



COMMITTING TO EQUITY-BASED INVESTMENT IN OUR REGION

The Challenge

Historic disinvestment in BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) communities throughout Chicago has led to current racial, social, and economic issues. These disparities primarily impact residents on the city's South and West Sides and in the south suburban region.

Nonprofit agency leaders of color often face challenges connecting to funders and securing and sustaining support for culturally relevant strategies to address community-identified priorities. This has led to significant disparities in investment in BIPOC-led organizations.

The Solution

The United Neighborhoods Equity Fund is United Way of Metro Chicago's philanthropic commitment to addressing these barriers and creating a more equitable and just Chicago.

The Fund supports small, BIPOC-led organizations with tailored capacity- and relationship-building support that meets their needs and advances their long-term goals.

BENEFITS OF THE FUND

■ Unrestricted Funding

\$50,000 total (over a 2-year cycle) to be used according to the needs of each agency

■ Networking and Relationship Building

Cohort model with agency peers, building cross-sector relationships and networking with potential funders and investors

■ Capacity Building

Individual and group capacity-building sessions with DePaul University faculty and other professionals

■ Holistic Support Approach

Targets organizations with an annual budget of less than \$1M that often don't qualify for traditional grants, providing holistic support and strategies for growth



20 Grantees
since 2021



\$528,063
Raised



55+ Hours
of Capacity Building

BECOME A SPONSOR

Our corporate sponsors are more than just donors. They are partners, working alongside small, BIPOC-led organizations to help build a stronger, more equitable Chicago region. Sponsorship of the United Neighborhoods Equity Fund offers tailored opportunities for your staff to get involved and feel connected to the work:

- United Neighborhoods Steering Committee representation
- Quarterly collaborative stakeholder meetings
- Mentorship and pro-bono support of fund grantees
- Racial Equity Workshops, led by equity experts
- Networking and community building

FOR MORE INFORMATION →

Email the Resource Development team at UWMCRD@LIVEUNITEDchicago.org

“As a new leader/Executive Director, I found that the first year of [the United Neighborhoods Equity Fund] was instrumental in Centro Sanar deciding on becoming its own 501(c)(3). For me, the strategic goal setting became a tone setter as far as how we can reimagine our growth process and include a wide range of voices.”



Edwin Martinez

Co-Founder, Centro Sanar
United Neighborhoods Equity Fund,
2021–2023 Cohort

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