

# **WEST SIDE UNITED:** Building Blocks to Better Health

## **What is West Side United?**

West Side United (WSU) is an ambitious health equity effort by six hospitals (AMITA Health, Cook County Health, Lurie Children's, Rush, Sinai, and UI Health) working to reduce life expectancy gaps of up to 16 years between Chicago's downtown and 10 West Side neighborhoods by 2030. WSU seeks to improve neighborhood health by addressing inequality in healthcare, education, economic vitality and the physical environment using a cross-sector, place-based strategy. Partners include healthcare providers, community organizations, residents, the faith-based community, business, government and others working together to coordinate investments and share outcomes. Visit <http://www.westsideunited.org/> for more details.

## **What is the West Side United Not-For-Profit Grant Pool?**

WSU seeks to distribute \$225,000 to West Side not-for-profits who are positively impacting their neighborhoods. The grants will complement several other initiatives WSU has undertaken to address West Side inequality (refer to [westsideunited.org](http://westsideunited.org) for further details).

## **How large are the grants?**

Organizations can request up to \$40,000, and must articulate in their grant applications how they will use the funds.

## **Who can apply for the grants?**

The owners of 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations located in or serving at least one of 10 West Side Neighborhoods – Austin, Belmont Cragin, East Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Lower West Side (Pilsen), Near Westside, North Lawndale, South Lawndale (Little Village), West Garfield Park and West Town – are eligible to apply.

## **How will West Side United decide which applications to fund?**

The criteria that the evaluation committee will use include the following:

- Strength of the not-for-profit (measured by project track record and organizational capacity demonstrated in narrative, annual budget, and historical financial statements)
- Impact of the organization on the surrounding community (evaluated based on narrative)
- Impact of proposed program (evaluated based on narrative)
- Program feasibility (evaluated based on narrative and program budget)
- Alignment with West Side United initiatives and investment priorities (evaluated based on the description in the grant application)

A select number of applicants will be selected for site visits. Final selections will be made based on a combination of scoring from the evaluation criteria listed above and the site visit. All applicants will be notified of the status of their application by 12/15/2019.

## **When are applications due, and when will the grant awards be announced?**

Applications are due on October 18<sup>th</sup> and the grants will be announced by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **How can organizations apply, and who can answer my questions?**

West Side not-for-profits are encouraged to apply via [www.westsideunited.org/events](http://www.westsideunited.org/events). Paper copies will be available at the grant information sessions that will be listed on the web site. Applicants with questions should contact Rachael Wilson, West Side United Small Business Program Manager at [info@westsideunited.org](mailto:info@westsideunited.org)