



THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY



## Catalyzing investment in neighborhoods, for a stronger and more resilient Chicago region

### Why Catalyze Neighborhood Investment?

Thriving neighborhoods are critical to building a strong, prosperous region. As part of the Trust's strategy to close the Chicago regions's racial and ethnic wealth gap, we're funding key opportunities to generate more investment for neighborhood revitalization led by Black and Latinx communities.

### Flexible Resources Fuel Community-Driven Revitalization

Community-based organizations—chambers of commerce, community councils, community development corporations, and others—are key drivers of neighborhood revitalization. They work with residents and businesses on community plans, support entrepreneurs, and do much of the heavy lifting to secure funding for local initiatives. Unfortunately, these groups have also been historically undercapitalized or dependent on restricted grant dollars for their projects.

To help community-based organizations build their capacity, plan for sustainable futures, and move forward on community issues that attract capital, the Trust is offering three types of flexible funding grants:

#### General Operating

Increases financial stability and provides flexibility to innovate

#### Capacity Building

Supports work to improve operations and management

#### Collaborative

Enables participation in collaborative work leading to social and economic change



*"It really took a weight off of our shoulders over the last two years to know that we had this funding coming in that wasn't tied to a reimbursement process. As a result of the flexible funding grant, we didn't miss a beat with our programming and were able to focus on our mission of continuously improving the quality of life for all residents of our communities."*

*-Rhonda McFarland, Executive Director,  
Quad Communities Development Corporation*

Revitalizing disinvested neighborhoods benefits the entire Chicago region. Together we can support more organizations that will make the biggest difference in our communities.

## Supporting Organizations

The Flexible Funding Program also funds third-party service providers that work directly with place-based organizations in Black and Latinx neighborhoods to strengthen their impact. Qualifying services include technical assistance, consulting, training and skills building, and back-office assistance. Grants to supporting organizations are by invitation only. To receive Flexible Funding support, the work of the supporting organizations must align with the Trust's Catalyzing Neighborhood Investment strategy.

**Since 2020, the Trust has provided flexible funding grants to 22 organizations that are led by people of color and use community-centered approaches to neighborhood revitalization.**



*"Organizations like ours are on the ground every day, connecting with people, hearing their stories, and helping ensure needs are met. We cannot move the needle and do the work of our mission without building our own organizational infrastructure. The flexible funding has helped the Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce expand our staff and understand where we're headed so we can make more strategic decisions going forward."*

*-Felicia Young, Executive Director,  
Greater Englewood Chamber of Commerce*

*"As a growing organization, the flexible funding program has allowed us to grow with intention and create programs that are responsive to the community. We were able to launch a storefront business incubator program and identify opportunities to build capacity all the way from our board of directors to staffing and programming. This funding has allowed for us to be flexible, responsive, and resilient. We are stronger for that."*

*-Jason Estremera, Executive Director,  
Northwest Side Community Development Corporation*



## Let's Strengthen Our Communities and Region

Driving additional capital to the revitalization that is underway in Chicagoland's Black and Latinx communities moves us closer to building stronger neighborhoods and, ultimately, a stronger Chicago region. With your support, we can fund even more organizations to do this vital work.

Contact Michael Davidson, at [mdavidson@cct.org](mailto:mdavidson@cct.org), to learn about partnership opportunities.