



THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST  
AND AFFILIATES

**Requests for Proposals: Addressing Critical Needs – Promoting Wellbeing**

<b>RFP Release Date:</b>	<b>March 12, 2021</b>
<b>Information Session:</b>	<b>March 18, 2021 3:00 p.m. <a href="#">RSVP</a></b>
<b>LOI Deadline:</b>	<b>April 14, 2021</b>
<b>Full Application Deadline:</b>	<b>May 21, 2021</b>
<b>Funding Decisions:</b>	<b>June 30, 2021</b>
<b>Announcements:</b>	<b>Week of June 28, 2021</b>

**Chicago Community Trust Overview:**

For more than 100 years, The Chicago Community Trust has convened, supported, funded, and accelerated the work of community members and changemakers committed to strengthening the Chicago region. From spearheading our response to the Great Depression and Great Recession to building up our civic infrastructure to the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trust has brought our community together to face pressing challenges and seize our greatest opportunities. Today, that means confronting the region’s racial and ethnic wealth gap.

We believe our response to economic disparities will determine our region’s future. Our vision is a thriving, equitable and connected Chicago region where people of all races, places and identities have the opportunity to reach their potential. To achieve this, we will:

- [Connect philanthropy to impact](#) to increase giving that leverages the expertise of the Trust to mobilize resources that advance equity and opportunity.
- [Address critical needs](#) to provide stability to individuals, families and communities throughout the region.
- [Build collective power](#) to engage and amplify community voice to create positive change within disinvested Black and Latinx communities.
- [Catalyze neighborhood investment](#) to revitalize disinvested Black and Latinx communities.
- [Grow household wealth](#) to increase the share in economic prosperity for Black and Latinx individuals and families.

**Need/Opportunity Statement:**

In Chicago, [65 percent of Black and Latinx households live on the financial edge](#), where a loss of three months’ income would push them below the poverty line, compared to 28 percent of white Chicagoans. The demographic data consistently show that Black and Latinx residents are disproportionately impacted by homelessness, food insecurity and homicides due to gun violence. Too many of our residents are experiencing economic hardship, which harms the overall health of the entire region.

The Chicago Community Trust’s new strategy to close the racial and ethnic wealth gap is focusing its resources and influence on disrupting the policies and systems that undergird the economic inequity in

the region. Many Chicago families face unstable living situations—insecurity in housing, barriers accessing health services and nutritious food—or are living in unsafe circumstances. The Trust recognizes that a strong, resilient community is one that is inclusive and provides residents regardless of age, status, and/or ability the opportunity to meet one’s potential.

**Under this Request for Proposal, the Trust seeks organizations that promote wellbeing with targeted interventions for people in need of support at different times throughout one’s lifespan, such as trauma-impacted children and youth, people with disabilities facing economic instability, and low-income aging adults experiencing unstable living conditions. Additionally, The Trust seeks to support organizations that approach this work through family-centered or inter-generational program design.**

**An Infrastructure of Care**

The Trust supports organizations that address the critical needs of our residents. This includes resources for organizations that build an infrastructure of caregiving through initiatives that advocate for caregivers and services that provide care to residents in need of support including children exposed to trauma, people with disabilities, and aging adults.

*Trauma-Impacted Children and Youth*

Trauma can happen at any age, but we know that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as experiencing violence, abuse or neglect, experiencing or witnessing family or community violence, loss of loved ones, substance abuse, and displacement from home or loss of housing can have an enormous impact on health and wellbeing over the course of a person’s life. While anyone can experience ACEs, children of color are disproportionately impacted by ACEs due to systemic racism and economic inequities embedded in our communities and neighborhoods. The Trust seeks to partner with organizations that are preventing risk factors and creating spaces for caregivers and communities to build protective factors so that children can grow and learn in stable and healthy environments. This includes a variety of family and community approaches, but are not limited to:

Providing high quality childcare that meets needs of low-income families	Integrating social-emotional learning into youth-centered programming	Mentoring that is long-term, community-based and on a one-to-one basis	Supporting youth impacted by violence and victimization with culturally competent services
Family-centered treatment for substance abuse	Strengthening household financial security, including youth employment	Access to enhanced primary care (medical and mental health)	

*People with Disabilities*

Disability is a natural part of the human experience. In the Chicago region, there are over 800,000 people with disabilities, 400,000 of whom identify as people of color. Specifically, in the city of Chicago, almost two-thirds of people with disabilities are people of color. People with disabilities may need care or access to supports, as do all of us, in order to lead active, purposeful lives and participate in society to the fullest extent. The Trust looks to resource organizations that provide consumer-driven supports for independent living and lives of dignity. The Trust seeks organizations whose core work is to close the

disparities in education and employment for people with disabilities. Organizations may also provide supportive housing, service or support animals, and inclusive job training and modification services.

### *Aging Adults*

Overall, people are living longer, healthier lives. Ten thousand people turn 65 every day. The Trust supports programs that offer dignity and provide care that empowers aging adults to thrive. A recent study on aging adults reported that “More than 34 percent of the state population of Illinois is above the age of 50 and continues to age. Of Illinoisans above the age of 50, more than a third are African American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, or Asian American/Pacific Islander. In large population centers, such as suburban Cook County and Chicago, one-half to two-thirds of older adults are of color.”<sup>1</sup> The report details the economic and health disparities that aging adults of color experience compared to their white counterparts. The Trust seeks to fund organizations whose core work is to decrease racial disparities in financial stability and health outcomes for older adults. The Trust will also consider the wraparound services needed to support aging adults to live with stability, health and overall wellness.

**The Promoting Wellbeing Request for Proposal will fund organizations that provide evidence-based, consumer-driven interventions that help populations in need of support to thrive and maintain stability. Preference will be given to organizations led by people of color (for example, the composition of senior staff and/or governance boards) and place-based organizations rooted in Black and Latinx communities in the metropolitan Chicago region.**

### **Two-Generation or Multi-Generation Approaches – Supporting the Entire Family**

According to Caring Across Generations, 80 percent of care is provided by family members and 43.5 million caregivers are unpaid. Support for families and caregivers is essential to building the infrastructure needed so that all of us can lead happier, healthier lives.

Family-centered program design is a best practice for organizations that are working across generations. Supporting a spectrum of people across the lifespan from our youngest and most in need of support, to children and teens pursuing education, to adults in the workforce, and to aging adults who are living longer, family-centered program design creates an integrated multi-generational system of coordinated services. Listening to families, creating programs and services based on their needs, and viewing our systems and structures for care from their vantage point will highlight the existing gender and racial disparities that exist and enable us to transform them. Families can gain educational success and economic stability and increase health and wellbeing for children, parents and elders.

Direct service organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations that focus on advocacy, public policy and technical assistance are not excluded but must demonstrate how they strengthen service delivery for caregivers or populations in need of care.

## **PROJECT DETAILS**

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<sup>1</sup> “Disrupt Disparities: Challenges & Solutions for 50+ Illinoisans of Color.” AARP Research, February, 2021. <https://aarp-states.brightspotcdn.com/d4/fb/754cc35c4ff98366eb03bcb6f058/final-aarp-disrupt-disparities-report.pdf>

The Chicago Community Trust is seeking organizations that use family-centered program design or inter-generational approaches to caregiving and whose core missions are to provide services in one or more of the following domains:

- Addressing trauma for children and youth (Ages 0-24)
- Advancing inclusion of people with disabilities by increasing opportunities for employment and education
- Improving the lives of aging adults with supportive services that promote wellbeing or financial stability

Priority will be given to initiatives that support Black and Latinx populations and advance community-led solutions. Successful proposals will demonstrate efforts that are working across sectors and intersecting at different domains. Please indicate how the direct services advance racial equity for specific populations.

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST RELEASED: March 12, 2021

NOTIFICATION OF INVITATION TO APPLY: May 3, 2021

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD: June 30, 2021

**Collection of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Demographic Data:** The Trust asks that grant seekers provide demographic data on board and staff as well as clients or beneficiaries of programs and services. The Trust believes the board and staff composition of grant recipients should be inclusive and reflect the diversity of the demographics of the individuals they serve and the region. Diversity for the Trust encompasses but is not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation and identification, age, economic circumstance, class, disability, geography, and philosophy. For this reason, the Trust does take into consideration the demographic makeup of the board, staff and clients of a grant applicant as an important proposal evaluation criterion.

#### **Grantmaking Criteria:**

If your organization is invited to submit a full proposal, the Trust will evaluate your organization's capacity to promote wellbeing across one's lifespan in the human services sector, centering equity, and using best practices based on evidence. Criteria for general operating grants will include:

- Established expertise in promoting wellbeing through high quality services that use family-centered program design and/or an inter-generational approach to caregiving.
- Preference for organizations led by people of color (for example, the composition of senior staff and/or governance boards) and place-based organizations in Black and Latinx communities.
- Evidence that the direct service programming is advancing racial equity for the specific populations served.
- Ability to demonstrate feedback and decision-making authority from individuals with lived experience or close proximity to the stated challenges.

#### **Grant Amounts Available and Grant Term:**

The general operating grants are designed to support organizations over a three-year period. Organizations may provide direct services that promote wellbeing on a local, state, or federal level, but must indicate how residents of the metropolitan Chicago region benefit. The total amount available for the Addressing Critical Needs – Promoting Wellbeing grants is \$2,000,000, with grants

ranging between **\$50,000** and **\$100,000** for each year. Grant sizes will vary based on organizational size, depth of services and acute need. **This is a multi-year grant for three years.** Total awards for the three-year grant terms will be between \$150,000 and \$300,000. The Trust estimates it will make between 20 and 30 grant awards. These grants will support **general operations**, and grant recipients will be required to indicate measures of progress annually. Grant recipients are also expected to meet the Trust's requirements for the submission of financial and narrative annual reports and a final report at the end of the three-year term. The Trust values the reports as an important opportunity for mutual learning, engagement and advocacy.

### **Eligible Applicants:**

An applicant must be:

- An organization with evidence that (a) the Internal Revenue Service has recognized it as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or (b) is fiscally sponsored by Section 501(c)(3) organization.
- Located within or primarily serving residents of the Chicago metropolitan area (City of Chicago, Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties)
- An organization that does not have an existing general operating grant from The Chicago Community Trust.

### **Ineligible Uses:**

The Addressing Critical Needs – Promoting Well Being grants cannot be used for the following activities:

- Core work solely in advocacy, policy or research
- Proposals that do not reflect the priority strategies and activities outlined above
- Proposals that do not abide by the grantmaking criteria outlined above
- Applicants that do not meet the Eligible Applicants requirements outlined above
- Capital campaigns or endowments
- Inherently religious activities

**Prohibition of Electioneering and Political Activities:** No part of the funds from the Trust may be used for electioneering or political activities. Funds cannot be used for contributions to any candidate for public office or political committee and shall not be used to intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

### **Evaluation and Learning:**

The Chicago Community Trust is committed to achieving its long-term goal of closing the racial and ethnic wealth gap and realizing the vision of a thriving, equitable and connected Chicago region where people of all races, places and identities have the opportunity to reach their potential. Part of achieving that goal is addressing the critical needs of residents to promote wellbeing and, in the long term, provide opportunities for residents to increase civic participation.

As part of the application process, the Trust is developing a new outcomes-tracking approach in collaboration with grant recipients. When reflecting on the outcomes of your organization's promoting wellbeing efforts to address critical needs, consider how your organization tracks progress toward the outcomes focused on increasing the stability of residents and, ultimately, civic engagement. If

invited to apply, organizations will submit their proposed outcomes, measurement approach and baseline information (if available). Recognizing the direct services to promote wellbeing are multi-year in nature, organizations will be asked to share measures of progress, which are benchmarks towards achieving the outcome. As a peer learning effort, cohort participants will meet several times throughout the grant period to refine collective measures of progress, share key learning, reflect on best practices and progress towards achieving shared outcomes.

During the application process, applicants will be able to choose from a set of measures of progress aligned to several short-term outcomes to report on throughout the life of the grant. These outcomes reflect the priorities of the RFP and signal ways that organizations can contribute to 1) Increasing responsiveness to acute needs in ways that are innovative and adaptable and/or 2) Building cross-sector cohesion and stronger community attachment over time. We are asking that organizations choose between 3-5 outcomes and the associated measures of progress to document advancement of the outcome over the time period of the grant. Grant recipients will report on progress annually. As this is a new approach for the Trust, we recognize that organizations may have recommendations for other approaches to measure progress. This is an opportunity to add additional measures that your organization collects aligned to these outcomes. The short-term outcomes informed by the measures of progress are as follows:

- **Increase the effectiveness of direct service organizations:** Describes changes in staffing and service provision to increase the organization's delivery of effective services.
- **Increase organization or coalition capacity:** Captures the change in organizational or coalition capacity.
- **Escalate awareness/Salience of issues:** Documents an organization's or coalition's efforts to raise the importance of an issue with key audiences and stakeholders.
- **Expand the scope, scale and replication of effective programs:** Reflects the progress of the organization to expand or deepen services.
- **Strengthen the organizational infrastructure to provide effective services:** Documents the organization's efforts to establish and maintain their role as a key partner in the community.

### **Expected Grant Support:**

Grant recipients can expect to gain the following:

#### **Cohort support**

Grant recipients will join a network of human service organizations working across sectors and domains actively participating in a learning journey of national best practices to increase the number of Chicago-area residents moving toward stability. As part of the cohort, an organization will help refine short-term outcomes and long-term indicators of progress towards increasing wellbeing for the region.

#### **Organizational support**

Grant recipients will have strengthened organizational capacity with general operating funds. General operating support is an unrestricted grant to advance an organization's core mission rather than specific projects or programs.

**Application Process:**

All Letters of Interest and full applications must be submitted via the Trust’s online grant application portal, [GrantCentral](#). LOIs are not accepted via email.

To submit the LOI, applicants must complete their respective Organization Profile. The Organization Profile is located on the last tab within the GrantCentral navigation bar. If the Organization Profile was completed for previous funding, please review and, if needed, update and certify your Organization Profile prior to submission. To access the application, log in to GrantCentral at <https://cct.smartsimple.com>.

Phase I of the process is submitting Letters of Interest for Addressing Critical Needs-Promoting Wellbeing. Based on the strongest alignment with the criteria and availability of funding, organizations will be invited to submit a full application through GrantCentral.

**Submission Deadlines and Other Key Dates:**

DATE	STAGE	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY
3/12/2021	PHASE I	Release request for Letter of Interest for Promoting Wellbeing
4/14/2021	PHASE I	Letters of Interest due via GrantCentral
3/18/2021 at 3 p.m.	PHASE I	Information session: RSVP <a href="#">HERE</a>
05/03/2021	PHASE II	Issue invitations to submit full proposal for Promoting Wellbeing
05/21/2021	PHASE II	Proposals for Promoting Wellbeing grants due via GrantCentral
06/30/2021	PHASE II	Notification of Promoting Wellbeing grant awards

Please note that PHASE II only applies to organizations The Chicago Community Trust invites to submit a full application. Due to budgetary constraints, not all organizations that submit a Letter of Interest will be invited to apply for a grant.

**INFORMATION SESSION**

An Information session will be held virtually on **Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. CST**. ASL services will be provided. Please inform Laura Gutierrez at [lgutierrez@cct.org](mailto:lgutierrez@cct.org) by March 16<sup>th</sup> if other reasonable accommodations would allow participants to more fully participate in the session.

Interested applicants may RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/the-chicago-community-trust-17868355022>

The Information session **is not a mandatory requirement** to submit a letter of interest. Please note that the information session will be recorded and posted on our website.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

For technical questions regarding GrantCentral, email [grants@cct.org](mailto:grants@cct.org)  
For programmatic questions, email Anna Lee at [alee@cct.org](mailto:alee@cct.org) or Joanne Otte at [jotte@cct.org](mailto:jotte@cct.org)