Updated: November 2026

THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST®

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Resources for Grant Partners and Seekers

This is meant as a resource for existing and prospective grant partners seeking capacity-building services or other technical assistance. The following are organizations we are aware of, but it is not a comprehensive list. While some may offer pro bono services, some may also be associated with a cost.

1. AMPT Chicago: is committed to strengthening the organizational health and supports long-term development of small nonprofits on Chicago's west and south sides.
2. BDO - Explore new possibilities and address challenges with strategies designed for nonprofit & education organizations.
3. BoardSource - BoardSource envisions a future where the nonprofit community has the leadership to fulfill its purpose and create a just world where all can thrive. Our specific nonprofit mission is to inspire and support nonprofit boards and executives to lead justly and with purpose.
4. Catalyst Impact Studio - We help nonprofits turn plans into progress. Through hands-on workshops and coaching, teams build an operating rhythm for setting priorities, sharing work, and following through. They gain agility and resilience to execute key initiatives, such as operationalizing a strategic plan.
5. The Coalition - offers capacity building, technical assistance and leadership development for grassroots organizations in Chicago.
6. Compass Pro Bono – Compass Pro Bono forges lasting ties between local nonprofits and local business professionals to empower thriving, equitable, resilient communities.
7. Forefront: Forefront's mission is to build a vibrant social impact sector for all the people of Illinois. They provide education, advocacy, and thought leadership, and facilitate collective action around issues that are important to our members and to the sector.
8. Forefront Nonprofit Resilience Hub: The Nonprofit Resilience Hub is a confidential, collaborative resource for Illinois nonprofits with operating budgets of $10 million or less that are affected by federal actions. It offers a structured starting point to help organizations, assess challenges inherent in a changing federal landscape, and identify pathways forward.

THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST®

9. Independent Sector - We envision a charitable sector that is healthy, trusted, and equitable, helping all people in the United States thrive in a vibrant civil society and just democracy. We unite nonprofits and philanthropy to strengthen the charitable sector, identify structural challenges and mobilize the sector around policy and practice solutions.
10. Lavender Eucalyptus - provides tailored solutions that simplify nonprofit operations. By streamlining workflows and optimizing resources, LE reduces the overwhelm and ensures efficiency, allowing nonprofits to focus on what truly matters—delivering impact.
11. Nonprofit GPS - Nonprofit GPS strengthens how nonprofits adapt and plan for the future through peer connection, practical tools, and professional support through a nationwide network.
12. Nonprofit Risk Management Center - Nonprofit Risk Management Center works with for-profit companies that share a commitment to more effective risk management in the nonprofit sector but are nonprofit risk specialists. NRMC is a nonprofit team that supports other nonprofit teams. Their clients and members range from local nonprofits to large international charities, and NGOs operating in dozens of countries around the world.
13. Paperweight Advising - A collective of consultants and coaches focused on supporting self-determined change--for individuals, teams, and organizations--through strategy, design, learning design and culture, and career and leadership coaching.
14. PILnet - *PILnet partners with legal professionals and civil society organizations globally to protect civic space, address global challenges, and work to build just, equitable and sustainable societies*.
15. Project Equity - mission is to expand employee ownership to preserve business legacies, retain jobs and help working people and people of color build long-term wealth.
16. Propel Consulting – A minority- and woman-owned firm led by Dr. Melanie Flores that helps small and mid-size nonprofits find and secure funding. Propel offers grant writing, fundraising strategy and capacity-building support, along with a free Grant Readiness Checklist and the Propel Fundraising Accelerator, launching in 2027.

THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST®

17. Resilience Partners - The mission is to help individuals and organizations develop their technology, fiduciary responsibilities, and business practices. Primary focus is community-based organizations and social enterprises serving underserved and marginalized communities.
18. Stronger Nonprofits Initiative - The Stronger Nonprofits Initiative (SNI) aims to support nonprofits led by people of color in navigating systemic barriers to accessing capital and real estate opportunities.
19. SVP (Social Venture Partners) – SVP Chicago invests in the coaching and skills-based support, money, and connections of their philanthropists to help the community-based nonprofits they serve create greater impact in their South and West Side neighborhoods.
20. Taproot Foundation - Taproot helps mission-driven organizations amplify their impact by mobilizing skilled volunteers to advance resource equity.
21. Wallace Foundation - Wallace Foundation's mission is to help all communities build a more vibrant and just future by fostering advances in the arts, education, leadership, and youth development.
22. Events for Networking and Connection Making in Chicago:
    a. Breakin' It Down Conference
    b. Chicago Women in Philanthropy Face to Face with Funders