

chicago foundation for women

2022 Spring Grant Making - Englewood Women's Initiative Grant Awards

All Chicago Making Homelessness History		Award: \$50,000
<p>Project Name: All Chicago Emergency Fund Program</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds: All Chicago's mission is to unite its community and resources to provide solutions that ensure and sustain the stability of home. All Chicago prevents and ends homelessness through four signature approaches. Emergency Financial Assistance (Emergency Fund) provides one-time or short-term funding to people experiencing an emergency that could lead to homelessness or other crises. Community Partnerships approach provides the leadership of a citywide response to homelessness by partnering with 43 agencies and leading them through a year-round research, evaluation, strategic planning, and federal funding application process. Through Data Analytics approach, it collects and analyzes data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), driving its community's response to homelessness. Training and Research approach provides trainings, workshops, research, reports, and analysis to help its partners apply proven strategies to prevent and end homelessness even more effectively. In 2022, All Chicago has served 5,250 households with over \$25 million in funding.</p> <p>All Chicago will be a source of financial support to women in Englewood through the Englewood Women's Initiative (EWI). It will continue to provide financial assistance through the Emergency Fund in concert with other collaborative partners in the EWI. The Emergency Fund provides the financial support immediately without bureaucratic red tape and with minimal overhead cost. Given together with wrap-around services delivered by EWI partners, these supports help ensure that close to 30 women living in the Englewood neighborhood will get the assistance they need to build economic security. In FY22, All Chicago supported 27 women with rental arrears, security deposits, utilities, and rental assistance.</p> <p>Staff from the EWI partners will refer clients involved in their programs to the Emergency Fund, who meet the EWI criteria for Emergency Fund assistance, with needs such as rent, security deposits, basic home items – as well as employment related necessities such as child care, transportation, and professional attire. The referral is done through a faxed or emailed request to the Emergency Fund and consists of a completed client service form, a completed check request, and any assistance-specific related documents (ex. W9, lease, a utility bill, bill/invoice from a childcare provider, etc.).</p> <p>Requests are evaluated based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their relevance to helping someone finish their training program and or stabilize their household • Type of request (ex: Is it going to prevent homelessness while the person is in training) • Will it help them become employed and able to support themselves? • Amount of money available • Number of other requests received from the agency 		

Allies for Community Business		Award: \$25,000
<p>Project Name:</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds: Allies for Community Business's (A4CB) mission is to provide the capital, coaching, and collaboration entrepreneurs need to grow great businesses in their communities. It believes that entrepreneurs from any</p>		

background can start and grow businesses that create generational wealth for their families and communities.

A4CB is the largest mission-focused microlender in the Chicago area and is one of the largest providers of free one-on-one business coaching. Since 1994, it has supported 80,000+ neighborhood entrepreneurs and funded more than 8,000 loans in excess of \$90M, which in turn have generated/sustained an estimated 24,000 jobs in primarily low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. As a nonprofit located on Chicago's West Side, it prioritizes Black, Hispanic/Latinx, women, and low-income entrepreneurs throughout the Chicagoland area and beyond. Each year, on average, 50% of its clients are women, 70% of clients were individuals of color, and 75% of clients had low-to-moderate incomes.

The struggle to access quality business services is a significant barrier for women entrepreneurs that limits their business growth and overall financial health. This challenge is even greater for women of color entrepreneurs (which makes up 80% of A4CB's total female client base) and the pandemic has further intensified these challenges. Further, its services are especially needed by our female small business clients, many who operate in industries hardest hit by the pandemic such as hospitality and salons. Since the start of the pandemic, A4CB scaled its services to help more clients in need. Over 2020-2021, it funded 2,103 loans totaling \$42M, compared to the 798 loans totaling \$7M funded in the previous two-year period prior to the pandemic.

To respond to the increased challenges its clients faced when the pandemic hit, A4CB also made changes to its services to further advance equity in entrepreneurship. In 2021, it revised its credit policy to increase access to affordable capital for our clients; we no longer consider credit scores or the value of personal collateral in the loan process. Credit score and personal collateral have hindered access to capital for entrepreneurs of color, women, and other underserved populations we serve, thereby severely limiting opportunities for these groups to grow businesses that generate wealth and economic mobility for their families. Instead, A4CB now evaluates how well an applicant has managed debts over the past 24 months and how much cash is available to make monthly loan payments. After 15 months of experience with this rethinking of how to evaluate creditworthiness, our charge off rate is only 2% of loans outstanding.

Through its continued participation in the EWI, A4CB will provide capital, coaching, and collaboration to existing and aspiring female entrepreneurs in Englewood so that they can grow businesses that generate jobs and wages in their community.

Capital: A4CB offers term loans and lines of credit between \$500 and \$100,000 to early, emerging, and established businesses. To provide more capital to clients, its new credit policy is even more flexible than before. It no longer considers credit scores or the value of personal collateral in the loan process.

Coaching: It provides free business development services to every person who comes to A4CB. It offers one-on-one coaching as well as small group and cohort-based training. To further increase the accessibility for all entrepreneurs, its services are offered across a range of platforms, including in-person, group webinars, and online and offline curriculum. One key service it has provided to EWI participants is credit coaching and its smaller Credit Builder Loans (loans from \$500 to \$2,500) which help clients build or establish credit while growing their businesses. In 2021, it also introduced a new role of Financial Coach to further assist clients with their personal finances.

Collaborations: It offers licensing support, kitchen space via The Hatchery (a food incubator in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood A4CB co-owns with another nonprofit called ICNC), and access to procurement opportunities. Through its designation as a Chicago Business Center by the City of Chicago, we help entrepreneurs secure their business licenses and prepare business owners for supplier diversity contract opportunities and W/MBE certification.

Over the five-year history of the EWI, A4CB has provided coaching to more than 80 women and funded 38 loans totaling \$473,000 in the Englewood area (zip codes of 60621 and 60636). These loans helped to

create or maintain an estimated 114 jobs in Englewood. This work was accomplished in part due to its participation in the EWI as well as through its other partnerships in Chicago. In FY22, it served 17 participants in the EWI. A4CB anticipates that for FY23, it will provide five loans totaling \$15,000 to women entrepreneurs in Englewood and provide coaching to another 20 entrepreneurs.

Chicago Furniture Bank		Award: \$15,000
<p>Project Name: 2021 Englewood Womens Initiative</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds:</p> <p>The Chicago Furniture Bank is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, founded in July of 2018, that serves as an intermediary between Chicagoans who have extra furniture and those who need it. It provides furnishing packages to clients that include beds, couches, armchairs, dressers, desks, end tables, coffee tables, kitchen tables and chairs, dish ware, rugs, lamps, artwork, mirrors, and more. The mission of the Chicago Furniture Bank (CFB) is to provide dignity, stability and comfort to Chicagoans moving into supportive housing by providing them with a place to hand-pick an entire home's worth of furnishings. Generally, CFB's clients are leaving temporary shelters and moving into permanent housing with few household belongings. CFB believes everyone should be able to sleep in a bed, share a family meal at a kitchen table and enjoy the comfort of a furnished home. The CFB's furnishing program transforms houses into homes.</p> <p>Since its founding, the CFB has grown to become the largest furniture bank in the country with a 70,000+ square foot warehouse and 10,000 square foot showroom, furnishing over 7,800 homes for 18,200 clients through partnerships with 400 social service agencies. This new facility allowed the organization to grow its furnishing program by 79% (3,300 homes) and its staff by 45% in 2021. The CFB works with most Chicagoland nonprofits that serve populations facing poverty. It serves a diverse range of clients: around 32% of households served are single mothers and 43% (8,385) of all clients are minors. Ninety-nine percent of CFB's clients live below the poverty line with 57% of households earning less than \$6,000 per year. Funding from CFW allows the furniture bank to provide \$1,600-\$1,800 worth of furnishings at no cost to Englewood families.</p> <p>CFW will provide funds to Chicago Furniture Bank to support partners connecting EWI participants in need to the furniture packages. In 2022, CFB has served 10 EWI participants and their families for a total of over 40 people.</p>		

Chicago Women in Trades		Award: \$20,000
<p>Project Name: Technical Opportunities Program</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds:</p> <p>Founded by tradeswomen in 1981, Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) exists to improve women's economic equity by increasing their participation in skilled, blue-collar occupations traditionally held by men. For nearly 40 years, CWIT has pursued its mission through two complementary strategies: expanding the pool of women who are prepared to enter and retain jobs in these fields through direct service programs and improving institutional capacity and industry receptivity through its technical assistance, policy and advocacy initiatives. CWIT's direct service programs include pre-apprenticeship and welding training, supported by case management and placement assistance, for low-income women seeking nontraditional employment. As COVID-19 restrictions ease, the program has seen a dramatic increase in opportunity and anticipates training 160 women and placing more than 100 graduates in apprenticeship employment in FY23.</p>		

Chicago Women in Trades remains committed to growing the capacity of the Englewood Women's Initiative to provide residents with pathways to economic security, and believes that, for some women, access to high-wage nontraditional occupations is the opportunity they need to achieve that goal. In FY22, CWIT served a total of 31 women in the EWI. Of this number, 18 were enrolled in training programs, of whom 15 graduated and two are still in class; 18 women entered apprenticeship/employment (incl. carpentry, electric, bricklaying, plumbers, and positions with People's Gas, S and C, and Millhouse Engineering); and 12 received referrals to EWI partners for support services. Based on this experience and an increase in service projections for next year, CWIT anticipates serving 35 EWI participants, of whom 25 will enroll in training and 20 will enter apprenticeship/employment for FY23.

As in prior years, CWIT will:

1. Provide career awareness education to residents, including distribution of materials and on-site presentations. CWIT has worked closely with both consortium members and tradeswomen who reside in the target area to spread the word about construction and manufacturing careers and recruit women to its programs.
2. Enroll residents in the Technical Opportunities Program (TOP): a pre-apprenticeship program offering 170-hour of instruction in the evenings and weekends to prepare women to compete for and succeed in construction apprenticeship programs, which offer starting wages exceeding \$18 per hour and lead to journey-level wages averaging more than \$45 per hour after two to five years of paid classroom and on-the-job training.
3. Enroll residents in its welding program: the 288-hour training program meets Monday through Friday from 9:30-3:30 for 10 weeks, provides successful graduates with OSHA 10 and American Welding Society certification and leads to a range of employment outcomes, most commonly, entry-level manufacturing jobs paying an average wage of \$17 per hour.
4. Provide participants with case management, job placement assistance, support services and access to mentors, tutors and other services as needed.

Family Rescue

Award: \$30,000

Project Name: Englewood Women's Initiative

Proposed Use of Funds:

Family Rescue is committed to eliminating domestic violence by assisting victims and their children escape the cycle of violence through its comprehensive programming, designed to assist victims and their children in building a successful foundation towards reaching their full potential in a violence-free life. It operates four programs across eleven sites. Rosenthal Family Lodge offers emergency shelter for 36 women and children. The Supportive Housing Program offer transitional housing with Ridgeland Apartments and rapid rehousing units with New Heights Apartments for both survivors and their families. Community Outreach assists victims without immediate housing needs both in our offices as well as four of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services offices. Legal Advocacy assists victims navigate the courts and works with CPD officers to identify high-risk victims.

While domestic violence does not only happen in poor areas, we know that it is more prevalent in these areas like Englewood. On average, victims of domestic violence leave their abuser seven times before they leave for good. Many times, they return because their financial security is tethered to their abuser. Their abuser might have forced them to quit their job or quit school. Their abuser might have ruined their credit and/or rental history, making it impossible for them to live without them. Agencies like Family Rescue provide a supportive stepping stone for them to rebuild and regain their independence. While the financial aspect is imperative to their healing journey, learning about domestic violence and processing the trauma of experiencing it are also important steps. Foundational to each of its programs is trauma-sensitive counseling. Family Rescue provides opportunities for peer support and encourage community-building activities that reduce isolation. It strives to develop a "therapeutic trauma-informed milieu" that is accepting,

inclusive, and healing. It makes every attempt possible to engage the family with counseling and programming, including flexible scheduling, but participation is voluntary.

All clients engage in trauma-sensitive counseling with their advocates, both individual and family, in an effort to process the abuse they experienced in a healthy way. Clients are also able to take advantage of a variety of services, including: crisis intervention; individual and group counseling; case management; financial literacy classes; substance abuse recovery support; supportive housing; safe shelter; linkage to resources; individual and systemic advocacy; assistance with employment and housing searches; structured children's programs; violence prevention education; transportation assistance; and a 24-hour bilingual crisis line.

Its programming is based on the South Side, so it understands the community, its issues, and how to best address them. It has a full-time advocate located in Englewood who can screen EWI clients for a history of domestic violence and offer trauma-informed services to ensure the client can process their experience in a healthy, non-judgmental environment. She is able to offer immediate, basic needs resources to clients as needed. Family Rescue seeks to remove as many barriers as possible for our clients, so they can focus on their journey. Currently, Family Rescue has 23 EWI clients and anticipates serving a similar sized caseload in FY23.

Jane Addams Resource Corporation		Award: \$20,000
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Project Name: Women in Manufacturing

Proposed Use of Funds:

Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC) promotes strong communities, businesses and households to ensure that people who work do not live in poverty. JARC helps low-income workers attain financial self-sufficiency through skills training and comprehensive financial support services. JARC's training programs target middle-skills career paths in advanced manufacturing and metal fabricating such as CNC machinist, welder, and press brake programmer-operator, and serve various populations. Clients receive additional wrap-around services, such as financial and employment coaching, assessment for SNAP benefits and other public aid, referrals for childcare and housing, and emergency rental assistance.

JARC has grown in the past several years and currently has three Chicago training center locations: Ravenswood, Austin, and its newest southside location in the Chatham neighborhood. JARC is excited to offer its Careers in Manufacturing Programs and Adult Learners Programs and Services offerings to women in Englewood. Through CMP, women can access free advanced manufacturing job training and placement services in either welding, CNC, Press Brake, or Mechanical Assembly. If needed, women can also access the Manufacturing Bridge program to gain additional supports in reading or math before beginning advanced training. Through these programs women can also access wraparound support services that include financial coaching, employment coaching, income supports screenings, digital literacy instruction, and support services such as transportation, uniforms, and educational costs.

In response to the pandemic, many of its funders gave increased supportive service funds to provide directly to clients. JARC has seen the positive impact these increased supportive service funds have made for trainees and graduates throughout the pandemic. It envisions further expanding the financial support available to clients through piloting stipends. These funds can help further stabilize clients so they can reach their goals, and give them more voice in how to best utilize supportive service funds in their lives.

The average wage for a graduate of its programs is \$18+ per hour. Careers in advanced manufacturing offer many benefits, such as insurance, retirement, etc, in addition to strong wages which is why more women should look to the industry as a career to sustain themselves and their families. JARC hopes to continue to educate the partners on the benefits of careers in manufacturing and the family sustaining

wages offered. JARC also incorporates feedback from employer partners to ensure our programs continue to be responsive to the needs of the manufacturing industry, and are best preparing trainees to be competitive in the job market. This includes convening meetings with its Industry Advisory Council (IAC). The IAC provides regular feedback on industry trends, and feedback on its technical curricula. JARC also regularly checks in with employers who have hired its graduates for feedback on their job readiness and performance.

On average, JARC serves about 62 Careers in Manufacturing participants each year, but will have increased to capacity to serve 30 additional clients and anticipates that close to 10 of those will be EWI participants in FY23. JARC currently serves three EWI clients YTD and has two more entering programming soon. It anticipates that 90% of JARC graduates will report at least one positive financial outcome, such as, an increase in net monthly income, FICO credit score, or net worth and has spent the last two years improving its ability to disaggregate program outcomes by demographics such as race and gender.

Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing

Award: \$30,000

Project Name: Englewood Women's Initiative

Proposed Use of Funds:

Since 1980, LCBH has advocated for the rights of low-income and vulnerable renters. LCBH provides free legal and supportive services for Chicago renters facing unjust evictions or living in substandard housing. It serves families in the private, non-subsidized rental market who are rent-burdened, paying 50% or more of their income toward rent. It intervenes before renters are forced out of their homes and holistically address both the short-term housing crisis and its underlying causes. Its team of attorneys and social workers combine legal aid with social services and outreach to help renters attain both short- and longer-term housing stability. Through this integrated approach, it serves nearly 1,000 Chicago households on an annual basis. Throughout its 40-year history, LCBH has adapted and expanded its services to meet the changing needs of renters. A common thread runs throughout this history: LCBH steadfastly provides renters facing eviction meaningful access to justice.

LCBH will provide eviction defense, eviction prevention, and housing-related legal services for Englewood women and their households. Its attorneys will provide a broad range unbundled legal services that preserve tenancy and remove barriers to long-term stable housing. In addition to eviction defense, LCBH can intervene when a renter's housing stability or safety is threatened by illegal lockouts, condition problems or utility shutoffs, discrimination, retaliation, or other issues. Its attorneys collaborate with LCBH social workers to meet Englewood women's needs related to financial and longer-term housing stability, with the goal of better utilizing the resources of EWI partner organizations.

LCBH will also serve the EWI through Rentervention, its unique online platform that helps keep renters stably housed through a combination of automated and live assistance. The program consists of an interactive chatbot ('Renny') and a Virtual Clinic staffed by a team of staff and pro bono attorneys. Chatbot 'Renny' answers simple questions, informs renters of their rights, helps them assemble documents, and connects them to related resources. If the tenant's problem can't be resolved, they are connected to a Virtual Clinic, where a pro bono attorney has access to the chat history and provides brief services. In the Rentervention program in FY22 overall, staff and pro bono attorneys closed brief services cases involving 13 Englewood households focused on eviction prevention and record sealing. Twenty-six Englewood renters had their questions answered by an attorney via text or email. Renny the chatbot chatted with 163 Englewood renters on topics including eviction (64 chats), rental assistance (56 chats), and eviction sealing (23 chats). Until October when the state eviction moratorium was still in place, 68 Englewood renters used Rentervention to generate state moratorium declarations to give to their landlords that protected them from eviction.

LCBH can also create a custom portal for EWI partners to through which they could directly refer their clients to the Virtual Clinic. This would create another opportunity for direct referrals from partners and help track the clients as EWI participants for the upcoming program year. In FY23, LCBH also proposes providing trainings on renters' rights for EWI partner organizations and their clients. These trainings could address several emergent topics including what to do if you've been received an eviction notice and how to take advantage of the new City of Chicago Right to Counsel Pilot Program, in which any low-income renter who receives an eviction filing is eligible for free legal representation. Trainings could cover how the program works and connects to the County's Early Resolution Program (where eligible renters facing eviction are provided mediation and brief services).

During the prior grant period, FY22, LCBH has worked with 30 Englewood households for a total of 105 people, 100% of which were led by women and 11 of those clients were referred by EWI partners to the agency. Half of these cases involved brief services related to conditions problems or eviction prevention, and the rest involved extended representation to prevent eviction (8 cases) or defend against eviction (7 cases). At least half of households identified COVID-19 hardship as a precipitating factor in their case.

Metropolitan Family Services		Award: \$25,000
<p>Project Name: Englewood Women's Initiative - FY 2023 Financial Opportunity Center of MFS</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds: Since 1857, Metropolitan Family Services has empowered families to learn, to earn, to heal and to thrive. Founded as the Chicago Relief and Aid Society, it has helped families get through the devastating hardships of poverty, world wars, epidemics and natural disasters. Throughout its long history it has reached out to help the young and old, unemployed and working poor, long-time citizens and new immigrants and those challenged by changing economics, troubled relationships, inadequate education and mental health issues. It has supported them with financial aid, counseling, education and legal services.</p> <p>The Calumet Center's Financial Opportunity Center (FOC), based at Kennedy King College, plans to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career planning services – skills assessment, job readiness skills, job placement, and transportation assistance • Financial literacy – one-to-one coaching, budgeting, and income support (accessing public benefits) • Education – with a particular emphasis on building employment bridges into healthcare and certified medical administrative assistant training • Digital literacy – basic computer skills – Microsoft Office Suite – digital literacy for personal growth and development – job readiness and technology <p>The Calumet Center has served south side Chicago families since 1955 with economic and workforce development, behavioral health and counseling, support for seniors, education, youth development, and family support. The FOC is based at Kennedy-King College of the City Colleges of Chicago and provides employment preparation, job placement, and financial literacy for unemployed and underemployed residents of Englewood, Washington Park, and Woodlawn. Partners with the program include the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the Illinois Department of Family and Supportive Services, the Employment Preparation and Placement Program, Kennedy-King College, Teamwork Englewood, Network of Woodlawn, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Innovative Bridge and Transition Program. Partners play a number of roles including hosting the program; providing funding, other resources, education or training; and linking the program to the communities it serves with support for outreach. In addition to its ongoing work, the FOC is able to refer EWI participants to the individual and family support programs provided by the Calumet Center.</p>		

The Englewood Women’s Initiative has helped the Financial Opportunity Center of the Calumet Center to:

- expand the services it offers clients and link more clients to services offered by the Calumet Center;
- expand the type of services that FOC staff can refer clients to at EWI partners outside the FOC; and;
- increase the number of clients in FOC programs overall and increase their retention in its programs.

In FY22, MFS have served 17 participants YTD and provided career planning services including skills assessment, job readiness skills, job placement, and transportation assistance; financial literacy with one-to-one coaching, budgeting, and income support (accessing public benefits); education with an emphasis on building employment bridges into healthcare and certified medical administrative assistant training; and digital literacy that included basic computer skills, experience with Microsoft Office Suite, digital literacy for personal growth and development, and overall job readiness and technology. In FY23, MFS’ FOC anticipates serving 20 participants in the EWI.

National Able Network		Award: \$25,000
<p>Project Name: Women’s Workforce Englewood: Action * Resources * Employment (WWE ARE)</p> <p>Proposed Use of Funds: National Able Network, Inc. (Able) is a leading workforce development organization whose mission is building equity through employment. Able is meeting this important moment in its history with compassion, leadership, and purpose, chartering a new path for businesses and job seekers to succeed. Able offers more than two dozen workforce programs, each of which is designed to address the specific needs of job seekers seeking new career pathways and economic security. With the support of CFW, Able offers its signature IT Career Lab program to aspiring information technology professionals. The program offers a unique 16-week integrated learning approach which includes personalized career coaching and direct job placement assistance. Every woman enrolled in the program receives a laptop computer and internet access along with the support of a dedicated program team.</p> <p>In FY22, approximately 20 women have learned about and/or participated in career coaching and training for new IT careers. Able receives referrals from the EWI network. Each woman receives a call from Able’s customer support staff and/or program staff. Able conducts a brief interview to assess the woman’s goals and needs. Once the individual’s needs are identified, staff recommend services and resources. Each woman is invited to attend orientation (currently conducted in a virtual format). After orientation, the woman completes their enrollment packet and is matched to a career coach to begin their career pathway. Of the women who have been referred to Able, the initial conversations can be challenging because most of the women referred have never had the opportunity to receive comprehensive, holistic assistance from an initiative like the Englewood Women’s Initiative. Of those most recently referred to Able, each woman shared her goals, which for the group has included GED attainment, attending college, or attending trade school. Of the women enrolled in Able’s workforce programs, they may remain enrolled for several months to more than a year as they pursue career training and placement services that best support their individual goals.</p> <p>National Able has learned through participating in the EWI that the referrals for women in need of workforce services are much broader than just the IT sector. Able has built stronger wither EWI partners and looks forward to continuing the project in the coming year. With its new Director of Workforce Services, a part of Able’s strategy is to expand its range of workforce services to include other high-growth industries such as transportation, business and professional services, and healthcare, among others. Because of the Foundation’s support, Able was also awarded a two-year grant through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), which will greatly expand the breadth of services and the number</p>		

of women Able can help transition into IT careers. In FY23, National Able intends to support 45 EWI participants.

Sista Afya Community Care

Award: \$20,000

Project Name: Holistic Mental Wellness Care for Black Women in Englewood

Proposed Use of Funds:

Sista Afya Community Care (Sista Afya or SACC) builds sustainable mental wellness communities by providing affordable and culturally-centered community mental wellness care and education. Sista Afya was founded in 2020 to respond to the mental health inequity impacting Black women in Chicago. By offering free mental wellness care, SACC makes mental wellness care achievable for women on the South Side of Chicago. SACC provides holistic mental wellness care to Black women. 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.

To date, Sista Afya has served over 300 people across all of its programs. In FY22, SSCC served over 100 people across all of its programs and was able to hire an additional full-time clinical therapist. SACC provides vital mental wellness care that can support women in Englewood with gaining stability and increasing community connection. It plans to collaborate with other partners by offering and sharing mental wellness opportunities that could benefit their constituents.

In FY23, Sista Afya Community Care will provide community mental wellness care including free individual therapy, wellness classes, and workshops to participants in the EWI. Women who are a part of the Englewood Women's Initiative will receive access to these community mental wellness services and receive support from other women who live with mental health conditions. Sista Afya Community Care will also provide 6 months of free therapy to a select number of EWI participants through its Thrive in Therapy program. Up to 10 EWI participants will receive free therapy on a weekly or biweekly basis with one of its therapists or clinical intern. Sista Afya Community Care will also reach at least 60 people through continuing to provide its free Mental Health First Aid training, which gives people tools on how to support others with mental health challenges and crises.

Teamwork Englewood

Award: \$70,000

Project Name: Englewood Women's Initiative

Proposed Use of Funds:

Teamwork Englewood (Teamwork or TWE) was formed in 2003 as part of the New Communities Program, sponsored by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the MacArthur Foundation. It serves as a capacity builder and a catalyst for positive community change focused on: safety, servicing special needs populations, and promoting the healthy lifestyles for all residents. It is committed to providing quality services aligned to best practices and dedicated to maintaining existing partnerships while creating new ones to continue to positively impact the quality of life in Englewood. Since then, Teamwork Englewood has grown to provide key services for the community. Its services have expanded to serve youth, parents, returning citizens, and women. Teamwork Englewood services 5,000 clients annually in after school programming, job training and placement, re-entry programs, and violence prevention activities. The organization also serves as the communities 'backbone' agency and continues to convene organizations and residents in the Englewood Quality of Life initiative (EQLI), from which the EWI was birthed in 2018.

Teamwork Englewood has functioned as a hybrid organization since the pandemic – having limited staff working in the office and limited staff working remotely. It has hosted more outreach events outdoors, which helped with recruitment for the EWI. The most significant change for Teamwork Englewood in response to the pandemic was extending services to help more families with emergency needs. These services included food distributions throughout the community, cash assistance, free internet sign up, digital literacy classes, and funds for employment transitions. Moving forward, Teamwork Englewood aims to expand its workforce development initiatives, create standard trainings and support for internet access and computer training. Teamwork Englewood also plans to expand how it supports youth, which indirectly supports women in our community as well. It has also recently secured one of the closed, vacant school buildings in the community and has plans to convert it to re-entry housing and programs. . Its recently hired on-site Health and Wellness Coordinator provides healthy learning resources to increase womens knowledge about health and wellness issues. Relatedly, its work in food access is set to grow in 2022: Teamwork is working to bring on SNAP and Medicaid benefits sign up and launch a food pantry and soup kitchen later in the year. Overall, it has a holistic, wraparound approach to thinking about and caring for Englewood residents.

TWE is well positioned to continue to provide services and resources for the EWI and serves in a lead agency role: it is the Englewood community’s central hub through which partnerships with other organizations and connections to women in Englewood are stewarded. In FY22, TWE provided services to 75 women with a goal to obtain profitable paying jobs enabling them to jumpstart their careers. The EWI resource coordinator successfully secured jobs for over 50% of the program’ clients. Teamwork surveyed about a third of those clients and discovered priority need areas in unemployment, salaries, transportation, childcare, and mental health and wellness. The surveys also discovered the need for additional job readiness and digital literacy training, specifically in response to a lack of computer skills that can hinder women from securing some job interviews/opportunities. The survey data and Census data reveal many residents do not have a GED or any post-secondary education. These findings have prompted a new partnership with Kennedy King College to help with GED programming and credit support for EWI participants.

One of its primary goals in 2022-23 is to onboard a new full-time EWI Resource Coordinator with a focus on job training and placement to support at least 75 clients in FY23. Teamwork will also be able to leverage its full-time job developer who provides services to returning citizens and individuals in need of employment. The onsite job developer boosts program capacity to match employment through job banks, job fairs, and referrals. Teamwork’s Digital Empowerment Workshop, Chicago Connect provides online digital learning workshops to women unprepared to go into the workforce because of a lack of computer skills. Teamwork now also has a partnership with Skills for Chicagoland’s Future, who recently created a satellite office across the hall from theirs, and creates solutions for employers to help the unemployed and underemployed return to the workforce. Another goal is to improve the EWI landing page on Teamwork’s websie to strengthen information sharing and outreach across the partnership as potential participants will have another touchpoint to understand the program and its offerings. Teamwork continues to prioritize community needs and develops strategies to be responsive to those needs, which benefits women in the EWI and the Englewood area more broadly.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago		Award: \$30,000
Project Name: YWCA Metropolitan Chicago - Englewood Women's Initiative		
<p>Proposed Use of Funds: Founded in 1876, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leading human service provider in the areas of sexual violence support services, early childhood and child care provider services, family support services, youth STEM programming, and</p>		

economic empowerment services. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is working at the individual and systems levels to create an inclusive marketplace where everyone thrives.

The YWCA is excited to continue to work as part of the Englewood Women's Initiative, with a longstanding presence (60+ years) on Chicago's South Side, experience in systems-level coordination of efforts, and a holistic service structure that assists women and families to move from surviving to thriving.

The YWCA will continue to make the following services available as part of the project, in order to ultimately increase economic security for Englewood women:

1. Career Services – including one-on-one empowerment coaching, digital inclusion training, dedicated career pathway opportunities in high-growth, high-demand industries, and success skills training
2. Small Business and Entrepreneurship Services – assisting entrepreneurs and small businesses with one-on-one advising, access to resources and capital, and education and training to strengthen and grow their businesses
3. Case Management – coordination of YWCA services and other external services through completion of a self-sufficiency survey tool to develop and prioritize individual service goals
4. Housing Inclusion and Sustainability – financial inclusion and housing assistance including rental assistance, foreclosure prevention, and home buying workshops
5. Sexual Violence Support Services – comprehensive crisis intervention and trauma-informed services including group and individual counseling, legal and medical advocacy, information and referral services
6. General Mental Health Counseling – in addition to sexual assault counseling, we provide general services to address stress, depression, anxiety, and family issues
7. Healthy Families Home Visiting Parent Support Services – provides parents and families with tools and supports they need to prepare children for healthy beginnings, address challenges and parental stressors, and improve parenting skills and knowledge of child development

In FY22, the YWCA supported 19 EWI participants and appointed two staff member liaisons to the partnership, including its Vice President of Economic Inclusion and Strategic Engagement and Manager of Wellness Network. It is now adding a third liaison, its Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist who will be responsible for directly connecting existing YWCA clients to the services of other EWI participating agencies, coordinating the efforts of directing all participants from EWI partners to receive YWCA services, and data entry. It is bringing in the community engagement specialist to do more direct engagement with other EWI agencies. The YWCA plans to develop a resource guide and a plan on how to connect more of its YWCA clients directly to those partners. Its goal through this partnership is to be a resource to those who need services and to connect clients with the services of the partnering agencies. The YWCA anticipates serving 30 EWI participants in FY23.

Being a partner in EWI has yielded significant benefits for the YWCA: the partnership has allowed it to engage with other agencies and services that we may not have engaged with prior. It allows the YWCA to refer clients to a trusted partner within the network. When clients are experiencing trauma or need support it is overwhelming for them to have to figure out how to access the care they need. Through this initiative, a group of service providers are readily available and easily accessible without having to go through red tape and multiple phone calls to connect clients to the services they need to gain economic and emotional stability.