

The **Young Leaders Fund (YLF)**, an initiative of The Chicago Community Trust, supports small nonprofits serving neighborhoods across the Chicago region. Founded in 1994, YLF has awarded more than \$2 million in grants to over 300 organizations with operating budgets under \$250,000.

YLF focuses its funding in three key areas: **Arts & Culture, Youth Development & Education, and Economic Development & Innovation**. YLF grants are invite-only, with a typical grant size of \$5,000.



Learn more

As a member of YLF, you will:

- Complete **eligibility research and conduct phone screenings and site visits** to **determine organizations to invite to apply** for funding for this year's grant cycle.
- **Work alongside one or two local nonprofits** and support them as they submit an application for funding.
- Commit to attending a **90-minute monthly meeting November - June** (meetings are in-person, with a virtual option as needed).
- **Donate \$50** or more as a membership fee to support the future of YLF.

YLF brings together young people seeking innovative ways to make a meaningful impact in their community through collective giving and the chance to practice effective philanthropy through hands-on grantmaking. The Trust and YLF leadership provide administrative support, grant processing, and mentorship, helping YLF members become informed, productive philanthropic volunteers. **No prior grantmaking or nonprofit knowledge is needed: just a willingness to learn and a desire to support the Chicago community.**



The Chicago Community Trust, the region's community foundation, connects people and resources to accelerate progress on what matters most for Chicago to thrive.

YLF is one of six affinity funds at the Trust. Affinity funds are groups of donors united by a shared heritage, identity, or common interest who pool their resources to support specific communities or causes.

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