

chicago foundation for women

2022 Spring Grant Making – Primary Cycle Awards

Affinity Community Services	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$20,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Affinity Community Services has been a vehicle for social change by creating safe spaces, providing resources, and building connections for those living at the intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economics, and age. Founded in the South side of Chicago to bring visibility and voice to Black people in LGBTQ+ communities and LGBTQ+ people in Black communities, Affinity is one of too few organizations to provide resources specifically to Black LGBTQ+ women, other LGBTQ+ communities of color, and gender nonconforming individuals. Affinity has served thousands since its inception through programming inclusive of support groups, HIV prevention services, and community resources, as well as collaboration with fellow community partners.</p> <p>Affinity is requesting funding in the amount of \$25,000 in general operating to help us continue our advocacy, health access, and professional development activities for our staff, volunteers, and service population. In addition to continuing our expanded use of current digital platforms (Hoppin, Zoom, Streamyard, organizational website, Facebook, Instagram, organizational distribution lists) we will also be exploring hybridized programming that integrates in-person and digital activities.</p>		

Anew (formerly South Suburban Family Shelter)	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support for Domestic Violence Victim Services</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Anew: Building Beyond Violence and Abuse is a 42 year-old domestic violence agency whose mission is to provide comprehensive, coordinated services to families in which domestic violence exists without imposing any one solution. Our services include hotline, crisis hotline, emergency shelter, counseling services for individuals and their children victims/witnesses, IDVA legal advocacy, community outreach and prevention services as well as transitional and rapid rehousing. Our agency offers survivors important information and education regarding domestic violence and provides the encouragement and support needed for our clients to make independent decisions based on the individual's family needs and circumstances. Anew also works within communities to provide education and outreach by informing various constituents about domestic violence and help youth identify aspects of healthy relationships. All of our services are free and are provided in Spanish and English.</p>		

Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home)	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$20,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:</p>		

Apna Ghar provides critical, comprehensive, culturally competent services, and conducts outreach and advocacy across communities to end gender violence. Apna Ghar seeks to end gender violence through an approach of highly effective and innovative services for survivors and those who perpetrate harm, as well as public advocacy and community engagement.

Apna Ghar was founded by five pioneering women committed to helping South Asian and other under-served immigrant survivors of gender violence and trauma access the services and resources they needed to live lives free from violence. Apna Ghar is issue-based and community-focused. Our holistic services allow survivors to meet their immediate safety needs and move toward long term stability and self-sufficiency. In addition, we engage the community, and conduct systemic and policy-level advocacy to impact larger scale changes to further benefit the survivors we serve.

At Apna Ghar we seek to end gender violence through a solutions-focused approach of services, outreach and advocacy. Our aim to address the root causes of gender violence, including patriarchy, gender inequality and discrimination, and to have a long-term impact towards creating a safer and more just environment for survivors of gender violence. Survivors come to our organization with multiple needs and various things impacting their lives. We cannot only address one aspect of what is happening to them and think that that leads to self-sufficiency. Success looks different for each individual or family, but ultimately, we want to ensure that survivors are safe physically and emotionally, have an increased understanding of the cycle of violence, knowledge of community resources, and demonstrate progress on achieving goals set forth in their action plans related to safety, stability, and self-sufficiency. Apna Ghar's comprehensive programs serve adult and child survivors of gender-based violence.

Arab American Family Services	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

In 2001, Nareman Taha and Itedal Shalabi founded Arab American Family Services (AAFS) after recognizing the many critical unmet needs and concerns in the local Arab American community. Since opening its doors, AAFS has become the central nonprofit social service agency serving Arab Americans in more than 33 communities in the South Suburban Chicagoland area. From its new expanded location in Worth, AAFS is devoted to addressing the needs of the Arab American community and increasingly, the growing immigrant community in the region. AAFS began with two staff providing case management services in a small office in Chicago's Southwest side. Now with over 40 full-time and part-time staff, AAFS is recognized as an established immigrant focused multiservice and advocacy organization.

All efforts, especially our DV services, are designed to move clients out of high-risk situations to a place of stability, hope, and safety. These services would only be effective if they were provided in a manner congruent with the cultural, religious and linguistic background of the women that we serve. We are now regarded as the premier provider of DV services to the Arab American community and a key leader in the many advocacy spaces in which we participate.

We have only seen DV cases continue to increase in the community, and as we continue to lead for change in community norms, more and more women recognize they have a right to a life free from violence and to seek the help they need. AAFS is deeply committed to bring the lived experiences of these women into the advocacy narrative as these voices have been widely missing from the discourse. We are in the process of expanding our gender advocacy to be centered around the immigrant experience but also include LGBTQ+ rights, starting with improving the cultural competence of the health care system to respond to LGBTQ+ individuals and therefore improve access.

We have also identified the consistent need we hear from survivors to get support for their employment and career paths. We are in the process of building a computer room which will be dedicated to the DV program use and will be focusing on workforce development. We will be able to address participants request to learn more about health and caregiving career path through group and one on one programming in the center, which will include resume building, interview skills, applying for career certificates, such as early childhood, EMT, dental hygienist, home care. These are careers that align with the interests of survivors and we look forward to building our capacity to connect and support participants to these training opportunities so they can achieve a better financial future, free from violence.

ASOCIACION LATINA DE ASISTENCIA Y PREVENCIÓN DEL CÁNCER DE MAMA	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Health	Award: \$10,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Founded in 2011, ALAS, Asociación Latina de Asistencia y Prevención del Cáncer de Mama, has become a safe-haven for Latina Breast Cancer Survivors through the provision of culturally and linguistically tailored survivorship services and empowering education. Annually ALAS' operates several programs. The organization hosts support group meetings facilitated in Spanish across 7 Chicagoland sites including one for young Latina survivors (30-45). ALAS on Wheels: The Mobile Salon™ provides uninsured women with free bras, prostheses, wigs and professionally-fitted lymphedema sleeves that would otherwise be inaccessible. In collaboration with Northwestern University, ALAS hosts an annual breast cancer town hall meeting for the Latino community which has been integral to creating a bridge and increasing access to cutting edge oncology care for a community that is often underserved. ALAS offers weekly Yoga tailored to improve the emotional and social well-being of survivors and caregivers.

Amid the disruption of COVID-19, ALAS has transitioned its in-person efforts to establish a virtual ecosystem of culturally and linguistically responsive education and psychosocial support for the Latinx community across the Midwest and internationally. Over the past year, ALAS served 1,025 Latina breast cancer survivors and co-survivors. ALAS seeks to expand upon the success of the work accomplished last year to focus efforts and resources to increase accessibility of mental health services for uninsured Latinos.

ALAS will hosts multiple virtual support group meetings in Spanish for Latina cancer survivors and their caregivers throughout the month. Mental health specialists and medical professionals will co-host the sessions to answer questions and provide resources specific to the needs of the Latino Community. Group therapy sessions facilitated by a licensed psychologist will be held monthly. Individuals identified to need addition assistance will be referred to specific a licensed therapist for individualized care. ALAS covers the patient expenses for six sessions. In addition, the organization will host weekly virtual yoga sessions to help patients and their caregivers manage their stress and anxiety.

ALAS will host 3 Mental Health First Aid trainings in Spanish over the next twelve months to build capacity for help non-mental health professions identify risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, learn strategies how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and direct them to services where they can obtain help.

Between Friends	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support		

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Between Friends is dedicated to preventing domestic violence and ending the cycle of abuse by equipping our communities with the tools necessary for everyone to feel safe and equal in their relationships. The agency began in 1986 as a grant-making organization, but the founders soon recognized the need for more services for victims of domestic violence. In 1991, they created Illinois' first 24-hour crisis line. In FY21, the crisis line answered more than 2,300 calls from people needing support – a 74% increase from FY20. Since its inception, the agency has centered its work to be responsive to the needs of individuals and families across Chicago.

To break the cycle of domestic violence, the agency offers crisis intervention and support services for survivors and their children that include a 24-hour crisis line, court advocacy, and counseling. To build a community free of abuse, the agency provides comprehensive prevention and education programs for youth and adults.

Crisis Intervention

Crisis Line: Our 24-hour, toll-free domestic violence hotline is a primary point of access for individuals seeking help from Between Friends. Trained volunteers and employees provide callers with safety planning, connections to Between Friends' services and other community resources, and emotional support when it is needed most.

Counseling and Support Services: A clinical team of Masters-level counselors provides evidenced-based counseling and trauma-informed support services, Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), economic empowerment education, and childcare. Services are offered in four languages and are available to individuals, groups, and families.

A Night Out: A Night Out is dedicated to providing individuals and families impacted by domestic violence with respite and self-care opportunities by taking them out to comedy shows, spa nights, concerts, and more, while offering safe, social experiences, understanding, and support.

Court Advocacy Program: English and Spanish-speaking advocates serve survivors in the Chicago and Rolling Meadows courthouses, explaining legal rights under the Illinois Domestic Violence Act, court accompaniment, assisting in seeking Orders of Protection, as well as providing emotional support, resources, and safety planning.

Prevention and Education

Relationship Education: A Choice for Hope (REACH): REACH engages middle and high-school aged students and the adults in their lives (teachers, caregivers, school administrators, and social service providers) to promote healthy relationships and eradicate abusive ones through the acquisition of knowledge and skills and the development of healthy changes in attitudes about relationships. The evidence-informed approach includes educational and interactive workshops and discussions for youth and adults, youth peer leadership opportunities, and capacity building for schools and community organizations.

The Healthcare Education Project: The Healthcare Education Project provides training and technical assistance to nurses, doctors, and healthcare personnel on how to better screen patients for domestic abuse and respond effectively. Between Friends works extensively with hospitals such as Swedish Covenant and Presence Saint Francis, as well as with school-based health centers and youth behavioral and/or mental health providers.

Community Education Program: Staff members conduct domestic violence presentations and training, including the 40-Hour Domestic Violence Training, with area health and human service providers, law

enforcement and criminal justice officials, educators, clergy, and other members of the community. Through this program, we provide individualized presentations and training to a diverse array of community members to raise awareness and build a strong constituency who are part of the movement to end the cycle of domestic violence.

BUILD, Inc.	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: BUILDing Girls 2 Women (BG2W)

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

BUILD inspires hope and offers opportunities so youth facing systemic obstacles can achieve positive futures. Since 1969, BUILD has been a second family for Chicago’s marginalized youth, helping thousands of young people facing the steepest challenges become leaders in safer, stronger communities - now reaching 5,000+ annually in six Chicago neighborhoods. BUILD’s holistic model offers youth individualized support from mentors who have walked in their shoes. Intervention helps youth step away from violence through positive alternatives to the streets; Prevention helps youth avoid violence through programs fostering skills/habits of success; BUILDing Futures helps first-generation students prepare for college/careers. Enrichment helps youth develop creative potential and discover new talents. Clinical and Community Wellness provides therapy, case management, and court advocacy; Community Engagement provides on-call crisis response, restorative justice, and access to basic resources.

BG2W combines violence intervention - through intensive mentoring from women who have experienced similar challenges - and mental health services to dramatically change the life trajectories of teen girls, ages 12-19, involved in gangs, the justice system and other risky behaviors, so they avoid crime and violence, succeed in school, and advance to college and careers. Through intensive group and individual support to address trauma, prevent (and interrupt) participation in crime and violence, and develop self-esteem, self-efficacy, and social-emotional health, BG2W addresses a critical service gap and ensures these girls receive the support they need to become successful women. A female-only approach creates a safe zone to tackle the toughest problems—getting past gang involvement or the justice system, sexual abuse, and the physical and emotional damage of violence. Implemented by four female intervention specialists and two master’s-level social workers, BG2W serves four cohorts annually - two middle school, two high school - through intensive year-round 12-week sessions, 3-5 hours per week, and is working to establish two community cohorts for out-of-school girls, teaching important skills like teamwork, healthy decision-making, and establishing healthy relationships. Key program activities include:

Clinical Mental Health Services

Clinical Assessment, at beginning and end of cohort, using evidence-based tools to identify trauma, underlying mental health and gender-specific issues

Group Counseling, once per week for 1 hour, including therapeutic interventions to address trauma and violence at the individual, family, and community levels

Individual Therapy: Provided in 45-minute sessions, as needed

Intervention/Mentoring Services

Assessment, at beginning and end of cohort, to identify risk and protective factors

One-On-One Mentoring, 1½ hours per week, to establish and assess progress toward goals, and develop violence prevention strategies

Case Management and Home Visits: specialists assess youth needs and connect them to additional services as needed. All youth will receive a minimum of one home visit to assess family dynamics and support parents/guardians, with additional visits as necessary.

Gang Detachment/Conflict Mediation, as needed, to negotiate terms of detachment and help mitigate violence and its consequences

Psychoeducational Workshops, 45 minutes, weekly, to foster critical thinking and provide tools for decision-making and self-management in areas like sexual health and substance use

Healing/Processing Circles, 45 minutes, weekly, to process trauma, instill self-esteem, and build positive peer support

Academic Support to promote school attachment and success.

Cultural and Recreational Field Trips, once per quarter, aligned with each core curriculum component, to expand girls' horizons and support healthy, positive alternatives to negative behaviors

Center for Advancing Domestic Peace	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The Center for Advancing Domestic Peace is the only Chicago-area agency solely dedicated to preventing domestic violence by helping those who have harmed take responsibility for their actions, critically evaluate beliefs that support their abusive behaviors, and learn healthy relationship skills that foster safety for survivors and future intimate partners. The Center began in 1997 as a collaborative between Connections for Abused Women and their Children, Haymarket Center, Jane Addams College of Social Work and UIC Department of Psychiatry. Prioritizing victim safety, collaborators developed services for men seeking help to end their abuse. Incorporated as a nonprofit in 2003 and IDHS protocol approved partner abuse intervention program (PAIP), the Center's services play a key role in strengthening the coordinated community response to domestic violence including through training for victim services, law enforcement professionals and engagement in a variety of coalitional efforts.

The cornerstone of the Center's work is our evidence-based, strengths-based, trauma-informed Beliefs & Skills for Domestic Peace PAI program. The 25-week IDHS protocol-approved program continues to be provided virtually due to COVID with hybrid services to start in April. English and Spanish language groups for men and women are typically offered at three Chicago neighborhood locations and in DuPage. The majority of individuals are referred by the court which mandates completion of a PAI program for first-time offenders pleading guilty to or found guilty of misdemeanor domestic battery. A significant number of referrals come from child welfare agencies requiring PAI assessment and intervention services as part of their treatment plan. We receive referrals from the Illinois DOC for individuals on parole, from civil court, Court Pretrial Divisions and self-referrals.

Most Chicago participants live in south- and west-side neighborhoods where we have service locations and other areas with high rates of domestic-related incidents, gun violence and poverty. 43% of FY21 clients were unemployed and 66% reported annual earnings under \$20,000, which is why the sliding scale made possible through the support of CFW is crucial in ensuring access to PAI services. Seventy-two percent of those we serve have children who could be positively impacted by their parents' rehabilitation. In addition to economic disadvantage, many face personal barriers that can interfere with their

participation, which is why we proactively seek to address these needs through case management. Real Men Advancing Peace/Sisters Peace Circle aftercare groups help PAI program graduates continue practicing healthy relationship skills they've learned while becoming catalysts for positive change within their families and communities.

Community education is also integral to the Center's mission. We regularly engage in training and outreach activities with our victim services partners and contribute to sector advancement by: lending our expertise to program and policy discussions/committees; conducting advocacy in collaboration with our coalition partners; and, exploring innovative partnerships.

Center for Disability and Elder Law	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Economic Security	Award: \$10,000
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Project Name: Housing Preservation Project

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The Center for Disability & Elder Law, Inc. (CDEL) is a beacon of hope for more than 1.3 million low-income seniors and persons with disabilities who live in Cook County, Illinois. In 2021, 70% of CDEL's clients were women. Eight attorneys and approximately 300 volunteers from the city's top law firms provide pro bono representation in four main practice areas: a) end of life planning, b) adult guardianship, c) housing, and 4) consumer issues. Because clients' age or disability affects their mobility, CDEL brings its services to them through neighborhood workshops, outreach presentations, and seven community-based legal programs. CDEL also provides education and legal services on basic estate planning, landlord/tenant issues, real property, and collections defense. It also offers representation on divorce and financial elder abuse. CDEL fights for those who cannot access private legal counsel because they have few financial resources and are therefore precluded from accessing justice.

CDEL's Housing Preservation Project (HPP) was founded in 2019 to provide free legal services to low- and moderate-income senior homeowners. HPP was a response to issues that CDEL encountered for decades in low-income neighborhoods where its clients reside. A common situation involves a family home that is passed down through the generations. Without proper estate planning documents, later generations are often unaware that they are not on title to the family home until they are on the brink of a crisis. CDEL frequently encounters low-income women residing in homes without evidence of their ownership interest because they lacked the resources to navigate probate court after the initial homeowner's death. Further, if heirs are not on the title to the family home, they are unable to take property tax exemptions to which they might otherwise be entitled, refinance the mortgage to avoid foreclosure, draw from the equity to make repairs, or make an estate plan of their own. Decades or generations later, there may be countless intestate heirs, and clearing title to the property can become near impossible. This leaves the home at great risk of loss due to property tax sale, foreclosure, or building code violation cases, and contributes to blighted communities.

In response, CDEL created HPP as a proactive approach to ensuring the intergenerational transfer of wealth and preventing additional property vacancies in impacted communities by assisting homeowners with Transfer on Death Instruments (TODIs), an affordable but powerful legal tool that allows a homeowner to name a beneficiary to automatically receive the home after their death without time-consuming and expensive probate court. HPP volunteers conduct title searches and summarize results for clients to identify any other issues with the property, such as delinquent property taxes, missing tax exemptions, or title issues.

Housing is now CDEL's second largest area of practice. In 2021, 88% of CDEL clients who participated in HPP were low-income senior women. It's not surprising. Women tend to outlive their spouses or partners,

thus leaving them responsible for the family's estate, in which the largest asset tends to be their home. HPP strengthens families and the community where the family home is located.

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

CAASE's addresses the culture, institutions, and individuals that perpetrate, profit from, or support sexual assault and prostitution. Our program areas are: 1) Free legal services to survivors of sexual violation. 2) Prevention education which teaches teens to recognize and resist harmful messages about masculinity and violence against girls and women. 3) Policy: CAASE seeks to improve legal and social responses to sexual harm. Since 2010 CAASE led 7 successful legislative campaigns that transformed state law related to prostitution and trafficking and increased accountability to survivors in the education system. 4) Community engagement: Empowering people to take action against sexual harm and survivors to take control of their own narratives, CAASE engages with underserved communities on Chicago's South side/suburbs to increase access to services for survivors and partners with community organizations to create networks of care.

Chicago Community Bond Fund	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The Chicago Community Bond Fund ("CCBF") operates a revolving fund that pays bond for people charged with crimes in Cook County, engages in education about the role of bond in the criminal justice system, and ultimately advocates for the abolition of money bond. CCBF supports individuals whose communities have been impacted by structural violence and whose bonds are completely out of proportion with their ability to pay. We are committed to building long-term relationships and organizing with people most directly impacted by criminalization and policing: people of color, especially Black people, and the poor. Since November 2015, CCBF has paid over \$4.5 million in bond to free more than 700 people from Cook County Jail and across Illinois. CCBF has six full-time staff members, two paid interns, and a volunteer community of over 70 people who are heavily involved in supporting the organization's mission.

January 13, 2022 marked the anniversary of passage of the Pretrial Fairness Act. On January 13, 2021, after years of work by CCBF and our partners in Coalition to End Money Bond and the Illinois Network for Pretrial Justice, and following a nationwide uprising demanding racial justice in summer of 2020, the Illinois legislature passed the Pretrial Fairness Act as part of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' criminal justice reform bill, HB 3653 SFA2. Among other things, this bill will overhaul the state's pretrial justice system and end the use of money bond in its entirety. It also makes many people ineligible for pretrial incarceration. Governor JB Pritzker signed the bill into law at the end of February 2021, making Illinois the first state to do away with money bail altogether.

CFW's funding will support CCBF staff members' and impacted people's time, travel, and other expenses to participate (virtually and in person) in advocacy both locally and around the state. Despite decreasing the use of money bonds in Cook County by more than half since 2017, roughly 1,500 people per day remain in Cook County Jail due to unpaid money bonds.

Money bond and pretrial incarceration impact particularly large numbers of people because people spend relatively short amounts of time in jail compared to prison. While there are 5,500 people in Cook County Jail on any given day right now, there are over 50,000 people admitted to the jail every year. There is also a collateral impact on loved ones of the person in jail, whether it is the loss of their income, their caregiving capacity, or other emotional, financial, or logistical support. Money bond in particular has a ripple effect that particularly impacts women, as it is women who disproportionately bear the costs of money bond for men they care about, in addition to the costs of pretrial incarceration such as commissary, phone, and other expenses.

In Cook County, this means Black women pay the majority of money bonds. Women themselves are also disproportionately harmed by pretrial policies; a recent report from Prison Policy Initiative found that there are more women in local jails in the United States than there are in state prisons, despite the overwhelming difference of size between the two systems.

There remains plenty of work to be done during the current implementation period before money bond is abolished. We continue to educate legislators and other elected officials on pretrial policy and the importance of comprehensive, decarceral reform. CCBF staff are participating in working groups forming to prepare for implementation, and we must guard against attempts to rollback reforms. Bail reforms have been rolled back in New York State, California, Alaska, and Atlanta. It is crucial that we remain active and vigilant both between now and 2023. As ever, our active presence and leading role in policy conversations ensures the focus of reforms remains reducing pretrial incarceration.

Chicago Volunteer Doulas	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

A birth justice organization, Chicago Volunteer Doulas provides comprehensive support for vulnerable communities. We serve pregnant, laboring, and new parents by offering education, labor doula support, basic breastfeeding help, and postpartum support. We include in the term “vulnerable” individuals who identify as: having an annual income <\$50,0000; a person of color; LGBTQ; having a disability; a survivor of violence; having experienced pregnancy/birth trauma or postpartum depression; or being a refugee or of a religious minority. In partnerships with 8 hospitals and 1 birth center we support families across Chicago, including on the west and south sides. We also support birthing people who are incarcerated. Our labor and postpartum doula programs operate at the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and class to interrupt extreme disparities in birth and health outcomes among the communities we serve. In 2020, CVD provided 1200+ hours of support to 150+ families.

CVD addresses the Chicago Foundation for Women’s priorities of health equity and economic security through its comprehensive doula services for vulnerable communities and training programs for new doulas. The disparities among maternal health outcomes for Black, Latinx, and white birthing people are well-known. Black birthing parents in IL are 3x more likely to die from childbirth and 6x more likely to die pregnancy-related deaths than white birthing parents. Latinx birthing parents in Chicago are 30% more likely to experience maternal morbidity than white birthing parents and twice as likely to die from pregnancy or in the first year postpartum (<https://bit.ly/3tMV3h8>).

In addition to the programs described above, CVD offers traditional birth doulas and postpartum doulas. Birth doula support begins during pregnancy as the doula encourages the client to take an active role in planning for birth. The doula provides emotional support throughout labor & delivery, offers breastfeeding

support after birth, helps family know how to best support the client, and returns within the week to make sure all is well.

Chicago Women's Health Center	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$25,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

CWHC was founded as a feminist health center in 1975 to provide an alternative to the traditional model of health care and to make affirming, collaborative health care a reality for underserved populations.

CWHC's mission is to facilitate the empowerment of women, trans people, and young people by providing access to health care and health education in a respectful environment where people pay what they can afford.

Services include primary care that integrates mental health, gynecological care, trans health care, counseling, alternative insemination, acupuncture and massage, nutrition counseling, physical therapy for pelvic health, and comprehensive sexual health and healthy relationships education for youth. All services are offered on a sliding scale.

A pioneer in the field of health care, CWHC continues to adapt to meet the emerging needs of Chicago communities. The organization is currently responding to the increased need for mental health and trans health services.

Children's Best Interest Project	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The Children's Best Interest Project advances the vision of keeping parents out of prison by working to implement the Children's Best Interest Act. Before the Project launched, staff and advisory board members worked together to challenge the racism and misogyny inherent in carceral systems, to reduce women's incarceration, and to preserve families. In 2019 we drafted and won a new law to require courts to consider children's and disabled family members' needs before they sentence a parent or caregiver to prison. We will host community meetings; teach participatory defense, story-telling, and video-making; create materials; promote quality, non-carceral community programs; and engage participants to educate defense counsel, judges, and prosecutors. The engagement of justice-involved presenters is key in our work to educate lawyers and judges about the reasons for the new law and to educate the community about the right to present a Family Impact Statement during sentencing.

Connections for Abused Women and their Children	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Connections for Abused Women and their Children (CAWC) is a 501(c)(3) organization providing emergency response and comprehensive domestic violence services, enabling survivors to access the tools they need to increase their safety and establish independence. Since its inception in 1977 with the establishment of the first domestic violence hotline in Chicago, CAWC has continued to meet the needs of survivors by expanding programming throughout the community. The agency currently operates four programs at five different locations in the city of Chicago: Greenhouse Shelter, the Humboldt Park Outreach Program (HPOP), the Hospital Crisis Intervention Project (HCIP) and Domestic Violence Services at Haymarket Center.

Equity For All of Us	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Health	Award: \$10,000
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Project Name: Accessible Healthcare for Women in Hospitality

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Equity for All of Us was created at the beginning of the pandemic. As COVID-19 spread rapidly through Chicago, Local 1's leaders witnessed the shutdown of the hospitality industry and the subsequent impact on hospitality workers. It was truly all-encompassing, including loss of income, health care, and high rates of illness and death. This sharpened the need for an organization that could extend its reach among hospitality workers, particularly because those most impacted seemed to be women of color, who make up the majority of the hospitality industry. This led to the creation of Equity For All of Us. Right now, we're working with Partners in Health on the "Vaccine Squad" – two laid-off hospitality workers who are organizing vaccine-hesitant hospitality workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and connecting the community with the vaccine. The "Vaccine Squad" is led by Cecilia Leiva and Kimmie Jordan who have facilitated the vaccination of over 340 adults and 160 children.

We know that there are significant health disparities in our community. Our leadership has run health outreach programs over the years, including programs to connect Unionized hospitality workers with primary care providers (PCPs). Even with high-quality, low-cost health insurance, almost half of unionized hospitality workers do not have PCPs who they visit at least yearly. This has taught us that there are many barriers to receiving preventative care for our community - affordable insurance is one, but a less obvious one is a lack of trust in medical professionals and institutions.

Our program is a multi-pronged approach to encourage primary and preventative care among hospitality women. We will employ a "Health Squad" made up of women hospitality workers for a four-month project. The first part of the project will consist of surveying hospitality women about their own experiences, focusing on whether or not they receive care, why that is, which doctors they trust, and what unique health issues they face (ie, carpal tunnel is frequently sustained among Housekeepers caused by the repetitive motion of wiping mirrors and glass shower walls 16-30 times/day).

The second part of our program will include the creation of a database of healthcare providers/community clinics broken down by neighborhood and featuring several different characteristics that we believe will help women feel more comfortable seeking preventative care. It will be created based on the results of the above surveys and will identify healthcare providers that speak different languages, identify as women, and/or POC and/or as LGBTQ+. To build the database, we will work with providers and partner organizations including UNITE HERE Local 1, which created an "FQHC Finder" at <https://unitehere1.org/fqhc/> which is the only one-stop site to identify FQHCs in Chicago and includes Awards from Local 1 members and The Bridge Directory (www.thebridgedirectory.com) which hosts a similar platform for birth workers of color in the New York metro area.

The Health Squad will then reach out to hospitality women who are not receiving preventative care to organize them to identify and build a relationship with a PCP. We will use Hustle messages, Facebook outreach campaigns, shop visits, and street-level outreach (meaning finding workers where they are, at the bus stop, the laundromat, etc) to identify candidate women and then through direct one-on-one communication, organize them through their doubts and misconceptions about primary care, help them choose a PCP they might trust, schedule their first visit, and follow up with them after.

Family Rescue	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Family Rescue aims to assist victims of domestic violence become violence-free through comprehensive programming, designed to help them process the trauma from the abuse and reach their full potential for themselves and their children. We operate four core programs out of eleven sites. Rosenthal Family Lodge offers safe, emergency housing for up to 36 women and children when their only other option is homelessness. The Supportive Housing Program combines transitional, supportive housing (Ridgeland Apartments) and scattered-site, rapid-rehousing (New Heights Apartments) options as stepping stones to independent, permanent housing. The Community Outreach Program offers supportive programming to non-residential clients and does extensive work in the community to educate it about domestic violence. The Legal Advocacy Program works with CPD and the court system to assist victims who choose to use the legal system to keep themselves safe from their abuser.

HANA Center	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: Women Moving Forward Together (WMFT)

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Launched in February 2017, HANA Center (HANA) is a merger of the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (KRCC, founded in 1995) and Korean American Community Services (KACS, founded in 1972). HANA Center's mission is to empower Korean American and multiethnic immigrant communities through social services, education, community organizing, and culture to advance human rights.

WMFT empowers immigrant survivors of violence through counseling and individual advocacy. WMFT primarily engages low-income, limited English-speaking Korean and Latinx immigrant survivors in Chicago and the northwest suburbs, who face complex language, income, immigration status, and cultural barriers to accessing services.

WMFT first engages the survivor to address immediate needs including safety planning, education, financial literacy, medical services, legal advocacy, and other support to interrupt and break free from violence. HANA works with each survivor, including children and caregivers, to create care plans with a focus on addressing systemic and familial barriers to accessing resources such as legal, housing, employment, academic, and social supports. WMFT also facilitates a peer-led support group for survivors to gain a sense of self, belonging and collective power through community building. This effort was disrupted by COVID but will resume in the new fiscal year.

In addition, WMFT utilizes HANA's broader programs to provide case management to ensure multi-layered needs are met. For example, through HANA's Workforce Empowerment, English & Citizenship Community Education, Low-Income Housing, Public Benefits, and Immigration & Legal Services programs, WMFT supports survivors to adjust immigration status, find employment, receive Know Your Rights training, learn English as a second language, and more.

HANA works with a full-time immigration attorney through its Access to Justice (A2J) program, enabling WMFT to expand cross-referrals, integrated in-house counseling, and legal advocacy services for undocumented immigrant survivors. In this internal collaboration, HANA's counselors provide short-term counseling and comprehensive case management, while HANA's Immigration & Legal Services provides informed affidavits for U-Visa and VAWA applications for immigration status adjustment for survivors to build safe and healthy lives.

WMFT also focuses on financial freedom for survivors. HANA will hold virtual empowerment workshops for immigrant women in collaboration with HANA's Workforce Empowerment team to promote financial skill-building while increasing awareness of power dynamics that contribute to gender inequity and generational cycles of violence. Support groups will continue to be offered alongside individual counseling and skills training to assist women to improve their financial skills and security. WMFT staff also provide a safe space for HANA youth to have monthly group discussions on violence and the impact of intergenerational violence in their lives.

Furthermore, HANA develops and implements outreach strategies to engage parents and their children to expand intergenerational understanding of family and community violence. WMFT staff continue to enhance partnership work with local schools like Roosevelt High School and organizations such as KAN-WIN to develop a cross referral system to serve community members collaboratively.

Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$25,000
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Project Name: Gender Justice Initiative

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The National Immigrant Justice Center's (NIJC) mission is to ensure human rights protections and access to justice for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers and their ability to fully participate in our communities. NIJC ensures human rights protections for low-income immigrants and refugees, including women, girls, and LGBTQ+ immigrants, with the ultimate goal of promoting access to justice, family integrity, and community safety. NIJC has more than 30 years of experience of advancing justice for immigrants and refugees. To achieve its goals, NIJC collaborates with a diverse group of community partners, universities, and civil rights groups and leverages a network of approximately 2,000 pro bono partners to provide legal services to approximately 10,000 individuals annually. NIJC draws on this extensive direct service work to inform its advocacy and litigation priorities.

Constantly shifting immigration rules, practices, and policies have continued to create challenges for immigrant communities and for NIJC's work. NIJC's multi-pronged approach of legal services, litigation, advocacy, and strategic communications is well-suited to remaining apprised of changes to the immigration system, determining the impacts on our clients, and providing expert analysis and information to help our clients and communities make informed decisions. Drawing on its legal services to approximately 10,000 immigrants a year, NIJC identifies emerging issues for litigation and advocacy, exposes human rights violations in the immigration enforcement and detention system, advocates for administrative policies and procedures that uphold justice, and litigates to protect human rights and due process. The Gender Justice Initiative draws on NIJC's broader work to advance protections for immigrant

women, girls, and transgender and non-binary individuals. NIJC's vision of an immigration system that upholds equality and justice for immigrant women, girls, and LGBTQ+ individuals cannot become a reality without continued zealous pressure and thoughtful strategies that are responsive to a changing political and social environment.

NIJC continues to advocate for asylum and other protections, particularly for immigrant women and children fleeing world crises. NIJC is conducting monthly regular legal orientations and pro se workshops for immigrants from Afghanistan. For example, NIJC held its first pro se clinic at the Muslim Women's Resource Center. NIJC has also held workshops for Haitians seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and is responding to Ukrainian immigrants who need legal assistance as well. As world crises increasingly impact women and children, NIJC's direct service work coupled with advocacy to ensure protections like TPS is critical.

Illinois Contraceptive Access Now (ICAN!) - a project of AllianceChicago	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Health	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: Illinois Contraceptive Access Now (ICAN!)

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

ICAN! is a 5-year initiative to advance reproductive equity in Illinois by improving the quality and coverage of contraceptive care. Our goals are to:

1. Establish screening for contraceptive needs and desires as a standard of preventive and primary care.
2. Decrease the number of people without contraceptive coverage.
3. Expand points of access to contraceptive care and education.

ICAN! has adopted a three-pronged, systems-change approach to achieve its goals:

- 1) **BUILD A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF CONTRACEPTIVE CARE QUALITY HUBS:** ICAN! partners with community health centers to build their capacity to provide same day access to the full range of birth control methods at low or no cost.
- 2) **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** ICAN! engages, educates, and empowers patients to seize their right to reproductive well-being.
- 3) **POLICY INNOVATION:** We pull legislative and administrative levers to fundamentally transform the way contraceptive care is delivered, covered, and accessed by people with few resources.

Nearly one-third of contraceptive users in Illinois lack coverage for contraceptive services and supplies. Approximately 800,000 women live in counties without health centers offering the full range of contraceptive methods. By training providers to deliver patient-centered contraceptive care, by empowering patients to seize their right to the highest quality care, and by removing financial barriers through policy reform, ICAN! seeks to create an Illinois where every person can decide if, when, and under what circumstances to become pregnant and parent.

KAN-WIN	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$25,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

KAN-WIN's mission is to eradicate all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual assault, by empowering Asian American survivors and engaging the community through culturally competent services, community education, and advocacy. For the past three decades, KAN-WIN has assisted survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in the metropolitan Chicago area with a particular focus on Asian immigrant communities. While KAN-WIN's services are free and open to survivors of all identities, our expertise lies in serving Asian immigrant survivors with limited English proficiency (LEP) with culturally specific needs whose barriers often cannot be addressed by mainstream organizations. More than 95% of KAN-WIN's clients identify as a person of color (76% Asian/Pacific Islander; 8% African/African American; 4% Latinx; 7% multi-racial), 75% as limited English proficient, and 95% as either low-income or living below poverty.

The comprehensive, wrap-around design of KAN-WIN's services reflect the agency's trauma-informed approach that seeks to minimize the recounting and re-living of traumatic incidents many clients experience when chasing around for isolated services.

Lake County Crisis Center (A Safe Place)	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: For 43 years, A Safe Place has provided services to victims of domestic abuse and their families and is the sole provider that exclusively addresses domestic violence (DV) and human trafficking in Lake County, IL. Guided by the mission of being the leading advocate for eliminating DV and human trafficking in northern Illinois, A Safe Place offers comprehensive services that provide a safety net to assist victims and their children and reduce the likelihood that they will need to return to a violent environment. Services are designed to meet the immediate crisis and long-term needs of victims and their children, and to prevent future violence. Services include a crisis line, crisis intervention, emergency shelter, housing, behavioral health, orders of protection, and more. To prevent violence, A Safe Place offers community education/outreach, mentoring to prevent generational violence, and an intervention program for perpetrators (with groups for male or female identified people).</p>		

Latinos Progresando	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$20,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Founded in 1998, Latinos Progresando (LP) delivers high-quality information and resources for people to build secure, healthy, and productive lives. LP runs the largest Latino-led immigration legal services program recognized by the Department of Justice in Illinois, which includes an initiative focused on immigrant victims of domestic violence. LP also celebrates the rich heritage of the families it serves with arts and culture programming, and supports the aspirations of immigrant families with leadership development and after school programs, and a scholarship fund. LP is located in the Marshall Square neighborhood, a community situated between Chicago's Little Village and Pilsen, which together represent one of the largest Mexican communities in the Midwest. Since 2010, LP has led the Marshall Square Resource Network, a 40-agency collaborative that leverages the collective impact of its members to advance integrated solutions in health, education, peace and community response.</p>		

LP provides a full spectrum of services that improve outcomes for women and girls, including completely free legal representation to some of our region’s most vulnerable women—undocumented immigrant victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. While under-reporting of domestic abuse is pervasive in any community, that factor is only exacerbated in immigrant communities where the fear of deportation intimidates women from stepping forward. The VAWA Project allows a domestic violence survivor to apply for adjusted immigration status independent of their abusive partner, and gain authorization to work, providing a path to income and stability.

Since 2010, LP has also led the Marshall Square Resource Network, a collaborative of more than 40 diverse organizational partners. Through the Network, LP leverages strategic partnerships to support women and girls. For example, LP has partnered with neighborhood schools to deliver a train-the-trainer style curriculum focused on social emotional learning (SEL) for mothers of elementary students. Through the SEL curriculum, mothers develop skills to productively communicate emotions, set and achieve positive goals, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make decisions.

Life Span	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Founded in 1978, Life Span has grown into a nationally recognized organization of counselors, advocates, and attorneys who are experts in their fields. Direct services to survivors of domestic violence (DV) which address safety and accountability, and advocacy which educates, improves systemic response to domestic violence, and leads to prevention, are ways in which we fulfill our purpose. In 1990, we opened an office in downtown Chicago to house our legal services. Services are free and confidential. They are, counseling for survivors, counseling for child witnesses of DV, outreach, education & counseling for teens, criminal court advocacy; legal representation in orders of protection and family law and civil legal remedies for sexual assault; immigration representation for victims of DV; outreach and training for service providers and counseling and advocacy for victims of human trafficking where DV is a factor.

Mikva Challenge	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Mikva Challenge was founded in 1998 as a tribute to former White House Counsel, Judge and U.S. Congressman Abner Mikva to open up democratic spaces for youth living in under-resourced neighborhoods. Our mission is to develop youth to be empowered, informed, and active citizens and community leaders who will promote a just and equitable society.

Youth have a unique understanding of social issues, yet they are often marginalized or excluded from the important conversations that affect their communities; they are treated as the problem rather than a part of the solution. This is especially true for young women, who are often overlooked when making policy changes. Mikva Challenge’s CYC program directly addresses positive youth development by providing the skills-training and opportunities needed to create the spaces for young people – especially young women – to meaningfully participate in decision-making discussions and reach their full potential. Mikva Challenge

respectfully requests general operating support for our Citywide Youth Council (CYC) program, specifically, our newly formed Health and Wellness Council. Last year, Mikva chose to combine the work & advocacy goals of our Young Women’s Leadership Council with the Teen Health Council so as to more effectively address the challenges to women’s health, especially their reproductive health, during this pandemic. This year, Mikva has chosen to commit to two councils – one Health and one Safety related – with relevant subcommittees to ensure a deeper impact on our youth and the institutions they partner with. Our CYC program puts young people at the forefront of policy making initiatives across Chicago. Each summer, Mikva hires ~100 youth to serve on one of our four councils and participate in an intensive 6-week leadership development program that assists them in delving into public issues. We have had incredible success with this program model over the years.

This summer, the Health Council will focus on the compliance of schools with CPS’ new sexual health policy. Year over year our councils and the THC have partnered with health institutions to develop new policies, yet there is little follow-up, creating a gap in knowing if stakeholders actually implement the policies that youth suggest. This has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Thus, this summer, our youth are preparing to revisit the CPS sexual health policy. THC gave a number of Awards around the new sexual health policies, and now is the time to check on if they have been implemented. Mikva’s Health Council will continue to partner with several health organizations across Chicago to implement their best policy Awards. Council members remain dedicated to exploring youth’s biggest health challenges, including reproductive and sexual health, and the need for equal, unimpeded access to reproductive resources.

Mother & Child Alliance	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Mother and Child Alliance (MACA) reinforces a safety net during and after pregnancy for moms, babies, and their providers to prevent HIV and other serious, costly pediatric infections in newborns. We strengthen disparate prenatal and postpartum systems of care in Illinois and across the U.S. The safety net is a collaboration of private institutions and community-based organizations that connect an integrated continuum of care. The safety net includes three main components:

- Perinatal Enhanced Case Management – A field-based, CDC-evaluated program that works specifically to eliminate barriers to care and to improve health outcomes.
- 24/7 Illinois Perinatal HIV Hotline – Real time medical consultation on HIV-related obstetric and pediatric issues, along with on-call case management support.
- Perinatal Surveillance – We monitor all Illinois birthing hospitals to implement opt-out repeat third trimester testing at labor and delivery.

Mother and Child Alliance is grounded in harm reduction, non-judgement, and keeping in mind how our clients feel most safe. We know that behind every healthy baby is a healthy mom, so we also focus on the type of empowerment that informs her and her entire network towards what she feels best for her family. We’re excited to continue expanding our mission and look forward to new collaborations that are committed to wrapping the women we serve in support.

mRelief	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Economic Security	Award: \$12,000
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Project Name: Increasing SNAP Access in Chicago

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Nine million people experiencing hunger are eligible but not enrolled for SNAP because they don't know support exists, it's difficult to ask for help, and the government makes it virtually impossible to apply.

mRelief exists to change that. We built the first-ever SNAP enrollment process accessible from mobile phones and text messaging. By removing traditional barriers, mRelief can ensure that 50 million people who are eligible for SNAP can access the benefits they deserve. By texting "FOOD" to 74544, anybody can see if they qualify. They can apply, submit documents, and complete an interview safely from the privacy of their home.

mRelief is a women-led and Chicago-based nonprofit. We partner with local food banks, government, and national organizations to improve SNAP enrollment on every level. Our mission is to transform access to SNAP for the inherent dignity of all - because we believe that food is a human right.

mRelief's tools are designed to help Americans experiencing food insecurity navigate the complicated food stamp application process with ease. Recent data has shown that the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) is especially important for women in poverty. SNAP provides critical support for women and girls living in poverty, unlocking an average of \$258 per month for participating households throughout the United States. SNAP leads to short- and long-run improvements in outcomes like health, education, and economic self-sufficiency.

Mujeres Latinas en Accion	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Mujeres Latinas en Acción's mission is: "to empower Latinas through providing services which reflect their values and culture and being an advocate on the issues that make a difference in their lives." In 2023, Mujeres will be celebrating five decades that (Mujeres) has been vital to the Latino community. Mujeres is building comprehensive community wellness that includes access to health resources, mental health services care and the empowerment of survivors and their families. Our therapists, counselors, advocates, organizers, community educators, and case managers understand Latinas, their families, and their cultures, and how those dynamics play an important role in their healing and thriving journeys. Our programs include Healing & Prevention of Domestic & Sexual Violence, Parent Support, Community Engagement & Mobilization, Latina Leadership, and our entrepreneurship training, Empresarias del Futuro. Programs are designed for trauma survivors to heal, thrive, and lead.

Advocacy and equitable access to healthcare has become a particularly important focus for Mujeres, and especially our Community Engagement & Mobilization team and the leaders who make up our Promotoras de Salud that support advocacy work in our community. Starting in May, they worked to coordinate a vaccination awareness campaign. Latino/a/x immigrants are one of the hardest-hit populations in terms of COVID-19 infections. With this initiative the focus remains on bringing awareness to the community about vaccines and best practices in terms of health during the pandemic. The campaign has been active in neighborhoods in the Western suburbs where our North Riverside office is located, in Pilsen and Brighton Park. Along with a focus on health, it is the leaders that make up our group of civic engagement volunteers who have been out on the ground advocating for causes that impact our community most, like public charge awareness and citizenship for undocumented people. The communal support that Mujeres Latinas en Accion's programs cultivate is essential for the wellbeing of our communities. At the center of the work

is promoting the ability to heal, lead and thrive even in times of duress and crisis. Mujeres aims to be that source of support for the neighborhoods we serve.

We are proud to share that Mujeres' Social Justice Committee and Racial Equity Taskforce have led us through the following critical steps to create a foundation for us to become stronger, more compassionate allies in the fight to dismantle systems of oppression.

One Roof Chicago	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$10,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Founded in 2019, One Roof Chicago (ORC) is moving toward building a welcoming and inclusive intergenerational community for older adults and young people most in need of affirming housing, connection, and career development. ORC will combine:

- Mixed income housing for LGBTQ+ seniors, and older adults living with HIV -- including a continuum of care as residents' needs for assistance increase
- Supportive housing at the same site for LGBTQ+ young adults impacted by homelessness
- Job training for the youth in culturally competent senior care and a career ladder in a fast-growing sector of the economy

At the core of the project is the home, a place where LGBTQ+ older adults can age in safety, comfort and with the knowledge that they are accepted and celebrated. LGBTQ+ young people will have the security of their own space with resources and mentorship to make their goals a reality. ORC will be an inclusive environment where LGBTQ+ residents can thrive, surrounded by valued community.

Peer Health Exchange Chicago	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Health	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

PHE's mission is to create healthier communities with young people. PHE was originally formed by a group of college-aged young people to support high school students in their community and provide them with health education workshops when their underfunded school district cut health education.

PHE believes all young people should have access to health education and resources. Despite the need for quality health education and mental health support, especially during the pandemic, schools often cannot commit these resources. PHE addresses this need through: 1) our skills-based health program delivered by college-aged fellows across the country, including in CPS classrooms, and 2) our direct-to-youth health resources that will reach young people wherever they are. PHE prioritizes serving and focusing on the needs of low-income, young people of color, and LGBTQ+ young people, across Chicago.

Planned Parenthood of Illinois	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$15,000
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<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: PPIL strives to be a leader in providing and promoting compassionate, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care, education, and rights. We focus our efforts in three core program areas:</p> <p>Medical Services PPIL’s 17 community-based health centers provide affordable, high-quality SRH care to nearly 70,000 patients throughout Illinois each year.</p> <p>Community Outreach and Education PPIL delivers inclusive and medically accurate sex education to thousands of young people each year. Facilitated in partnership with schools, community-based organizations, and health departments, PPIL provides youth with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions.</p> <p>Public Policy Through a bold, proactive policy agenda, PPIL works to keep the people of Illinois safe and healthy by advocating for policies that protect and expand reproductive rights. We monitor and draft legislation, build and participate in strategic coalitions, and engage those we serve in our advocacy efforts.</p>		

<p>Polished Pebbles</p>	<p>2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal</p> <p>Economic Security</p>	<p>Award: \$15,000</p>
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<p>Project Name: Pink Hard Hats: Girls in Trades</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Reflection Foundation’s mission is to create communication competencies that ensure the employability of young women in the future workplace. We fulfill our mission via our Polished Pebbles Girls Mentoring Program (PP), through which we seek to replace the school-to-prison pipeline with a school-to-career pipeline for low-income African American and Latina girls.</p> <p>No other program for girls in the Chicago region combines our communications based Social Emotional Learning, career readiness, and career connections components. Through these school and community-based mentoring, social emotional skills training, and job-readiness and internship experiences, we address Chicago’s “other” crisis of violence against girls and provide girls with transferable skills to successfully resolve interpersonal conflict; overcome childhood trauma, and provide transferable skills, especially work readiness skills, that allow girls to be less vulnerable to sexual violence and sex trafficking.</p> <p>The Pink Hard Hats: Real Skills, Real Jobs Initiative (PHH) addresses the workforce readiness and educational needs of Chicago’s African American and Latina girls by teaching the social-emotional and “soft” skills they require in order to succeed in school, identify and mitigate the effects of trauma and sexual violence, and become successful on their chosen career and academic path. We partner with industry leaders to provide career panels, guest speakers, job shadow, and internship experiences to form a school to career pipeline and prepare girls for early integration into the skilled trades workforce. Our advocacy work supports the construction industry with a pipeline of girls of color interested in and prepared to pursue careers in the trades and as engineers, architects, construction managers, etc., in this huge sector, and by convening spaces for the industry to connect with girls and better position the sector to appeal to, hire, and nurture girls in the field. We support the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts of our corporate partners.</p>		
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Project Exploration	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Economic Security	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Project Exploration (PE) works to change the face of STEM. With equity at our core, we serve youth underrepresented in STEM, and work to remove barriers that prevent black, brown, and low-income youth and young women from accessing, demanding, and pursuing STEM. PE’s approach is not a list of best practices. Rather, Youth-Science Pathway programs were developed with small groups of students who engaged in meaningful work alongside STEM professionals and reflective adults. Programs launch ongoing, long term relationships with students who experience firsthand the wonder and discovery that scientists have access to in their professional lives with a personalized curriculum that reflects student interests. We intentionally find and engage students who are not academically successful, confident due to robust evaluation that whether students pursue STEM careers or not, program design provides youth with critical 21st century skills and supports them in becoming astute problem solvers.

PE is establishing a new STEM Learning Center at Bethel New Life in Austin. With the support of the Chicago Foundation for Women, we hope to establish a Sisters4Science Program and Little Sisters4Science program in which girls in Austin would otherwise not have access to high-quality STEM opportunities due to underfunded schools, academic prerequisites and program fees otherwise required by STEM programs.

Sisters4Science (S4S) allows sixth to eighth grade girls to engage in high-quality, hands-on STEM to combat perceptions that STEM is for boys and allow girls to develop a STEM identity in a low-pressure environment . Research shows that girls first start to lose interest in STEM fields around the age of 12 (American Association of University Women, 2000) and that girls report being less interested in STEM careers than boys (Riegle-Crumb et al., 2011; Robnett and Leaper, 2013; Farkas and Leaper, 2016). Traditional public science education models are ineffective at getting girls engaged in science, resulting in girls internalizing at an early age that they are bad at science or it is not for them.

S4S positively impacts girls’ educational goals, career aspirations, and their confidence and attitudes towards STEM by engaging girls as co-creators of curriculum based on their interests, and allowing them to work alongside female STEM mentors. In addition to STEM exploration, reflection through reading, journaling, conversation, and team-building activities promote critical thinking and 21st-century skill development. During a culminating Reflection of Knowledge event, girls present what they have learned in the program.

RefugeeOne	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: Women's Health Project

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Now celebrating our 40th year, RefugeeOne has welcomed more than 20,000 refugees since 1982. We are the largest resettlement agency in Chicago and serve 2,500 refugees annually. We create opportunity for refugees fleeing war, terror, and persecution to build new lives of safety, dignity, and self-reliance. We have welcomed refugees fleeing every major world crisis including Rwandans and Bosnians fleeing genocide, Jews from the former Soviet Union, Cambodian survivors of the killing fields, the Lost Boys of

Sudan, Iranians forced out by the Islamic Revolution, Syrians displaced by civil war, and Afghans who fled the Taliban.

The Women’s Health Project comprehensively strengthens the health of refugee women and girls. In FY23, the project will offer 300 to 350 women and girls support in 3 key areas: Mental Health, Physical Health, and Social/Emotional Health.

Mental Health -- Universal mental health screenings are conducted for all newly-arrived adult women typically within 30-45 days of their arrival. (This period is more flexible for recent Afghan arrivals as they have experienced acute trauma and tend to need more time to adjust even in the screening process.) Women who demonstrate mental health needs receive one or more of RefugeeOne’s therapeutic services, which include individual therapy, group therapy, and referrals to psychiatric care. Psychoeducational seminars are offered to preemptively address challenges commonly faced by refugee women, and group therapy for specific ethnic groups occurs as needed.

We also screen and treat refugee girls for mental health needs. Particularly, we provide individual or group therapy and social emotional learning (SEL) directly for girls or for their parents to use at home. Each of these services equips girls with the social and behavioral skills needed for school readiness and success.

Physical Health – RefugeeOne partners with Sinai Health System to provide universal health screenings for refugee women. This identifies any complex health needs such as diabetes, hypertension, and high-risk pregnancies. We then offer medical case management, where intensive case managers and volunteers coordinate appointments, assist with transportation and interpretation, and help the women follow their medication regimens. Additionally, girls identified with complex health needs receive medical case management in conjunction with their parents’ services.

Social/Emotional Health – RefugeeOne helps refugee women and girls develop emotionally and socially. Refugee women are matched with volunteer mentors or co-sponsors, who visit weekly (in-person or virtually) and help them acclimate to life in the U.S. We offer them education sessions on a variety of topics, ranging from cultural orientation and family planning to building communities of support. We even provide opportunities for refugee women to create peer networks through special events like International Women’s Day or ongoing efforts such as the Sewing Studio, a vocational training program. Refugee girls are matched (in-person or virtually) to volunteer tutors to help them get on track academically and resettle successfully. Our Youth Mentoring Program enables young refugee women (ages 15-24) to set life goals, and receive 1-on-1 mentoring to achieve them.

Resilience	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$25,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Resilience is committed to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group trauma therapy, and medical and legal advocacy in the Chicago metropolitan area. Resilience provides public education and institutional advocacy to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. We envision a world where prevention efforts and global awareness of sexual violence expose rape myths, remove stigmas, eliminate rape and support all people as equal members of society. Resilience was founded in 1974 by an OB/GYN at Northwestern Memorial Hospital to provide support in the ER for sexual assault victims. This 24-hour crisis intervention and advocacy remains key; over the years, Resilience has added new programs and services that address the full scope of sexual violence and that emphasize prevention as well as treatment.

Resilience serves all survivors and their non-offending loved ones, at no cost to them. All of Resilience’s work is client-centered and culturally aware. It is provided within communities across Chicago, including some of our city’s most under-served and most challenging neighborhoods, such as Austin and the broader West Side.

Resilience’s services are within three core programs:

- 1) Medical & Legal Advocacy, including 24-hour crisis intervention in Chicago emergency rooms, medical clinics, and Cook County Jail, as well as follow-up support with medical and legal needs.
- 2) Trauma Therapy, providing confidential, trauma-informed counseling (individual, couples, and group) for sexual violence survivors and their non-offending loved ones.
- 3) Education & Training, delivering accurate, useful information to children, youth, teachers and other school staff, and professionals in a variety of fields, to help prevent and stop sexual violence.

Resilience also provides institutional advocacy, to ensure that laws, policies, and procedures throughout the city and state are fair and compassionate toward sexual violence survivors.

Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU, Inc.	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Health	Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: Women’s and Reproductive Rights Project (WRRP)

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

For 100 years, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has worked to hold the U.S. to its fundamental vision of an equitable society with civil rights and civil liberties for all. With independent offices representing all 50 states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico, the ACLU upholds the freedoms afforded by the U.S. Constitution and laws. The ACLU uses litigation, policy reform, and public engagement to seek justice for personal harms experienced by clients via systems and policies that fail them, and works to create shifts in institutions, societal norms, and policies to prevent harm to others in the future. The Women’s and Reproductive Rights Project (WRRP) is a signature program area of the ACLU.

The ACLU’s decades of integrated advocacy successes at local and state levels have steadily laid a foundation to protect and expand reproductive rights and access in Illinois. With the celebrated passage of Medicaid reforms in 2018, the RHA in 2019, and the end of Illinois’ parental involvement law coming in 2022, Illinois has emerged as a national leader for reproductive health access at a time of unprecedented danger for reproductive rights nationwide. This danger feels especially salient after the Supreme Court’s decision to allow Texas’ six-week abortion ban and “vigilante justice” scheme to take effect, and as the Court considers Mississippi’s arbitrary 15-week abortion ban in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.

In a landscape so hostile to reproductive freedom, protecting reproductive autonomy and access to healthcare like abortion, contraception, and maternal care is a top priority for the ACLU. Fully implementing policy reforms like the RHA and PNA repeal will continue to play a key role in expanding access and removing remaining barriers to access. Simultaneously, we remain deeply invested in challenging gender-based discrimination and claims of “religious liberty” to limit reproductive health and access. We also understand that legal rights are meaningless if those impacted do not know about the rights or policies available to them, or have practical ability to access them. We work to break down obstacles to paying for abortion care, including advocating for Medicaid and insurance coverage. This also includes working with

abortion providers in the State to expand the types of practitioners who can provide abortion care to improve access, particularly for underserved communities.

Sarah's Inn	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Sarah's Inn is a comprehensive domestic violence agency serving Chicago and West Cook County. Our mission is to improve the lives of those affected by domestic violence and to break the cycle of violence for future generations. We provide services for families affected by domestic violence in order to safely navigate crisis, effectively process trauma and ensure self-sufficiency. Our services are confidential, bilingual (English/Spanish) and free to survivors and their children at our main location and in 7 different offsite locations, including the West side of Chicago. Sarah's Inn's Together Strong Project provides programming for middle and high school youth to educate and engage them in cultivating healthy relationships in their lives. Our Training & Education Program creates a network of skilled community advocates, engaging business professionals, healthcare and social service providers, law enforcement, faith leaders, and community members.

Our services are unique as Sarah's Inn employs a trauma-informed, gender-aware perspective in supporting witnesses and survivors of violence in their healing process. Counselors support women's restoration of power and control over their own lives, in reducing their isolation and strengthening their support network. They also help women to increase their options and set personal goals for growth, thereby decreasing their feelings of helplessness. This work is done through individual and group counseling and advocacy sessions. The primary focus of these sessions is to help the client process traumatic events, develop appropriate coping mechanisms, and build resiliency.

Our work in the community through our Prevention program for youth and Training & Education for first-responders, community members and volunteers are designed to change the narrative around domestic violence, create a world free of relationship and gender violence, and develop a corps of educated and skilled community advocates.

Sista Afya Community Care, NFP	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Health	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Sista Afya Community Care (SACC) builds sustainable mental wellness communities by providing affordable and culturally-centered community mental wellness care and education. Sista Afya Community Care was founded to respond to the mental health inequity impacting Black women in Chicago. By offering free mental wellness care, SACC makes mental wellness achievable for women on the Southside of Chicago.

SACC provides holistic mental wellness care to Black women in the Chicagoland area.

Programs include:

Thrive in Therapy provides 6 months of free therapy for Black women experiencing multiple barriers to mental wellness care.

Community Care offers bi-weekly topic-based workshops, group therapy, and wellness classes focused on issues relevant to Black women's mental health.

Developing Mental Wellness Warriors provides free Mental Health First Aid training that trains community members to respond to mental health crises.

Currently, SACC is the only organization on the South side of Chicago that specializes in providing holistic mental wellness care for Black women at no cost to them. Using a unique Black Feminist Healing lens that centers on the intersectional experiences of Black women, SACC provides our participants with emotional support, clinical interventions, and mental wellness skills to promote long-lasting healing.

Southside Center of Hope	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Economic Security	Award: \$12,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

SSCOH provides a safe community for women recovering from addiction and homelessness and supports their successful reentry into community through a suite of integrated programming delivered without religious or socio-political agenda, stigma, or expectation of payment. It offers housing, addiction treatment, education, physical and mental wellness services, employment and life skills training, job placement, and aftercare in partnership with a network of like-minded providers. Its work is local and grounded in belief in the healing power of community-based services. While it welcomes women from across Illinois, the majority of residents are Chicagoans. SSCOH is steadfast in its commitment to the city and its residents, most especially low-income Black and Brown women whose recovery work is complicated by intersecting experiences of racism, economic marginalization, violence, and institutional failure across the criminal justice, education, healthcare, and social service sectors.

SSCOH's service model combines structured recovery programming with alternative therapies and ancillary services, providing a scaffolded pathway back to family and community. The Substance Abuse Recovery Program represents the core of the model and is grounded in the tenets of evidence-based, 12-step programming (AA/NA). Phased in its approach, the program is designed to support residents through recovery and the transition to independent lives.

As a complement to core programming, SSCOH also provides access to consistent primary health care (residents access comprehensive off-site care through a partnering FQHC); alternative therapeutics (on-site meditation, yoga, and art therapy); case management (referrals, linkages, advocacy for women grappling with legal, familial, financial, and other issues that can complicate recovery); and Aftercare—one-to-one support over 12 months post exit and an ongoing monthly relapse prevention group.

A key component of SSCOH's service delivery model is partnership. SSCOH collaborates with community-based providers to ensure residents have access to all the services they need in and through recovery.

Survivors Know	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Freedom from Violence	Award: \$12,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

SK builds survivor influence from two complementary angles - labor & justice. Through Anti-Violence Solidarity Circles (AVSC), frontline advocates (survivors themselves) set out to disrupt how gender-based violence is addressed in their communities by co-creating systems where survivors actively define what justice looks like for them & where communities work alongside advocates to end violence. Approach: (1) address challenges faced by survivor-advocates: secondary trauma, burnout, the constant triaging of survivors with limited pathways to “justice”, lack of support within their institutions; (2) explore tangible alternatives to policing to implement reforms that address survivors’ needs.

We are also advancing Workplace Solidarity Circles (WSC) through #Stopgolf which addresses reasons for workers’ mass exodus from the restaurant industry - racial, economic, & gender injustice. Survivors are advancing change at Topgolf where reports of sexual violence are frequent & severe.

Our Midwest AVSC seeks funding to see through our ambitious work. This project sets out to completely transform the way we seek to remediate domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence. As survivors and advocates with decades of experience working within status quo systems, we are uniquely positioned to understand survivors’ needs and what steps must be taken to bring about a world where a carceral state shows itself as truly obsolete. We hope to advance a divest + invest organizing campaign that will redirect funding from policing and carceral systems into community-led alternatives, beginning in Chicago. These alternatives will be seeded and built by local survivor-led AVSC’s to develop programs based on the community’s needs.

In order for these alternatives to be embraced within our local communities in Chicago, we are also co-convening with the Black Roots Alliance a series of workshops on restorative justice, community accountability, alternatives to carceral systems, radical self-care, and mutual aid. These workshops will connect us with local survivors and families - allowing us to listen to and incorporate their needs. At the same time, these workshops will lay the groundwork for a necessary paradigm shift in the way justice, accountability, violence, and community reliance are understood and approached.

If we recognize that community is a protective factor for violence and that risk factors include housing instability, poverty, and inaccessible transportation, we can think outside the box to create safer communities in the service of decreasing violence.

The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Freedom from Violence	Award: \$12,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

The Network works collaboratively with survivors & providers to educate, advocate & organize to end GBV. We work strategically to highlight needs of the most marginalized survivors in Chicago & Cook Co. The Network works in 4 core areas. We run IL’s official 24/7 DV Crisis Hotline to serve as 1st responders. In 2021, we provided support to over 32,000 survivors through calls & texts. We pursue a policy & advocacy agenda on behalf of victims and service providers to change laws, regulations & systems to maximize the prevention of, and end to DV. In 2021, we successfully advocated for \$35 million in 2022 city of Chicago budget funding allocated for GBV services. Our training team addresses root causes of GBV & utilizes an anti-oppression framework in providing core training to the community of providers & allies. Finally, we convene our members to address common policy initiatives, discuss joint fundraising opportunities & build capacity across organizations serving DV victims.

UCAN	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: Phenomenal Woman

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
UCAN builds strong youth and families through compassionate healing, education, and empowerment. Founded in 1869, we serve more than 26,000 youth and families annually through a continuum of care and community engagement programs provided in Chicago and throughout Illinois.

Phenomenal Woman brings attention to the unaddressed needs of BIPOC women and girls who experience trauma because of chronic exposure to community violence and systemic racism. The goal of Phenomenal Woman is to help young women and girls navigate what can sometimes be a difficult journey into adulthood.

The program is open to all young women and is inclusive regarding gender and sexual identity, expression, and/or orientation. Groups of 10-15 participants explore topics including healthy relationships and parenting, reproductive health, career exploration, and financial literacy. Guided by youth input, discussions and learning workshops are designed to build confidence, develop healthy decision-making skills, and encourage planning for future education and career choices. Through participation in PW, youth:

- Strengthen their self-esteem through self-affirmation and healthy self-image development
- Build healthy coping skills; spend time thinking about their future and goals
- Develop financial literacy and plans for their own financial independence
- Learn how to approach relationships in ways that are healthy and supportive and create positive experiences
- Build relationships with an adult coach who can offer advice and be an objective listener, as well as connections to peers

Women for Economic Justice	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
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Project Name: Casa Domitila Barrios Transformational Leadership Project

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:
Women for Economic Justice (WEJ) successfully incubated a cross-sector organizing initiative at Chicago Workers' Collaborative, "Building Community Power to End Gender Violence" (BCPEGV). Its mission was to integrate a gender lens in the labor movement and to eliminate gender violence by building community power. On February 1st, 2020, BCPEGV moved to a new space in Little Village. This new and fully community-driven space provided BCPEGV members, the foundation to solidify their autonomy, strengthen their self-determination and shape their own activists' identity. On August 1st, 2020, BCPEGV span-off from CWC to create an independent entity. Along with our grassroots groups (Corazon de Valor y Fortaleza, Colectivo MUJER, and Genesis Green Cleaning Coop), WEJ, Coop-Ed Center founded "Casa de Activismo Comunitario Domitila Barrios", from which we continue pursuing the mission of ending gender violence by advancing gender equity and economic sustainability.

WEJ is pleased to request \$15,000 to invest in our grassroots leadership development. Supporting the continued development of our leadership is imperative to continue building the capacity of our community-driven organization. It is a just quid pro quo for our leaders' generous investment of time and energy in advancing our common vision.

WEJ operates with two staff persons (FT & PT) and 12 grassroots leaders, who are equal partners in organizational endeavors, and essentially run the day-by-day activities. We have two spaces, Little Village and Gage Park. Our team is integrated by working-class monolingual Latinas, many of them, undocumented and survivors. Their role is to influence and organize women, with the goals to promote a culture/systems change and build self-reliant communities.

Our experience has taught us that grassroots leadership is successful when the decision to invest in developing grassroots leaders is a deliberate strategy. This grant will create the learning and networking opportunities to enhance the effectiveness and successes of our leadership. Like many other leadership programs available for nonprofit emerging leaders, such as CFW CULTIVATE, Casa Domitila will offer a combination of training, networking, practice, and coaching. Casa Domitila Transformational Leadership will focus on ten grassroots leaders, with limited formal education, whose work experience has been in the hospitality sector, factories, or cleaning services; who are monolingual, and for the most part, undocumented. All of them are ready for the "next step" in their leadership development. Yet, in the spirit of our collective principles, at the end of the four-month program, we will have developed a Theory of Change, and a collective work plan/agenda for the next two years.

Workers Center for Racial Justice	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - New Economic Security	Award: \$12,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: WCRJ is a grassroots organization fighting for Black liberation, and for a fair and inclusive society that benefits all people. We organize marginalized Black workers and families to address the root causes of the high rates of unemployment, low-wage work and over-criminalization plaguing Black communities. We focus on direct action organizing, policy advocacy, leadership development and voter engagement, with the objective of building a caring economy and society that allow Black people to reach their full human potential.</p> <p>WCRJ requests support for our Childcare for All work, led by our Childcare Committee of members who are passionate about increasing access to affordable childcare. Since the beginning of our organization ten years ago, Black women have consistently named the high cost of childcare as one of their primary barriers to economic security. In response to this overwhelming need, WCRJ is focusing on Childcare for All as one of our core organizational priorities.</p> <p>We are currently surveying community members about their Childcare needs and experiences, collecting responses in order to better make a case to lawmakers for childcare investments. We plan to continue soliciting survey responses from our members throughout the rest of 2022. These responses will help shape our future policy goals.</p> <p>Our current Childcare policy approach includes expanding child care assistance programs and funding for early childhood education (universal Pre-K), as well as supporting measures that will direct more money to parents and families facing childcare affordability challenges. Currently, our policy priorities for Childcare include:</p> <p>State level:</p>		

Expand access to Illinois' Child Care Assistance Program by increasing the income threshold for eligibility to at least 300% of the Federal Poverty Line;

Expand Illinois' Earned Income Tax Credit, so that more community members receive more money at tax time; and

Create a Child Tax Credit for Illinois, to reduce the amount of taxes that families owe and offer a refund of at least \$600 directly to most no-, low-, and middle-income families.

Federal level:

Educate families about the Build Back Better legislation that is currently moving through Congress and the childcare benefits it includes, and engage our base in advocacy around it in collaboration with our national partners. While the package as it currently stands is a watered down version of its 2021 incarnation, it still includes significant investments in universal pre-K and childcare. Build Back Better also currently includes provisions to raise the wages of childcare workers, as well as investments in their professional development.

YWCA of Evanston/North Shore	2022 Spring Primary Cycle - Renewal Freedom from Violence	Award: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: Comprehensive Domestic Violence Services</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice and dignity for all. It is the oldest and largest multicultural women's organization in the world.</p> <p>There are approximately 300 independent YWCAs in the country. Each association is completely autonomous with its own board of directors, governing documents and structures, funding streams and programs designed to respond to the unique needs of the community it serves. The national YWCA provides no funding for its associations.</p> <p>YWCA Evanston/North Shore was incorporated independently in 1947. Dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women, YWCA Evanston/North Shore has worked for over seven decades to foster gender, racial and economic equity. As a social justice agency, YWCA creates real change in the fight for gender and racial justice in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Women and girl's health and safety2. Women and girl's economic advancement and leadership3. Civil rights and social justice		