youth, including those who are working class, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTQ+, undocumented, and multiracial.

CDYR was founded in 2014 by two young South Asian organizers, organizing an annual youth summer leadership retreat, where participants draw upon their diverse experiences and intersectional identities while they examine and challenge the underlying causes of their communities’ problems and conditions to become agents for social change. As of 2018, the organization has grown to include a year-round mobilization model, where participants also have the opportunity to participate in programming after the retreat is over and also receive funding to organize community projects or further their engagement around racial, economic, gender, and social justice.

An investment in Chicago Desi Youth Rising is a direct investment in future leaders, especially young women and queer leaders, addressing a growing population’s distinct needs with an anti-oppression framework and growing youth-led grassroots projects.

CDYR also centers and emphasizes community building as a part of its organizing. Participants build relationships with a community of like-minded activists who share similar struggles and experiences of growing up as a young South Asian person in the diaspora. South Asian youth leaders are able to develop a sense of belonging in a sustainable community of young change makers, within which they can seek vital support, knowledge, validation, and a critical mass for mobilization.

#### Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. Foundation

**Project Name:** General Operating Support

**Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:**
The H.O.O.D.'s mission is to reduce the rates of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies among teenage girls residing in urban areas considered "hood". It does this through its signature program, Degrees B4 Diapers. This 12 week program provides comprehensive sex education while also equipping participants with the tools needed to delay childbirth prior to starting their careers. Participants who complete the program receives a pair of shoes from community partner DTLR, feminine hygiene products, and a graduation ceremony. The second component of its organizations is Community Service. Its service squad plans and implements regular community service projects around the city. Lastly, the Gyrls in the H.O.O.D. Foundation also aims to shine a light on teenage girls who continue to excel despite their circumstances. It accomplishes this through its annual "She's So H.O.O.D.” Award Showcase.
**Sista Afya Community Care, NFP**

**Emerging Organization**

**Amount:** $2,100

**Project Name:** General Operating Support

**Proposed Use of Funds:**
Sista Afya Community Care is the non-profit arm of the social enterprise Sista Afya Community Mental Wellness. Sista Afya Community Care will provide free individual therapy, low-cost community workshops and professional development to people in the Chicagoland area. The mission of Sista Afya Community Care is to build sustainable mental wellness communities through providing affordable and culturally-centered community mental wellness care and education. Current programs include the Thrive in Therapy Fund, Community Care workshops, and the Developing Mental Wellness Warriors professional development program. Sista Afya Community Care is in the South Shore neighborhood on the South side of Chicago. It focuses its efforts on engaging community members who reside in South Shore and the surrounding areas of Woodlawn, Chatham, Washington Park, Hyde Park, and Bronzeville. It particularly focus its programs towards serving Black women with low to moderate income who are in their young adult years. It collaborates with community stakeholders and wellness practitioners that reside in and around South Shore to engage the community we serve. This looks like forming relationships with local small businesses and nonprofits to inform them of its programs; in addition to building relationships with other skilled wellness practitioners to collaborate to enhance its programming.

**Sisters Network Chicago Chapter**

**Emerging Organization**

**Amount:** $2,100

**Project Name:** General Operating Support

**Proposed Use of Funds:**
Founded in 2000 to save lives, Sisters Network Chicago Chapter, Inc (SNCC) addresses the breast cancer survivorship crisis affecting African American women across Metropolitan Chicago. SNCC’s mission is threefold 1. to be a strong support base & emotional safe haven for women diagnosed with breast cancer; 2. to lead advocacy & educational outreach efforts for its communities; and 3. to educate its communities about the importance of early detection through routine breast cancer screening. The organization provides outreach and education to low-income minority women at numerous community events across Chicago. The Gift of Life Block Walk is SNCC’s signature community event that educates and provides primary health screenings for over 300 people. The Breast Cancer Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to breast cancer survivors in active treatment. Lastly, the organization conducts monthly support group meetings for African American breast cancer survivors. Since inception, SNCC has served thousands of women across the Chicagoland area. SNCC serves under-served breast cancer survivors across Metropolitan Chicago. Ninety-six percent of the women served through the program are African American, 3% are Latino/Hispanic and 1% are Caucasian. Ninety-eight percent of the women served are low income which is defined as having a household income less than $25,000. The program does not have eligibility criteria based on insurance status as the needs covered by the program persist regardless of insurance status.