

**2024 Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities
Funding Announcement
February 7, 2024**

Recognizing the potential for a spike in violence in Chicago during the summer months, the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities, a coalition of more than 50 funders committed to aligning their grant making to support proven and promising approaches to reducing gun violence, will once again administer the *Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities*, a \$1,000,000 fund to support activities by nonprofit organizations that build community cohesion, provide safe spaces, and promote peace. A rapid-response process has been established to receive and review short proposals, and quickly award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

To qualify, applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to propose activities that adhere to the Seven Field Principles (7FP) model, an evidence-based framework¹ that has been successful in fostering strong communities and reducing violence (outlined below). For more information https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314157745_7_Principles_To_Reducing_Violence_Re-Engaging_Youth_to_Society. Collaboration among community organizations is also strongly encouraged as the 7FP model is more effective when implemented in a comprehensive and coordinated way.

The following community areas have been prioritized for support based on the number and rate of shootings and homicides: Austin, Auburn Gresham, Burnside, Chatham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Fuller Park, Gage Park, East Garfield Park, Greater Grand Crossing, Humboldt Park, Lower West Side (Pilsen), New City (Back of the Yards), North Lawndale, Riverdale, Roseland, South Chicago, South Lawndale (Little Village), South Shore, Washington Park, West Englewood, West Garfield Park, West Pullman, and Woodlawn.

The application for funding is available at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/s/> The application deadline is March 6, 2024. Grant awards will be announced on May 3, 2024. Checks will be distributed on May 17, 2024. All activities must be completed by October 31, 2024.

¹ Dr. Carl Bell, "Preventing Violence: Lessons from Chicago," *Clinical Psychiatry News*, May 6, 2003.
<http://www.mdedge.com/clinicalpsychiatrynews/article/58668/depression/preventing-violence-lessons-chicago>

2024 Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities

Statement of Purpose

Recognizing the potential for a spike in violence in Chicago during the summer months, the Partnership for Safe and Peaceful Communities, a coalition of more than 50 funders committed to aligning their grant making to support proven and promising approaches to reducing gun violence, will once again administer the *Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities* (Chicago Fund).

The \$1.3 million Chicago Fund offers rapid-response grant opportunities designed to support activities by nonprofit organizations that build community cohesion, provide safe spaces, and promote peace. It has been created in direct response to the many people and grassroots organizations that are taking on-the-ground action in their neighborhoods.

While the participating philanthropic organizations are already engaged in larger, long-term efforts to help address the problem of gun violence in Chicago, the Chicago Fund is purposely intended to provide hyper-local, immediate support to smaller, neighborhood-based groups during the summer and early fall. It is not meant to be a quick fix to the broad and complex problem of gun violence nor is it a substitute for the intensive and wide-ranging efforts already underway or planned to respond to the many root causes of the challenge.

Who is eligible?

The Chicago Fund will award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations **with annual operating budgets no larger than \$500,000** engaging in activities that build community cohesion, provide safe spaces, and promote peace. Applicants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to propose activities that adhere to one or more of the Seven Field Principles (7FP) model, an evidence-based framework with the following components, which has been successful in fostering strong communities and reducing violence:

1. **Create a sense of community through programs and activities based on community members' ideas for reducing violence.** These programs should build relationships and networks among residents, families, schools, nonprofits, churches, businesses, etc.
2. **Share knowledge across generations** by providing models, tools, and techniques for learning. These programs, such as mentoring and leadership development, will give community members access to new skills and information.
3. **Create a sense of connectedness** by engaging large numbers of community members in group activities. These activities will allow for youth, adults, community organizations, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, etc. to come together and collectively take part in positive, proactive community events

such as back-to-school rallies, peace walks, neighborhood festivals, arts and sports activities and prosocial youth programs.

4. Provide opportunities **to learn social and emotional skills** through activities such as leadership development workshops, peace circles, and volunteering that promote self-control, empathy, and positive communication.
5. **Improve the self-esteem and self-efficacy** (sense of power) of youth in the community by providing opportunities for leadership, employment, and skill-building.
6. **Build relationships between youth and adults** through activities that create safe spaces for youth.
7. **Minimize trauma** by connecting community members with caregivers and support services such as wellbeing workshops and events with community service providers.

Collaboration among community organizations is strongly recommended as the 7FP model is more effective when implemented in a comprehensive and coordinated way. Activities that promote constructive relationships between police and community residents are encouraged but not required.

Organizations working in Austin, Auburn Gresham, Burnside, Chatham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Fuller Park, Gage Park, East Garfield Park, Greater Grand Crossing, Humboldt Park, Lower West Side (Pilsen), New City (Back of the Yards), North Lawndale, Riverdale, Roseland, South Chicago, South Lawndale (Little Village), South Shore, Washington Park, West Englewood, West Garfield Park, West Pullman, and Woodlawn are invited to apply.

The Chicago Fund will consider applications from groups, agencies, and organizations with a valid 501(c)3 designation or that have a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor whose interests are consistent with the goals of the fund to support grassroots, community-based solutions that make Chicago neighborhoods safer. *Grants may not be used to support or advocate for the purchase or use of guns as part of any response.*

Eligible recipients must conduct programming and activities in the prioritized communities. Criteria for funding will include the proposed activities and degree to which they follow the 7FP framework, the record of accomplishment of the applicant, extent of collaboration with others and willingness to share information and plans.

The timeline is as follows:

February 7, 2024	RFP Released
February 8, 2024	Technical Assistance Session (12n)
February 22, 2024	Technical Assistance Session (6pm)
March 6, 2024	Application Deadline
May 3, 2024	Grant Awards Announced
May 16, 2024	Checks Distributed
October 31, 2024	Completion of all activities

November 11, 2024

Final Report Due (Please submit when project is complete.)

Fiscal Sponsorship

The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities funds nonprofit organizations with evidence of tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It also accepts applications from organizations that have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor. It does not provide funding to projects or organizations outside the United States or to individuals.

A fiscal sponsor is a nonprofit organization that provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of organizations that do not have their own 501c3 charitable status. These organizations may work with a fiscal sponsor to receive grants from the Chicago Community Trust (CCT) and its affiliates. Organizations that use a fiscal sponsor to receive grants must ensure that their fiscal sponsor organization has an up-to-date Organization Profile in <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/s/>, the CCT grants management system, at the time of application submission. Grant applications will not be accepted from organizations whose fiscal sponsor does not have an account in **GrantCentral**.

Applicants may select their own fiscal sponsor or consider one of the following organizations, which has agreed to serve as fiscal sponsors:

Resilience Partners NFP

Contacts: Deirdre Bates & Brittany Blackwell

dbates@resiliencepartnersnfp.org & bblackwell@rpnfp.org

www.resiliencepartnersnfp.org

312-281-6552

The Monroe Foundation

Contact: Otis Monroe

omonroe@themonroefoundation.org

www.themonroefoundation.org

773-315-9720

How it will work - funding and oversight

The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities is a collaborative fund housed at the Chicago Community Trust. Each member funder has provided its funding in accordance with its respective processes and agreements.

Oversight: An Advisory Committee has been established to review applications and make grant recommendations. Members include:

- Anna Lee, Vice President, Initiatives and Public Programming, United Way of Metro Chicago, Co-Chair

- Esther Franco-Payne, Executive Director, PSPC
- Samantha Edwards, Associate Director, PSPC
- Laura Gutierrez, Senior Associate Program Officer, Builders Initiative
- Jai Jones, PSPC Project Specialist, Chicago Community Trust
- Anna LauBach, Program Director, Special Initiatives, McCormick Foundation
- Channing Lenert, Program Officer, Polk Bros. Foundation
- Kelsey Malnati Howell, Executive Director, Malnati Family Foundation
- Tawakalitu Mitchell, Senior Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation
- Sam Muneton, Associate Program Officer, McCormick Foundation
- Jalen Preacely, Impact Coordinator, Chicago Community Trust
- Teresa Prim, Principal, Prim Lawrence Group
- Beth Valukas, Senior Program Officer, Pritzker Pucker Foundation
- Cosette Nazon-Wilburn, Executive Director, Love, Unity & Values Institute
- Caleb Herrod, Program Manager, Chicago Community Trust
- Joanne Otte, Program Manager, Chicago Community Trust

Grant Amount: Grants from the Chicago Fund will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Use of Funds: Funds may be used for activities that build community cohesion, provide safe spaces, and promote peace. The grant agreement will contain a provision that the funds will not be used to support or advocate for the purchase or use of guns as part of any activity.

Form of Proposal: Organizations requesting funds must submit a short proposal and budget through the CCT grants management system, addressing the following:

- Community(ies) to be served
- Qualifications of the applicant, including existing programming and success to date
- Planned activities, expected participants, community partners and anticipated outcomes
- Detailed plans regarding how applicant will comply with COVID-19 guidelines including:
 - Safety protocols and features of your program
 - How your program can be scaled up or down based on public health guidelines in place at the time of your program or event
 - Technical assistance or other resources that may be needed to comply with health and safety guidelines
- How the activities will contribute to building community cohesion, creating safe spaces and/or improving relationships among children, youth, adults, and elders
- Budget for requested funds
- Total annual operating budget of requesting organization

The application will be available at <https://community-cct.force.com/grantcentral/s/> Virtual technical assistance (TA) sessions to help guide organizations through the

application process will be held on **February 8th at 12n and February 22nd at 6pm.** Attending a TA session is not a requirement to apply for funding.

Please RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-safe-and-peaceful-communities-grant-technical-assistance-session-tickets-811820305387?aff=oddtcreator>

The application deadline is March 6, 2024.

Reporting

Each applicant must submit an online final report through google form with the following information.

- Who and how many were impacted?
- What was achieved?
- How were the activities aligned with the 7FP?
- What lessons were learned?
- What, if anything, did not work and why?
- How was the money spent compared to the submitted budget?

Evaluation

An independent evaluation will be conducted. Its purpose will be to assess the reach, activities, and impact of the Chicago Fund. Application and reporting materials will be shared with the evaluator. Grantees will be requested to participate in evaluation methods, which may include surveys, interviews, or program observations.

Funding Decisions

Funding decisions will be announced on May 3, 2024, with checks distributed on May 16, 2024.

Meetings to Network and Share Lessons Learned

Grantees will be asked to meet periodically, during and at the end of the grant period, to share their experiences with funders and their peers. These meetings will provide opportunities to communicate lessons learned and inform future decisions about the Chicago Fund.