



A COMMITMENT TO EQUITY IN OUR REGION

Far too often, non-profit organizations led by Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC) that are addressing complex and critical social sector needs are stretched thin, faced with providing day-to-day support with limited staff and resources. The United Neighborhoods Equity Fund (UNEF) seeks to support these organizations with tailored capacity and relationship building supports that meet the organization's needs and advance their long-term goals.

UNEF is a philanthropic commitment to addressing the barriers faced by BIPOC leaders and creating a more equitable and just Chicago. This cohort-based program will incorporate the following components:

- **Funding** – Two-year general operating grant award (\$50,000 total)
- **Cohort** – Leaders from 10 community-based organizations (with budgets of <\$1M) serving the communities aligned with the United Way Neighborhood Network initiative
- **Capacity Building** – Individual and group capacity building curriculum aimed to strengthen organizational infrastructure
- **Relationship Building** – Cross-sector relationship building through a peer cohort model, corporate spotlight, and networking with potential funders and investors.

Through a series of workshops and candid conversations with grantees, funders and corporate partners, we aim to create a deeper understanding of racial disparity in funding, foster change in the philanthropic sector, and address racial injustice.

GRANT GUIDELINES

Eligible Organizations The Fund is intended to support small organizations located on Chicago's south and west sides and south suburban region, ideally aligned with United Way of Metro Chicago's Neighborhood Network coalitions. Organizations will have BIPOC leadership, be rooted and respected in local communities, and have an interest in building new capacity.

Eligibility requirements include:

- BIPOC Founder or Executive Director
- A budget of less than \$1,000,000
- Nominated by UNEF stakeholder
- Organizations located on Chicago's south and west sides and south suburban region ideally aligned with Neighborhood Network coalitions
- Grassroots organizations supporting the community work at the intersection of economic development and social service

Selection Process Preference will be given to eligible organizations nominated by Neighborhood Network lead agencies or Corporate Social Responsibility stakeholders.

- Leaders submit short application
- Applications reviewed and selected by the UNEF Steering Committee

TWO-YEAR COHORT TIMELINE

August 2022

- **August 1** Application opens
- **August 14** Applications due

September 2022

- **September 6** Grantees notified
- Granting cycle begins
- **September 30** Capacity Building (CB) workshop 1—Planning for Small Organizations

October 2022

- **October 28** CB workshop 2— Fundraising & Communications

November 2022

- **November 18** CB workshop 3— Financial & Risk Management

February 2023

- **February 24** CB workshop 4— Human Resources

May 2023

- **May 26** CB workshop 5— Program Design & Evaluation

September 2023– August 2024

In the second year, participating organizations will receive a customized capacity building program and be connected to a corporate partner for technical support and mentorship.

TO APPLY Visit LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/UNEF or email UnitedNeighborhoodsEquityFund@LIVEUNITEDchicago.org

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