ChiNEXT

United Way of Metro Chicago

Building Chicago's Future Civic Leaders

ChiNEXT is United Way of Metro Chicago's premier program for early career professionals to develop a deeper understanding of Chicago's civic landscape. Our program takes participants directly to Chicago communities for classroom-style sessions on a variety of topics. Participants will hear from top corporate & community leaders, explore their own passions, and engage in purpose-driven field trips, all within a cohort of peers.

Early career participants in ChiNEXT will:



Network with peers across companies and industries



Learn more about Chicago's civic landscape



Hear directly from Chicago's top leaders

Apply online at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/ChiNEXT**
Application deadline is **August 14, 2026**

Interested companies may contact Caitlin Closser Peart **caitlin.closser@LIVEUNITEDchicago.org** for more information.

Updated April 21, 2026

CHINEXT 2026-2027 SCHEDULE SAMPLE*

Sept 11: Welcome & Community Tour
@Garfield Park
Visit a United Way Neighborhood Network community with a tour led by Chicago Mahogany's Shermann "Dilla" Thomas.

Oct 16: Social Safety Net & Understanding Poverty
@2-1-1's Xchange
Gain information about Chicago's social safety net while deepening your understanding of what it's like to live in poverty.

Nov 13: Health Disparities & Self-Reflection
@Healthy Lifestyles Hub
Learn how communities responded to the health and economic crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and explore your own values.

Jan 22: Criminal Justice
@Cook County Jail
Participate in a unique opportunity to learn more about Chicago's criminal justice system from the inside.

Feb 19: Housing & Fundraising
@Englewood
Acquire insight into understanding Chicago's housing crisis and how communities respond while also learning how to fundraise.

Mar 19: Workforce Development & Volunteering
@Austin
Deepen your knowledge of how communities prepare residents for the workforce. You'll also learn the best ways to serve through volunteering.

Apr 16: Next Generation & What's Next
@Little Village
Learn about Little Village's Parent Mentor program and other ways the community is serving the next generation, and find out more about other Chicago leadership opportunities.

**Dates/locations not finalized.*