

## **West Side United Small Business Grant Application Questions**

### *Introduction to 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 Health, 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.

### *Description of the Grant and How to Apply*

WSU seeks to distribute \$500,000 to West Side small businesses who are creating jobs and wealth in their neighborhoods. JP Morgan Chase, Northern Trust, and West Side United are providing the funds. Accion Chicago is serving as the fiscal agent for the program. West Side small business owners are encouraged to apply for between \$1,000 and \$30,000. Startup companies, or those with less than 6-months of revenue history, may apply for between \$1,000 and \$15,000. This application must be completed in one sitting. If you wish to see the application questions beforehand in order to prepare, please click this link: [Preview of Application Questions](#). Please also refer to our [Frequently Asked Questions: FAQs](#)

Applications must be received by October 31st. Grant awards will be announced by December 15th. Please contact [info@westsideunited.org](mailto:info@westsideunited.org) if you have questions about this grant.

### *Application Questions*

#### *Business Background*

1. Are you a for-profit business operating on the West Side of Chicago?
2. What is the name of your business?
3. What is your business address?
4. What type of business location is this?
5. For how long has your business been making revenue?
6. What industry is your business in?

#### *Business Owner Background*

7. What is your full legal name?
8. Please select all that apply from the list below (optional, for research purposes only)
  - a. My household income was less than \$66,000 in 2018
  - b. I am female
  - c. I am not White/Caucasian
  - d. I have served in the military
  - e. I am an immigrant
  - f. I have a disability
9. What is the zip code of your home address
10. What is your email address?
11. What is your phone number?

#### *Business Financials*

12. How many employees does your business have (including yourself)?
13. What was your gross revenue in 2018?
14. What was your net income in 2018 (before paying yourself)?

#### *Business Opportunities and Challenges*

15. What is your ultimate goal for your business? (150 words)
16. What is the biggest challenge you face in meeting that goal, besides access to capital? (150 words)

17. How does your business strengthen your community? Please articulate your experiences and ideas on how your business has improved the neighborhood in which it operates. (150 Words)
18. Many communities have worked to create Quality of Life Plans or other local development plans. Please select the community plan that corresponds to your business location. If your community is not listed, or you do not feel that the plan for your neighborhood is relevant to your business, please select "My community is not listed".
  - a. Austin
  - b. Hermosa/Logan Square
  - c. North Lawndale
  - d. Belmont Cragin
  - e. East Garfield Park
  - f. Humboldt Park
  - g. Little Village
  - h. Pilsen (Lower West Side)
  - i. My community is not listed
19. [Select the community goals that your business supports]
20. What grant amount are you requesting (between \$1,000 and \$15,000 for startups and between \$1,000 and \$30,000 for businesses with at least six months of revenue)?
21. If awarded, for what purpose will you use the grant funding? Be specific about how you would invest these funds. (150 words)
22. Do you require additional loan capital beyond the potential grant? Y/N
23. If yes, for what purpose? (150 words)
24. Attach a business plan, other grants, awards, project cost estimates, or any other documents or photos you would like the grant funders to consider. (Optional) (16MB Size Limit)
25. Attach additional document. (Optional)

*Closing Attestations*

26. I attest that all information provided on this application is accurate.
27. I attest that I run a for-profit business that has secured all necessary licenses to operate in Chicago and Illinois.
28. If selected for a grant, I consent to have West Side United promote my business as part of their grant program.
29. If selected, I commit to providing semi-annual reports through calendar year 2022 in which I document the following:
  - a. My revenue for the first 6 months of the calendar year
  - b. Number of fulltime or part-time employees for the first 6 months of the calendar year
30. If selected, I commit to providing annual reports through calendar year 2022 in which I document the following:
  - a. My revenue for the calendar year
  - b. My net income for the calendar year
  - c. My year end payroll, including total number of employees, number of staff working full time or part time, number of contractors, number of staff residing in the West Side, and total wages paid
  - d. Update on how the funds have been used (first year only) and short written business update
31. I acknowledge that if I fail to meet any of these reporting requirements I will be ineligible from future assistance from West Side United.
32. How did you hear about this opportunity?
33. By checking this box I attest that all of the information on this application is true. I understand that Accion Chicago and West Side United do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or identity, marital status, or age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract). I authorize Accion Chicago and its partners at West Side United to investigate and verify the above information. The release of all information by Accion Chicago and West Side United, in any manner, is hereby authorized whether such information is of record or not and I hereby release all persons, agencies, firms, companies, etc., from any damages resulting from such information.