

chicago foundation for women

FY22 Polk Bros. Foundation Emerging Organization Fund Award

Anne's Haven		Award: \$1,500
<p>Project Name: General Operating</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Anne's Haven is nothing short of an oasis for the women of Chicago. Opened in 2016, Anne's has hosted a number of programs, catered to women and girls with care for their physical and mental health, career success, and general well-being. And while the programs are exceptional additions to the Haven, Anne's goal is to serve their community as a center for women to gather in whatever capacity they need. The women of Anne's are the true heart - they bring what they need and the center provides the space and tools for them to flourish. In a world of unending pressure for perfection from women no matter the cost, the Haven provides a space of celebration of imperfection. Anne's encourages the resurrection of every woman from her greatest or smallest defeat and rejoices the same in her successes. Ultimately, Anne's Haven is a manifestation of the legacy and vision of Anne McNicholas-Giangrassie -the inspiration and namesake for the center- life without barriers for women.</p>		

Chicago Desi Youth Rising		Award: \$3,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: CDYR is committed to centering community voices within all activities of the organization and recognizes this as essential to carrying out our work and being aligned with our values. The CDYR collective, the main steering and leadership body for the organization, is made up of all South Asian women, femme, and nonbinary community members, activists, and young people, including several CDYR youth alum. CDYR is committed to bringing youth cohort members onto the collective to guide the work and prioritizes their participation within CDYR's committees. Our participants also guide CDYR's retreat and reconvening programming through input and feedback on curriculum and through directing youth-led action projects.</p> <p>CDYR emphasizes community building as a part of our organizing to help South Asian youth leaders develop a sense of belonging in a supportive community of young changemakers, within which they can seek knowledge, validation, and a critical mass for mobilization.</p>		

Free Root Operation		Award: \$5,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Free Root Operation (FRO) intercepts poverty-induced gun violence by investing in the healing and empowerment of Black and Brown communities in Chicago and beyond through centering opportunity and compassion as core values of the organization. We envision the Chicago we know it can be: accessible food, education, access to leisure, health services, and love on every block.</p> <p>Through community-focused programming, we are creating avenues to fuller, freer, and safer lives for Black and Brown populations in our city. We fight to make resources available—such as jobs, food, housing, and financial agency—to communities plagued by gun violence. Dedicated to amplifying FRO's</p>		

core values—Compassion and Opportunity—our goal is to help our constituents take agency over their lives. All of our programming, community engagement, and organizational functions work to ensure that we meet a direct need while building up community members' spirits and ability to navigate trauma.

Holistic Birth Collective NFP		Award: \$5,000
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Holistic Birth Collective's work confronts health inequity related to pregnancy, childbirth, and the first year postpartum. HBC is a disruptive force in the "maternal-child health" space that educates, agitates, and organizes to shift the power to maintain health towards communities rather than state-run institutions. We work in solidarity with Illinois's radical Black birthworker community and commit to amplify their power through administrative advocacy. HBC's data activism challenges public health departments to move beyond intrusive surveillance of atomized "risk factors" and instead interrogate racist harm and gender-based violence embedded within our healthcare delivery system. We collaborate with partners in the clinical and public health sectors to build the infrastructures necessary to make safe, trauma-informed, dignifying maternity care the norm so that our healthcare system equitably maintains the safety, dignity, and joy of all pregnant and birthing families.</p> <p>HBC's core strategies for 2021-2022 are: (1) data activism; (2) administrative advocacy; (3) radical innovation through design justice praxis.</p>		

Parents Against Child Sex Abuse		Award: \$1,500
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Parents Against Child Sex Abuse (PAXA) was founded by David and Tania Haigh in Nov. 2017 after child sexual abuse impacted their family. They created this organization to ensure no parent is blindsided by child sexual abuse; rather know how to prevent, uncover and heal from it. In the US, one in every ten children (Darkness to Light) have experienced, is experiencing, or will experience sexual abuse by the time the child is 18. PAXA is a non-profit dedicated to empowering parents to protect their children from this sexual abuse epidemic.</p> <p>PAXA's Key Strategies to close gaps in child sexual abuse prevention include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EDUCATE PARENTS: Develop and execute approaches with digestible information. 2. SUPPORT PARENTS & THEIR SURVIVOR CHILDREN: Help parents via PAXA's online community. 3. IMPROVE POLICY: Educate policymakers to reduce or eliminate loopholes that allow predators access to children with grooming and exploitation tactics. 		

Princesses and Ladies Inc.		Award: \$1,500
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:</p>		

Princesses and Ladies Inc. has the main focus and goal of empowering women/girls to succeed in their lives and be the best versions of themselves, by providing them with the right tools and supportive resources needed to succeed. The organization advocates for the rights of women/girls to have autonomy over their own bodies. It accomplishes this through its mentorship program and advocacy with one of the focus being reproductive justice, human trafficking awareness and prevention program, mental health initiative, through collaboration with local organizations and individuals. Scholarships are provided and seminars/workshops for entire communities to learn more about women/girls' topics. The racially diverse organization is focused on bringing awareness about reproductive justice, various violence against women and girls and mental health. Although the organization is focused on women and girls, men/boys are also served by being educated on women/girls topics and with psychotherapy.

Sexpectations Chicago		Award: \$1,000
Project Name: General Operating Support for Sexpectations Chicago		
Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Sexpectations is a Black & brown femme-led grassroots collective that provides sexual health information, resources, and tools to Black & brown youth in Chicago. Our mission is to empower youth in their journey to become self-advocates for their sexual and reproductive health. We value safety, equity, communication, and most importantly, young people, in our work, as well as teaching and embodying these values from a harm-reduction lens.		

SHE Chicago		Award: \$1,000
Project Name: General Operating Support		
Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: SHE Chicago is an afterschool, young women's empowerment program. Our mission is to use character education, community service, and college and career training to transform inner-city teen girls into influential community and industry leaders of tomorrow. At SHE, we envision Strong, Humble, and Empowered young women who lead their families and communities with compassion, discernment, and integrity. The SHE Society, Inc. was founded through teachers at a high school in Chicago's South Shore. SHE Chicago is an organization designed to support teen girls in social and self-awareness, community activism, college, and career preparation, subsequently taking on an in-person approach. We are committed to serving high-performing, under-resourced girls between the ages of 14 and 18. SHE partners with high schools, parents, and community organizations to provide opportunities that are typically untapped in high-risk impoverished communities. Our programs provide irreplaceable mentorship opportunities that align with college and career readiness training. The SHE curriculum is a 10-month program, complimented by culminating experiences through hands on training with community service-oriented projects. For example, our Annual Holiday Food Drive, in which we gathered food items in partnership with for The Greater Chicago Food Depository, dropping them off at designated organizations.		

Step Up For Mental Health		Award: \$1,250
Project Name: WOCUGC Match		
Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:		

We have been meeting the needs of our mission since 2017 in Chicago and Illinois via our helpline. Our helpline under our Step Up Assistance Program provides access to underserved families with populations dealing with mental health-related issues in the home, including poverty, and 89%+ of our clients are women and children. Whether it's an individual needing our 1:1 Peer Chat Support service. A caregiver supporting a child, parent, or spouse with a disorder, who needs assistance finding resources in their area, or helping an individual with educational mentoring to find a job or learn new tech skills we are here to support families in need with mental health-related issues. During the pandemic, we support families in crisis with basic needs. We have fed families, paid for mental health medications, paid for mental health therapy, and given one-to-one and group peer support during times of stress. Via home drop-offs, food drives, and safe digital spaces for women.