



The LGBTQ Community Fund of The Chicago Community Trust is seeking the support of individuals and organizations in the Chicago area to identify and nominate candidates to join its Steering Committee in 2026.

The Fund is seeking nominees that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Reflect the diversity of lived experiences within the LGBTQ community in the Chicago region, particularly those of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), TGNC (trans* and gender non-conforming), and disabled community members.
- Have a connection to and understanding of the social service and nonprofit sector supporting the LGBTQ+ community in the Chicago region.
- Have past fundraising experience, including an understanding of the philanthropic landscape of the Chicago region.

The LGBTQ Community Fund steering committee sets the strategic direction and activities of the Fund, including grantmaking and fundraising.

Timeline and process

Nominations will be accepted **through January 4, 2026**. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Nominations can be submitted [via this form](#) and should include the nominee's name, contact information, and a brief narrative statement describing how the candidate meets the above criteria.

The selection process will include review of application materials and an interview with Steering Committee co-chairs and/or governance committee members that will be scheduled between late January to mid-February of 2026. The Steering Committee will approve new Steering Committee members to fill **two to four open spots** by the end of February 2026.

New Steering Committee members' terms will begin in March 2026.

Steering Committee Member Expectations

- Commit to a three-year term, subject to one renewal.
- Assist in carrying out the mission and vision of the LGBTQ Community Fund.
- Attend and participate in at least four meetings of the Steering Committee annually, which currently occur six times a year on a bi-monthly basis. Please see the 2026 meeting schedule below.
- Assist in fundraising, including an annual \$5,000 give-or-get commitment, with an emphasis on new donors, especially from outside the community.

- Join and actively engage in one of the Steering Committee's 4 subcommittees:
 - Connections and Engagement: The Connections and Engagement Subcommittee (1) brings together committee members, grantees, prospective grantees, and donors, (2) increases visibility, shares stories, and communicates impact of the Fund, (3) facilitates synergies across the LGBTQ community, and (4) gathers information and knowledge from the community to inform grantmaking, including through community needs assessment.
 - Development/Fundraising: Leads fundraising efforts for the Fund, including identifying and soliciting individual, foundation, and corporate prospects, planning fundraising events, and supporting communications.
 - Grants: Leads the annual grantmaking process for the Fund, including developing the annual request for proposals, reviewing grant submissions, leading site visits, and making award recommendations.
 - Governance: Responsible for board recruitment, engagement, and education, as well as ensuring the processes for our work have integrity and transparency.
- Be an advocate for the LGBTQ Community Fund by helping build bridges within the Chicago region's LGBTQ communities and with partners.
- Be a team player for the LGBTQ Community Fund, working to build consensus for the decisions of the Fund and supporting those decisions once made.

2026 LGBTQ Community Fund Steering Committee meeting dates:

- Week of January 26 – 30, 2026 (Virtual)
- Saturday, March 21, 2026 (In-person retreat)
- Week of May 11 to 15, 2026 (In person)
- Week of July 20 – 24, 2026 (Virtual)
- Week of September 14 – 15, 2026 (Virtual)
- Week of November 16 – 20, 2026 (In person)

Please reach out to us at lgbtq@cct.org with any questions.

The Chicago Community Trust is a community foundation that is dedicated to ensuring opportunity and prosperity are within reach for everyone in our region. As a charitable community, we know that many of our communities have been historically under-resourced, including by philanthropy. The LGBTQ Community Fund is a group of donors who seek opportunities to address those historic gaps, which will help strengthen the entire Chicago region. When our neighbors do better, we all do better.