

chicago foundation for women

2022 Spring Grant Making – West Side Giving Circle

Black Girls Break Bread	West Side Giving Circle	Award: \$5,000
	Health	

Project Name: General Operating Support		
Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Black Girls Break Bread is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides social emotional wellness programming for Black women and girls with a focus on improving overall health and wellness and reducing racial disparities.		
<p>Black Girls Break Bread continues to seeks to establish and enhance a pilot for a collaborative care model between FQHCs, local hospitals, community-based organizations and cross-sector entities and agencies in maternity-care deserts to increase access to maternity-care in underserved communities on Chicago’s South Side. The intersection of institutions in creating an equitable landscape is critical. The concept that Black Girls Break Bread will leverage is moving beyond collective impact to collaborate for equity and justice. Though our non-profit organization began with a focus on providing cultural-based interventions through the creation of intergenerational safe spaces as a means of social and emotional wellness it strengthened its advocacy and policy reform work. These injustices manifest in increased anxiety-related responses, chronic physical illnesses, and severe mental health disorders. Therefore, the need for mental health services increases among those who experience these injustices while residing in places where they are food insecure and/or encounter issues with food quality. The primary focus of our mission is to advocate and support the health and wellness of our communities. Since the Covid-19 pandemic not only have we provided food and essential goods to those experiencing food insecurity, masks and baby supplies for pregnant and postpartum persons, but we have also been collaborating with licensed Black women therapists to provide free access to mental health services. This is an initiative that additional funding and support would allow us to continue and expand and specifically provide access to all pregnant, postpartum, birthing persons, and single mothers.</p>		

Project Exploration	West Side Giving Circle	Award: \$5,000
	Economic Security	

Project Name: Sisters4Science: Promoting Economic Mobility for Girls in South and West Chicago		
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.

Taproots, Inc.	West Side Giving Circle Freedom from Violence	Award: \$10,000
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Project Name: General Operating Support

Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds:

Taproots' mission is to deliver social and educational outreach prevention, life skills, parenting and cultural arts programs to at risk youth, adults, and families that promote positive life and health choices, and foster a climate favorable for personal growth, development, and change. Taproots strives to improve the quality of life among those we serve by empowering them with knowledge and skills that help to motivate and encourage responsible decision-making, healthy life choices, positive parenting, self-sufficiency, non-violent problem solving/conflict resolution, as well as, build strong character, self-esteem and healthy family systems.

Taproots accomplishes its mission through our three core programs.

1. Our Imani Nia Cultural Arts Outreach Program partners with After School Matters to provide at risk teen girls with opportunities to explore and develop their talents, while gaining critical skills for work, college and beyond.
2. Through our Education for Life Prevention and Life Skills Program, Taproots partners on-site with local schools and community-based organizations to empower youth and adults with knowledge and skills to make responsible decisions and healthy life choices.
3. Our Family Life Outreach Parenting program partners with schools and community based organizations to promote healthy and resilient family systems. We accomplish this by providing educational workshops and discussion sessions for adolescent and adult parents regarding positive parenting techniques, family violence prevention, life skills, and healthy living.