CHICAGO BRIDGEBUILDERS FUND SPONSORSHIP OVERVIEW

The Challenge

Historic community disinvestment throughout Chicago has created neighborhoods lacking resources and opportunities such as affordable housing, quality education, and living wage jobs. These disparities primarily impact residents on the city's South and West Sides and in the south suburban region.

Nonprofit organizations in historically disinvested communities often struggle to connect with funders and get ongoing support for strategies that reflect the culture and needs of the people they serve. This has led to significant disparities in investment in these organizations.

Our Solution

The Chicago BridgeBuilders Fund is United Way of Metro Chicago's philanthropic commitment to addressing these barriers and creating a stronger Chicago region.

The Fund supports small, local organizations leading a variety of dynamic work, from arts and culture to youth development to mental health support, on the South and West Sides of Chicago and in the south suburbs. The Chicago BridgeBuilders Fund provides unrestricted funding, networking and relationship building, and tailored capacity building to meet the organizations' needs and advance their long-term goals.

39 Grantees
since 2021

$1.88 Million
Granted

150+ Hours
of Capacity Building

BENEFITS OF THE FUND

- **Unrestricted Funding**
  Up to $50,000 total over 2 years to be used according to the needs of each agency
- **Networking and Relationship Building**
  Cohort model with agency peers, building cross-sector relationships and networking with potential funders and investors
- **Capacity Building**
  Individual and group capacity-building sessions with DePaul University faculty and other professionals
- **Holistic Support Approach**
  Targets organizations with an annual budget of less than $1M that often don't qualify for traditional grants, providing holistic support and strategies for growth

BECOME A SPONSOR

As a corporate sponsor, you are more than a donor. You are a partner, working alongside small, local organizations to help build a stronger Chicago region. Your sponsorship includes exclusive, meaningful opportunities for your staff to get involved—and connect directly with the work:

- Chicago BridgeBuilders Fund Steering Committee representation
- Meaningful engagement with grantees, including site visits, tours, and other events
- Mentorship and pro-bono support of grantees
- Other opportunities for your staff to volunteer in community

LEARN MORE Please contact the Resource Development team at ResourceDevelopment@LIVEUNITEDchicago.org

> "[United Way's support] has helped Peace Runners create new roles and responsibilities – a chief operating officer, community engagement, and coaches. This gives me space to grow. **I credit a lot of that to United Way for helping me create access and giving me tools so I can be a better executive director and leader.**



JACKIE HOFFMAN
Executive Director,
CEO & Founder, Peace Runners 773
Chicago BridgeBuilders Fund
Grantee, Cohort 3

Updated August 14, 2025

CHICAGO BRIDGEBUILDERS FUND

United Way of Metro Chicago

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