Nonprofit organizations play an important role in the health and vitality of local communities. The Community Programs Accelerator at the University of Chicago aims to support the success of nonprofits whose work benefits neighborhoods in the Mid-South Side. Through partnerships with industry practitioners and connections to University resources, this new initiative will provide technical assistance to help develop and strengthen community-based organizations. It will also foster connections between these organizations, promoting a strong network of nonprofits in the mid-South Side.

Through the Accelerator, nonprofit organizations will have the opportunity to...

**Build Connections** with University of Chicago faculty, administrators and students whose work aligns with the organization’s mission and with industry practitioners who can help the organization reach its goals.

**Exchange Knowledge** with other area nonprofits and participate in educational workshops that will strengthen the organization and its leaders.

**Access Resources** such as the University’s community programs directory and connections to student, staff, or faculty volunteers.

**Make a Difference** in the Mid-South Side by developing the network, tools, and leadership skills to become an even stronger organization.

**Get Involved**

**Participate in the Community Programs Education Series**

The Community Programs Accelerator will also host a series of workshops and seminars open to all nonprofits and community-based organizations. Organizations and industry practitioners interested in presenting a seminar or workshop, or in requesting workshops on specific topics, are welcome to submit proposals at communityprograms.uchicago.edu.

**Join the Community Programs Accelerator Network**

We invite all nonprofit, industry, and community practitioners, and University students, faculty, and staff interested in supporting the work of the Community Programs Accelerator to contact us and get involved. Email the Community Programs Accelerator at communityprograms@uchicago.edu.
Collaboration for a Stronger Mid-South Side

The Community Programs Accelerator will provide a central point for nonprofits to access a range of University of Chicago resources. Similarly, close working relationships with the people and organizations making a difference in the Mid-South Side will allow the University to leverage its research and organizational expertise—along with talent and support from community and industry partners—toward having a greater impact in the community.

“Through this initiative, the University hopes to serve as a catalyst for the growth of innovative, high-capacity groups working in local neighborhoods.”

—Derek Douglas, Vice President for Civic Engagement at the University of Chicago

Toolkit for Growth

Customized support for nonprofits selected for the Community Programs Accelerator will meet each organization where its needs are, and may include:

- **Training in:** nonprofit organizational fundamentals, evidence-based practice, partnership development, and sustainability planning
- **Strategic Planning**
- **Board Development**
- **Coaching to design, manage, and sustain programs**
- **Work and meeting space**
- **Fellowship or grant funding**
- **Staffing by interns and volunteers**
- **Evaluation and research support**
- **Consultation with experts and partners**
- **Best practices: fundraising, grant writing.**

Apply for Acceleration

The Community Programs Accelerator is accepting submissions for a select number of community-based organizations that will receive more intense, focused support of their programs over a period of time. Three levels of support will be offered to nonprofits at different stages of development. These include:

- **Incubator:** For organizations in operation less than 2 years, at concept or early stage
- **Accelerator:** For small to mid-sized organizations in operation at least 2 years, and looking to scale
- **Magnet:** For mid-sized to large organizations in operation 5+ years and looking to replicate proven programs in the mid-South Side.

Apply by July 5

To be considered, programs must be nonprofit corporations, preferably with 501c3 status, whose work benefits residents in at least one of the following nine neighborhoods: Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Greater Grand Crossing, Hyde Park, Kenwood, Oakland, South Shore, Washington Park, and Woodlawn.

From May 30 to July 5, eligible organizations are invited to apply for the 2014-15 cohort of the Community Programs Accelerator. To learn more and access the application visit communityprograms.uchicago.edu.