

chicago foundation for women

2022 Spring Grant Making – Women of Color United Giving Circle Awards

Sexpectations Chicago	Women of Color United Giving Council Health	Award: \$2,500
<p>Project Name: General Operating Support</p> <p>Organization Description and Proposed Use of Funds: Sexpectations is a Black & brown femme-led 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 harmreduction lens.</p> <p>Our workshops were created to provide youth the tools and resources to navigate relationships and sex through discussions about decision-making, consent, and sexuality. We intentionally offer workshops to Black & brown youth because we resemble them and their experiences, and because these groups are disproportionately affected by systemic racism, higher rates of STIs, violence and unintended pregnancies. From our training and personal experiences, we have created workshops that function as safe, sex-positive spaces that encourage healthy dialogue to benefit their relationships and sexual lives. Workshop topics include body development, consent & boundaries, safer sex practices, STIs & stigma, and gender-based violence.</p>		

Step Up For Mental Health	Women of Color United Giving Council Health	Award: \$2,500
<p>Project Name: Step Up For Mental Health® Community Programs and Development</p> <p>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.</p>		