

# GRANTMAKING STRATEGY OVERVIEW

WE RISE

FOR AN  
EQUITABLE  
& JUST  
RECOVERY

TOGETHER

**W**e Rise Together: For an Equitable & Just Recovery is a funders collaborative working with community members to respond to the urgent economic needs of Black and Latine communities. Our model for community investment at scale supports coordinated, community-led commercial and economic development in targeted neighborhoods. Through strategic grants to community-directed real estate development projects that leverage additional investment, we are building thriving neighborhoods and a stronger Chicago.

Since September 2021, we have strategically invested nearly \$46 million, including support for more than 40 neighborhood anchor real estate investments worth more than \$564 million. Of these projects, 12 have already opened. Now that they are on track, they will have immediate and continued impact, including providing new activities for young people, job training and placement, support for local businesses, and much-needed healthcare, childcare, and healthy food.

To allow the projects and their surrounding neighborhoods to thrive, we are layering in grants to support thriving Black- and Latine-owned businesses and expanded employment opportunities in each focus neighborhood.

This document includes details on *We Rise Together* grants made across all three portfolios—neighborhood anchor grants, as well as grants to support workforce development and Black and Latine businesses in targeted neighborhoods.

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## ONGOING ENGAGEMENT & EVALUATION

*We Rise Together* provides ongoing technical assistance and project support to ensure each project is successful and achieves its full promise. We also host regular roundtable conversations with grant recipients to learn what is emerging in their work and what is needed *now* to meet this moment in the region's recovery.

Housed at The Chicago Community Trust, *We Rise Together* benefits from a deep bench of shared expertise, knowledge and measurement tools. Through a partnership with Loyola University's Center for Urban Research and Learning, we are evaluating the impact of our work on an ongoing basis. The goal of evaluation is to learn more about the types of investments that are having the biggest impact in communities, and how those investments can build upon each other.

## LOCATIONS OF NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED BY WE RISE TOGETHER

### ROUNDS ONE AND TWO

#### \$12.5 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

##### 1. Brown Sugar Bakery, Ashburn/ Auburn Gresham\*

The purchase and transformation of the existing Cupid Candy Factory into a production site to support the growing Brown Sugar Bakery business in Auburn Gresham, at Navy Pier, and online.

##### 2. ChiFresh Kitchen, Greater Grand Crossing\*

An expansion of its retail, catering, and food service contracting lines of business. The retail store will serve Greater Grand Crossing and surrounding neighborhoods, offering culturally relevant, affordable, individually packaged meals.

##### 3. Esperanza Health, West Lawn\*

Increasing the size and offerings of a long-time pediatric clinic in West Lawn to provide a full range of health services, including mental health care, in culturally sensitive ways.

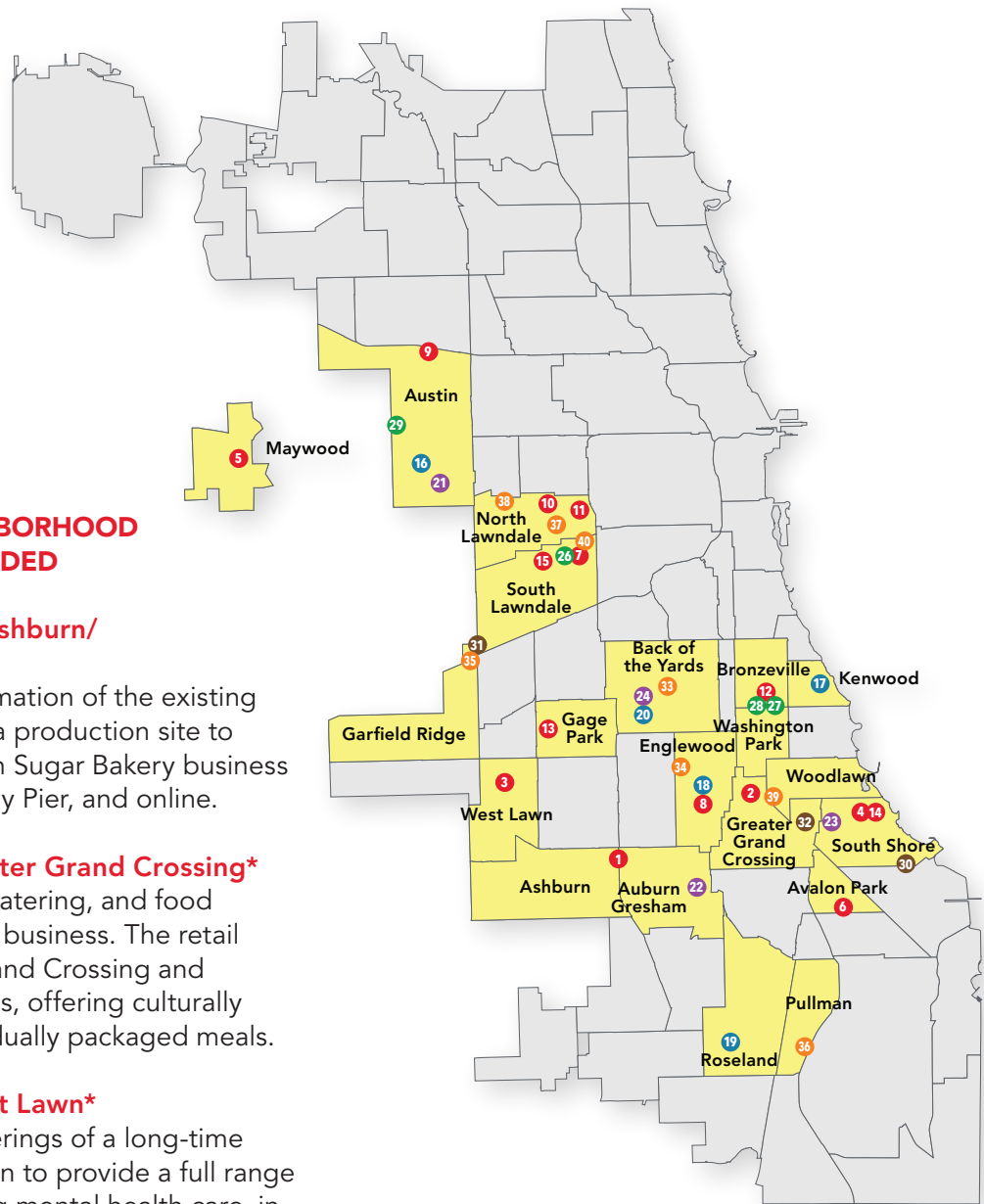
##### 4. Inner City Entertainment, South Shore

New dining and entertainment experiences including a theater, restaurants, and a bowling alley. Inner City Entertainment is a social enterprise led by South Shore residents who are committed to urban revitalization in their historically underserved and undercapitalized neighborhood.

##### 5. Interfaith Housing Development Corp. th Ave. Development, Maywood

Building out newly constructed commercial space on the ground floor of Fifth Avenue Apartments to house a grocery store in response to needs brought to community meetings.

\*Projects that have opened their doors.



25 Sauk Village project is outside of map boundaries.

##### 6. Justice of the Pies, Avalon Park\*

Activating a vacant building on a key commercial corridor to include a production kitchen, retail counter and dine-in seating area designed with a significant focus on accessibility, including an outdoor patio with seating and demonstration kitchen for culinary workshops.

##### 7. Latinos Progresando, South Lawndale\*

Acquiring and rehabilitating a former Chicago Public Library branch building that has been vacant since 2009 to restore it to its original community

service purpose. The 9,330 sq. ft. building will be occupied by Latinos Progresando and two partner tenants, Esperanza Health Centers and Lincoln Park Zoo.

#### **8. Little Angels, Englewood**

The development of a new facility to expand the services of Little Angels Family Day Care, increasing the availability of high-quality day care and enabling Englewood residents to return to the workforce.

#### **9. North Austin Community Center, Austin\***

A sports facility that will draw an estimated 250,000 guests to North Austin each year, increasing economic activity for local businesses and supporting the educational and recreation activities for residents.

#### **10. North Lawndale Employment Network Campus, North Lawndale\***

A new campus that brings together programs currently delivered at four separate locations. The new campus includes a range of community-serving and economic development-related uses: classrooms, industry-specific training rooms, and computer labs; production and retail space for NLEN's Sweet Beginnings LLC honey products social enterprise and café.

#### **11. Ogden Commons, North Lawndale\***

A new development that will improve access to quality health care, offer important community

amenities, and improve access to quality jobs for residents of North and South Lawndale.

#### **12. Overton Center, Bronzeville/Washington Park**

A creative hub accessible to the community that supports arts, technology, nonprofit start-ups, and local businesses.

#### **13. Poder Headquarters, Gage Park\***

An adaptive reuse project that will renovate and add to an existing building to serve as an immigrant integration and job training center, providing English language and workforce development programming and other community and City of Chicago partner resources.

#### **14. Urban Core, South Shore\***

A health and wellness hub that is accessible, welcoming, and encourages residents to adopt healthier ways of life in line with Urban Core's mission. The anchor storefront will be Studio Yogi and health care services offered through South Shore Works.

#### **15. Xquina Café, South Lawndale**

A partnership-driven, commercial and cultural amenity that aims to enhance the livelihood of Little Village community residents by redeveloping approximately 13,000 sq. ft. of commercial retail including a business incubator, co-working office, local café, and shared commercial kitchen.



\*Projects that have opened their doors.

## ROUND THREE

### \$4.2 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

#### 16. Aspire Center, Austin

A multipurpose facility focused on workforce training and business development in Austin housed in the renovated 87,000 sq. ft. former Robert Emmett Elementary School.

#### 17. Carver Café, Kenwood

The expansion of Little Black Pearl's Carver 47 Cafe into a sit-down restaurant, which will enable the nonprofit to increase their workforce training opportunities in culinary arts and grow their service accessibility to the community.

#### 18. Englewood Connect, LLC, Englewood

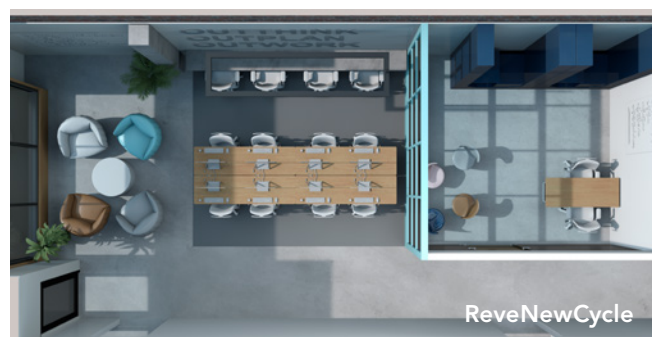
The renovation of an existing firehouse and the surrounding two-acre property as a business incubator focused on growing and supporting start-ups to create new local economic opportunities, jobs and community space.

#### 19. ReveNewCycle, Roseland

The rehabilitation of a vacant building into a locally owned medical billing and coding company that targets medical providers serving low-income Black and Latine communities. The building will also include co-working and community gathering spaces.

#### 20. The Fresh Market, Back of the Yards

A fully functional retail food store run by Star Farm, which will rehabilitate an existing building and activate an adjacent vacant lot with gathering and cooking spaces and a community garden.



## ROUND FOUR

### \$4.9 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED



#### 21. BUILD, Austin\*

The development of the new BUILD campus to support young people in Austin, including affordable space available for rent to partner nonprofits that will provide wraparound services to the youth and their families.

#### 22. Green Era, Auburn Gresham\*

Development of the new Anaerobic Digester portion of the Green Era Renewable Energy and Urban Agriculture Campus in Auburn Gresham, a facility that will convert food waste into renewable energy, compost, and fertilizer.

#### 23. The Desk/South Shore Chamber of Commerce, South Shore

Rehabilitation of a dilapidated property as the new offices of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, along with four businesses including the Artisans' Collective, supported by the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago.

#### 24. United Yards, Back of the Yards

A retail development on 47th Street that will be run by and eventually owned by a group of local entrepreneurs

\*Projects that have opened their doors.



## ROUND FIVE

### \$4.4 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

#### 25. Dardur Medical Group, Sauk Village

A Black woman-owned healthcare startup that will develop a two-acre parcel in partnership with Southland Development Authority as a 6,000 sq. ft. medical clinic and eventually a more extensive medical campus

#### 26. Enlace, Little Village

Enlace's second community service hub housed at a redeveloped 7,500 sq. ft. building to meet the need for increased violence prevention and mental health services, particularly for at-risk youth; and for additional Enlace programming around education, workforce, and immigration.

#### 27. Policy Kings, Bronzeville

A Black-owned, mixed-use commercial and residential development that will catalyze the revitalization of the 51st Street corridor by creating space for locally owned businesses and enterprises in the arts, culture, health, wellness, and food.

#### 28. Urban Juncture, Bronzeville

A renovated building on 51st Street will house four new culinary businesses, workforce programming, and small business support services, adding to a transit-oriented development that has already brought community gardens, business services, and more than 50 jobs to the Bronzeville community.

#### 29. Batter & Berries and The Bruce, Austin

A collaboration between two Black-owned businesses--Juan & Only events production company and Batter & Berries restaurant in Lincoln Park--will renovate a vacant 4,000 sq. ft. building as a new restaurant, The Bruce.

## ROUND SIX

### \$1.5 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED THAT WERE FINALISTS FOR THE CHICAGO PRIZE

#### 30. Exchange Crossing, South Shore/South Chicago

Acquiring, developing, and re-programming the Star Plaza retail center at 7908 S. Exchange Ave. with locally owned community businesses and amenities.

#### 31. The Green, the former LeClaire Courts

Creating The Green Business Institute ("The Green"), 4942 W. 44th St., a cradle-to-career green business development center that will be an extension of the Cultivate Collective Community and Sustainability Hub, which broke ground in April 2022.

#### 32. Xchange Grand Crossing, Greater Grand Crossing

Developing a 50,000 square foot building constructed on approximately two acres at 7327-7369 South Chicago Ave., where graduates will train for and secure jobs in technology, address health care needs, and start new businesses.

## ROUND SEVEN

### \$7.15 MILLION IN NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR PROJECTS FUNDED

#### 33. Rooted and Rising, Back of the Yards

This mixed-use development will convert an abandoned commercial space into a modern and welcoming family hub with 99 units of affordable rental housing, a performing arts center, three community-based service providers, a new Chicago Public Library branch, a federally qualified health center and retail space.

#### 34. E.G. Woode Food Hub, Englewood

This renovation will house emerging food entrepreneurs from Englewood, providing access to two new sit-down restaurants and a training kitchen for aspiring food entrepreneurs to prepare for their launch.

**35. Alivio Medical Center, Garfield Ridge**

This project will bring a bilingual and bicultural health center to the greater LeClaire Courts Redevelopment Project at Mosaic Square, led by Alivio Medical Center.

**36. Pullman Hotel, Pullman**

A new Hampton Inn by Hilton will provide high-quality lodging for this burgeoning tourism area of Chicago that is home to the Pullman National Historic Park and numerous related sites.

**37. Starling, North Lawndale**

This indoor-outdoor development will feature a café and flexible spaces for residents and organizations to lease on a short-term basis, as well as free communal space for people to gather.

**38. Fillmore Center, North Lawndale**

This redevelopment will create space for anchor tenant Fillmore Linen Services, a commercial laundry facility, and for various small businesses including a coffee roastery and a wholesale flower distributor.

**39. The Leadership and Economic Opportunity Center, Woodlawn**

This new mixed-use center will be a hub for a range of retail amenities and community services, including restaurants, banking, an urgent care facility, a trade school, and recreational facilities including an Olympic-sized pool.

**40. Carole Robertson Center for Learning, Little Village**

This renovation will modernize the child and family development center's flagship site, including updated indoor and outdoor spaces designed to serve more than 300 participants.

**BLACK AND LATINE BUSINESS GRANTS**

**\$3.5 million in grants are helping the following organizations support Black and Latine businesses in our focus communities.**

**Allies for Community Business and Small Business Advisory Council** are partnering to provide coaching and assistance to Black and Latine business owners in the 10 communities where *We Rise Together* has supported two or more community-led real estate developments. They are also passing through a portion of the funding to local chambers of commerce to strengthen the overall economic ecosystem in Black and Latine neighborhoods.

**Greater Chatham Initiative** is working to strengthen the restaurant ecosystem in Chatham and its six surrounding communities through storytelling, building the "Soul-Delivered" platform, and offering nutritional evaluation and labeling.

**HACIA's Executive Fellows** program is launching their cohort-based business development curriculum aimed at growing and scaling contractors of color.

**mHub** is launching the Catalyze Initiative by funding deep partnerships in communities of color and ongoing support for the entrepreneurs that come from these communities.

**Northwest Side CDC** is launching the CRECER small business incubator in Belmont Cragin including programming provided for the businesses in the incubator.

**Women's Business Development Center** is expanding the ScaleHigher curriculum into the Chicago market and supporting participating businesses in learning about and accessing digital tools to scale their businesses.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

**\$4 million in grants are helping the following organizations prepare Black and Latine workers in our focus communities for quality jobs.**

**Austin Coming Together** is supporting the Austin Workforce Collaborative to connect Austin area workforce agencies and to provide direct services to Austin residents.

**Cara Collective** and **Cleanslate** are partnering to provide support services and career coaching at the new Cara Englewood facility.

**Chicago Citywide Literacy Coalition** is providing training and support to assist adult job seekers by increasing their access to and ability to navigate the technology required to apply for jobs in today's economy.

**Chicago Commons** is leading the Pathways to Collective Impact Initiative, serving Back of the Yards and Little Village, by preparing working parents for jobs in the field of childcare.

**Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership** is hiring additional staff, training new partners and deploying a new mobile unit to expand workforce services to more places and people across Chicago and Cook County, enabling more effective use of federal funding.

**Chicago Urban League** is focusing on job readiness training, placement and retention services in emerging and high-growth industries such as solar, transportation and pharmacy.

**Elevate** is partnering with regional workforce organizations to help them access and make effective use of federal funding to train and connect job seekers to quality jobs in the clean energy sector.

**HIRE360** is expanding strategies to encourage greater diversity in Chicago trade unions, including expanding its Civic Engagement Initiative to ensure engagement with community partners serving areas hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Instituto del Progreso Latino** is focusing on workforce training for Latine job seekers interested in medical professions with ongoing support for advancing career paths.

**North Lawndale Employment Network** is providing the U-Turn and Empower Now programs to provide career coaching and training to residents of North Lawndale with significant barriers to employment.

**On the Road Lending** is developing a strategy, business plan, and relationships to enter the Chicago market with affordable auto loans that will help working families overcome transportation barriers to find and retain employment in the clean energy and infrastructure sectors.

**One on One** is providing individual, weekly career coaching paired with managerial training to help entry-level workers strengthen the soft and hard skills they need to obtain, retain and advance their careers.

**PODER** and **Skills for Chicagoland's Future** are partnering to provide job coaching and connections in the new PODER HQ facility serving Chicago Lawn, Gage Park, and West Lawn.

**Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation NFP** is providing job training and coaching services to Back of the Yards and Englewood residents who have significant barriers to employment.

**Revolution Workshop** is providing construction skills training for non-union work with wrap-around services to ensure job placement and retention.

**ScaleLit** is working to ensure high-quality jobs created in the Chicago region through federal investment in the green economy are connected to job seekers in disinvested communities.

**Teamwork Englewood** is providing job training and coaching programs to residents of Englewood.

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