



We Rise Together: For an Equitable & Just Recovery accelerates equity in the Chicago region's economic recovery so everyone who lives here can reach our full potential.

A coalition of philanthropic and corporate funders and communities, *We Rise Together* is a five-year initiative begun in October 2020. We are spurring development in disinvested neighborhoods, increasing quality, resilient employment, and strengthening Black and Latinx-owned businesses.

WHY NOW?

Chicago's growth and economic outlook has lagged since the Great Recession, and the economic divide between white communities and communities of color has deepened. We must act quickly and strategically to bend the curve of recovery toward equity. To do so, *We Rise Together* is focusing significant investments on long-disinvested Black and Latinx communities whose success will transform the entire Chicago region.

HOW DOES WE RISE TOGETHER WORK?



CENTERING COMMUNITY

We Rise Together believes in—and invests in—Black and Latinx people and communities. We center community voices and priorities in every aspect of our work.

- We have provided neighborhood anchor grants in 16 Chicago neighborhoods and two Cook County suburbs to support transformational brick-and-mortar development already envisioned by the communities we serve.
- Ongoing Community Conversations provide feedback on our approach and input into our priorities.
- A 21-member Steering Committee including community, philanthropic, and corporate members guides our strategic direction.
- Working Groups made up of multi-sector partners support community aspirations and neighborhood investments. Groups currently meet in Lawndale, South Shore, and Greater Chatham.

CATALYTIC GRANTMAKING

Since September 2021, *We Rise Together* has awarded more than \$23 million in grants, including \$18.9 million to 23 catalytic neighborhood anchor projects in 16 Chicago neighborhoods and two Cook County suburbs. These neighborhood anchor grants have unlocked \$236 million in previously stalled community projects. People are excited to see changes in their communities and to have new amenities and services within reach.

THE POWER OF WORKING TOGETHER

Grantmaking at this scale is possible because *We Rise Together* is pooling funding from a coalition of corporate and philanthropic donors. As we continue to grow the funding pool, future grant-making will support additional neighborhood

anchor projects, and align grants and resources to increase job opportunities for and strengthen businesses owned by Black and Latinx people.

Our dynamic group of partners include organizations such as Chicago TREND, Metropolitan Planning Council, New America Chicago, Loyola University, and MAPSCorp, who are helping ensure our work is data-driven, coordinated, and responsive to the communities we serve.

TRANSFORMING BUSINESS PRACTICES & POLICIES

In partnership with the Corporate Coalition of Chicago, *We Rise Together* is galvanizing businesses to commit to more equitable practices and investments through 5/25 Move to Action. The initiative focuses on private sector actions toward a more inclusive Chicago business culture.

We Rise Together is also working to identify and promote public policies that reduce economic barriers for Black and Latinx individuals and drive equitable economic growth.

HOW TO CONNECT?

Contributions to the *We Rise Together* Fund ensure that communities hardest hit by the pandemic will thrive and move our whole region forward.

For more information about partnership opportunities, or to make a donation or a gift from your donor-advised fund, please contact Jeromé Holston at jholston@cct.org.

LEAD FUNDING PARTNERS

ANONYMOUS (2)



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