

Community Progress Makers:

Greater Chicago

About Community Progress Makers

The Community Progress Makers initiative first launched in 2015 to provide unrestricted, trust-based funding to support visionary organizations that are working to connect low-income communities to greater economic opportunities.

Now in its fourth cohort, the program supports community-based organizations working locally across Citi's footprint. Six nonprofits working in the greater Chicago area are each receiving \$1 million in unrestricted funding over three years as well as access to a learning community, technical assistance and a network of changemakers across the country.

Greater Chicago Highlights



6 unique organizations



\$6MM committed

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Unrestricted grant support is in high demand and low supply and we have witnessed how transformational this type of funding can be for community organizations. This is why we are pleased to support the innovative solutions and deep community work that the organizations in this fourth cohort of Community Progress Makers are leading through flexible, trust-based funding.”

Brandee McHale

President of the Citi Foundation

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Multi-year, unrestricted funding remains an incredibly effective and underused way to support strong nonprofits. By trusting community organizations and affording them some breathing room, Citi Foundation puts them in a better position to make a lasting difference in people's lives.”

Kathleen Enright

President and CEO of Council on Foundations

Meet the Fourth Cohort of Community Progress Makers from Greater Chicago



Chicago Community Loan Fund provides flexible and affordable financing and technical assistance to people in underserved communities across metropolitan Chicago to support economic growth and opportunity for low-income neighborhoods, families and individuals.



Ladder Up offers financial education programs to low-income residents across Chicago to help them secure tax refunds, navigate financial systems and obtain financial aid for college.



North Lawndale Employment Network reduces barriers to employment by providing job seekers in the North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago with access to financial tools and literacy training and by partnering with employers in recruiting and worker retention efforts.



Sunshine Enterprises supports low-income entrepreneurs in Chicago's South and West Sides and Evanston, helping them grow their businesses through training, coaching, professional networking and access to capital.



Women's Business Development Center accelerates business development and growth for primarily women-owned businesses in Greater Chicago by providing access to strategic coaching, contracting assistance, financial education and capital options.



Working Credit promotes equitable access to credit in predominantly low-income Black and Latinx communities in Chicago by providing credit-building education, one-on-one counseling and access to financial products.

