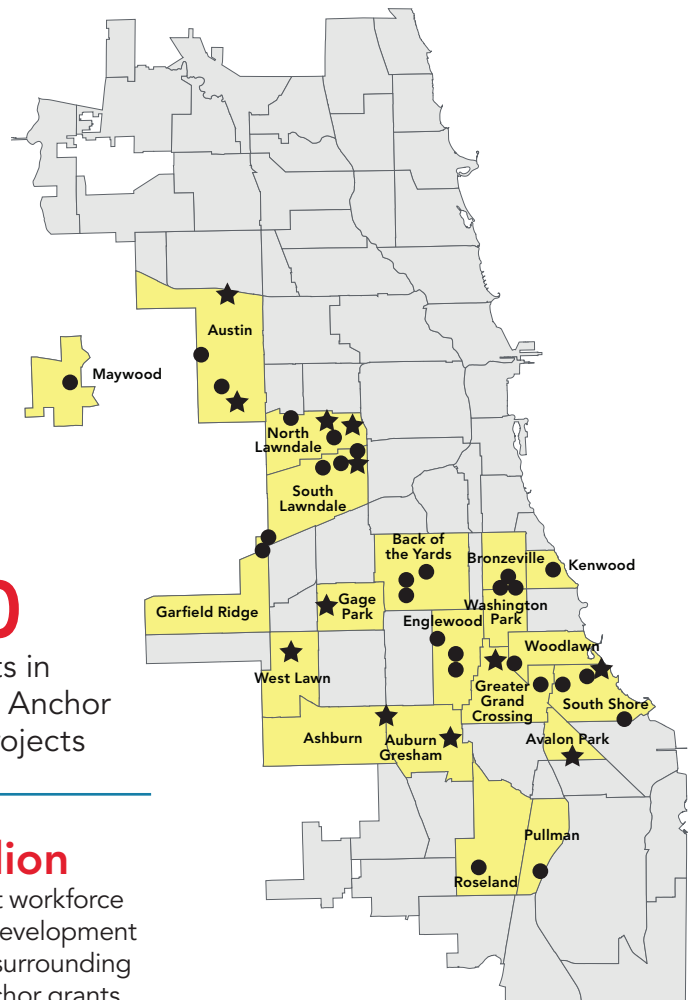




# WE RISE TOGETHER'S INVESTMENTS HELPING CHANGE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN COMMUNITIES

Cutting the ribbon at Justice of the Pies bakery in Avalon Park.

Since *We Rise Together: For an Equitable & Just Recovery* began making grants in September 2021, the initiative has delivered nearly \$46 million for economic recovery in Black and Latine communities in the Chicago region. We have granted funds quickly to support high-impact real estate projects, and workforce and small business development. Our goal is to improve the economies of long-disinvested Black and Latine communities — and, in turn, to strengthen the entire region.



Sauk Village project is outside of map boundaries.

★ Opened projects

**~\$37 million**

in Neighborhood Anchor  
real estate grants since  
September 2021

**>40**

investments in  
Neighborhood Anchor  
real estate projects

**12**

Neighborhood Anchor  
real estate projects have  
opened their doors in  
just two years

**\$7.5 million**

in grants to support workforce  
and small business development  
in the communities surrounding  
Neighborhood Anchor grants

**WE RISE**

**TOGETHER**

**FOR AN EQUITABLE  
& JUST RECOVERY**

## CASE STUDY: GAGE PARK & WEST LAWN

In Gage Park and West Lawn, two predominantly Latine communities on Chicago's Southwest Side, *We Rise Together* made two Neighborhood Anchor investments: The nonprofit **PODER** received \$1 million to open its first headquarters, and **Esperanza Health Centers** received \$1 million for a new healthcare facility.

Esperanza 63rd Street opened in June 2022 and served more clients in the first six months than they expected to serve in the first year. Businesses within one mile of Esperanza 63rd Street have seen a lift of more than \$840,000 in consumer spending since the facility opened, based on data about Mastercard transactions from Mastercard Data Services.

PODER provides immigrants to Chicago with legal, workforce, and language acquisition services. The nonprofit opened its first headquarters in January 2023 and quickly added six new in-person classes to meet increased demand. More than 120 job-seekers attended PODER's first job fair, and over 30 of them received job offers that day.

*We Rise Together* also has made more than \$200,000 in grants to strengthen employment and support Latine and Black-owned businesses in the Gage Park–West Lawn area.

The Gage Park–West Lawn area is one of 10 communities where *We Rise Together* has made more than two real estate investments in addition to providing support for small business and workforce development. We will continue to layer grants in these communities to support thriving local economies and a stronger Chicago.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TWO NEIGHBORHOOD ANCHOR INVESTMENTS\*

### NORTH AUSTIN CENTER



Since opening in February 2023, businesses within a half-mile have seen **a lift of at least \$6.6 million in consumer spending.**

Partnerships with recreational providers like the Chicago Fire have helped bring visitors to the center.

### NORTH LAWNDALE EMPLOYMENT NETWORK



Since NLEN's campus opened in September 2021, businesses in the immediate vicinity have seen **a lift of \$1.85 million in consumer spending.**

\*Source: Mastercard Data Services