



NUESTRO FUTURO  
AN INITIATIVE of



THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY TRUST  
EQUITY • OPPORTUNITY • PROSPERITY

## Requests for Proposals: Nuestro Futuro FY'24

### Timeline

<b>RFP Release Date:</b>	3/8/2024
<b>Info/T.A. Session</b>	3/19/2024 at 11 AM Central Time (Virtual) <a href="#">Watch the recording here.</a>
<b>Full Application Deadline:</b>	4/8/2024
<b>Site Visits:</b>	June 2024
<b>Funding Decisions:</b>	July 2024

### Background:

Nuestro Futuro has been investing in the future of the Chicago region's Latine community since 2003. As the largest philanthropic affinity fund of its kind in the nation, we support local organizations working to improve the quality of life for Latine people. Over the last 20 years, NF has granted over \$4 million to 70 plus organizations working in the areas of early childhood education and immigration services.

### Need/Opportunity Statement

The Latine community is the second-largest racial/ethnic group in Chicago with large established communities in the Southwest and Northwest sides of the city, and growing communities in the Southeast and the Northeast sides as well as in the suburbs. In these communities, Latine people are experiencing disproportionate economic hardship, which includes housing conditions, poverty, unemployment, education levels, and income levels. These issues have been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its grant-making, Nuestro Futuro is making key investments that will have immediate and lasting impact in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education** | According to the Latino Policy Forum, Latine children represent one in every four students in Illinois schools and face obstacles in obtaining a quality education. Before children enter kindergarten, a six-month education gap exists between Latine students and their peers, and it continues to grow as only one-third of Latines enroll in preschool programs due to limited access. In fall 2021, Chicago Public Schools reported that elementary school enrollment dropped at higher rates in predominately Latine neighborhoods. These statistics go on to affect high school and higher education enrollment for Latine students, which has a severe impact on the workforce opportunities for the community. These factors exemplify the continuing need to support Latine early education funding.
- Immigrant Services** | 2023 brought in a large influx of asylum seekers from the southern U.S. border via bus, train, and planes. As the city and surrounding areas grapple with how to meet the needs of the newly arrived, support of immigration rights and services is more crucial now than ever. Nuestro Futuro plans to stay at the forefront of this timely and pressing issue by continuing to fund organizations providing these services in addition to continuing to fund the long-standing immigration issues our Latine population has faced for decades.

### **Priority Strategies and Activities:**

Nuestro Futuro is seeking organizations that provide culturally competent services and/or seek to address root causes. Applicants may seek general operating support in the following areas:

- Early Childhood Education
  - Early childhood education programs should focus on children ages 0-6 and have an established school readiness curriculum that covers aspects of development including social, emotional, cognitive, physical, cultural, and linguistic. Past grants have also included resources for bilingual staff and parent engagement programs in early learning.
- Immigrant Services
  - Support in this area includes programs for legal and financial services, pathways to citizenship and naturalization, and community engagement/advocacy. With the recent influx of asylum seekers, Nuestro Futuro will also focus on supporting the basic needs of new arrivals including mental health, housing, and access to resources.

***Updated 3/19/24: Applicants will be asked to select a portfolio when submitting their application. Applicants may apply under both portfolios; however, a separate application must be submitted for each portfolio.***

### **Eligible Applicants:**

To be eligible for a Nuestro Futuro grant award, an applicant must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Latine-serving: Organization must serve a clientele that is at least 51% Latine-identifying
- Priority will be given to organizations that are Latine-led, defined as having an Latine-identified Executive Director, a Board make-up that is at least 51% Latine-identified, or at least 51% of senior staff that is Latine-identified.
- Provide services that align with NF's Early Childhood Education or Immigrant Services priorities (applicants will select one priority area when applying)
- A nonprofit organization with evidence that it:
  - has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code; **or**
  - is fiscally sponsored by a Section 501(c)(3) organization; **or**
  - is a governmental unit within the meaning of Section 170(c)(1) of the Code.
- Described in Section 170(b)(1)(A) of the Code, other than a "disqualified supporting organization" within the meaning of Section 4966(d)(4) of the Code; and
- Serve residents in the Chicago metropolitan area, including Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and/or Will Counties, Illinois

### **Grantmaking Criteria:**

This is an open call competitive grant opportunity. Returning grant recipients from 2023 are welcome to apply.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment with Nuestro Futuro's priorities
- Demonstrated history and proficiency in working with target population
- Collaboration with community partners
- Clear proposal with relevant and attainable goals
- Organizational health and sustainability
- History of successful program implementation and impact

**Grant Amounts Available and Grant Term:**

- \$10,000 to \$20,000 in general operating support
- The term for this cycle is one year

**Ineligible Uses**

*Grants may not be used for capital campaigns or improvements, endowments, fundraising events, partisan political activities, or to support individuals.*

**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/beneficiaries of programs and services. The Trust believes that the board and staff composition of grantees should be inclusive and reflect the diversity of the demographics of the region and the individuals they serve. 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 make-up of the board, staff and clients of a grant applicant as an important proposal evaluation criterion.

**Application Process:**

Applicants must complete their application for the [“**Nuestro Futuro – June 2024**”] via GrantCentral, The Chicago Community Trust’s online grants management system. To access an application, grant seekers must log into GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/>.

Applicants must complete an Organization Profile to submit an application for funding. If the Organization Profile was completed for a previous funding opportunity, it must be reviewed and, if needed, updated and certified prior to application submission.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Applicants may receive a site visit, telephone call or other communication from Trust staff and/or Nuestro Futuro grantmaking committee members as part of the application review process.

Sponsored organizations without 501(c)(3) status must identify their fiscal sponsor as soon as possible and ask them to complete an organization profile in The Chicago Community Trust’s grants management system, GrantCentral, prior to the sponsored organization’s application submission. Fiscal sponsors must log in and complete and certify an organization profile in GrantCentral at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/> prior to application submission.

**Technical Assistance Session:**

There will be a virtual info session hosted on March 19, 2024, at 11 AM Central. [Click here](#) to register. The session will be recorded.

**Contact Information:**

For technical questions regarding GrantCentral, email [grants@cct.org](mailto:grants@cct.org).

For programmatic and application content questions, email Carrie Goodale, Affinity Funds Coordinator, at [cgoodale@cct.org](mailto:cgoodale@cct.org).