COMMUNITY PROGRAMS **ACCELERATOR**

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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

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

Build Connections with UChicago faculty, staff, 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 strengthen the organization and its leaders.

Access Resources such as UChicago student, staff, and faculty volunteers, interns, and project consultants.

Make a Difference on 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 Accelerator hosts a year-round series of workshops and seminars open to all nonprofits and community-based organizations. Workshops are free and open to the public. Organizations and industry practitioners interested in attending, presenting a seminar or workshop, or 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 Accelerator to email **communityprograms@uchicago.edu**.

University Partners

The Accelerator establishes partnerships across campus to support local nonprofits. Current partners include:

Alumni Relations and Development
Campus Catalyst
Center for Leadership and Involvement
Chicago Booth School of Business:
    Social Enterprise Initiative
Chicago Policy & Research Team
Civic Knowledge Project
Graham School of Continuing and
    Professional Studies
IT Services
Institute of Politics
Law School: Arthur Kane Center for Clinical
    Legal Education
Polsky Exchange
Office of Civic Engagement
School of Social Service Administration
UChicago Career Advancement
UChicago Charter Schools
UChicago GRAD
UChicago Laboratory Schools
UChicago Urban Labs
University Community Service Center
Urban Health Initiative

Nonprofit and Corporate Partners

A Better Chicago
DLA Piper LLP (US)
The Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers'
    Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Microsoft Corporation

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communityprograms.uchicago.edu

Collaboration for a Stronger Mid-South Side

The Community Programs Accelerator provides 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 on the mid-South Side allows the University to leverage its research and organizational expertise—along with talent and support from community and industry partners—to have 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, University of Chicago

Acceleration

The Accelerator's **Core Program** accepts submissions for a select number of community-based organizations to receive more intense, focused support of their programs over a period of time. Support will be offered to nonprofits at three different stages of development:

- **Incubator:** For organizations in operation 0 to 3 years, or in planning
- **Accelerator:** For growing organizations in operation 3+ years
- **Magnet:** For mid-sized to large organizations in operation 6+ years, bringing proven programs to the mid-South Side

Toolkit for Growth

The Accelerator provides customized support that meets each organization where its needs are, and may include:

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

Additional Benefits

- **Space:** Accelerator participants can utilize the space at 5225 S. Cottage Grove Ave. for administrative work and meetings. Mid-South Side nonprofits can request to use the space for hosting meetings.

- **Associates Program:** The Accelerator offers general capacity building support to help organizations fulfill a core function through three to five relevant projects over the course of a year. Accelerator staff and interns work with each organization to define a set of project goals that can be accomplished through consultation, networking, and student engagement.

- **Special Projects:** The Accelerator utilizes staff support and student engagement to provide discrete technical assistance to address a specific issue or project during the course of one to two academic quarters.

- **Faculty Initaitives Program:** The Accelerator supports selected faculty-led programs and projects that have a significant community engagement component for a one-year period. These faculty enterprises receive the full range of support provided to Accelerator Core Program participants, including grant funding, staff support, dedicated student interns, and development of strategic partnerships.

The Mid-South Side

The Accelerator will work with organizations serving the following nine neighborhoods:

1. Douglas
2. Oakland
3. Grand Boulevard
4. Kenwood
5. Hyde Park
6. Washington Park
7. Woodlawn
8. Greater Grand Crossing
9. South Shore

Apply

To be considered for the Accelerator, 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.

Eligible organizations are invited to learn more and access the Community Programs Accelerator application at **communityprograms.uchicago.edu.**

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