

Small Business Improvement Fund, Executed by City of Chicago and SomerCor

The City of Chicago's Small Business Improvement Fund provides small businesses with reimbursable grants for permanent building improvement costs.

Eligibility

- Commercial and industrial business located in Chicago's TIF districts
- Industrial businesses must have 200 or fewer employees
- Commercial businesses must gross average annual sales under \$9M for the prior 3 years

Application Deadline: Determined by TIF districts – [LEARN MORE](#)

Upskilling Grant - Association of Women's Business Centers with generous funding provided by AARP Foundation

The AWBC works to secure economic justice and entrepreneurial opportunities for women by supporting and sustaining a national network of more than 100 Women's Business Centers (WBC). WBCs help women succeed in business by providing training, mentoring, business development, and financing opportunities to nearly 200,000 women entrepreneurs each year. – [LEARN MORE](#)

Application Deadline: Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis so be sure to apply early. If you have questions, please contact info@awbc.org.

High Road Kitchens, Executed by One Fair Wage and City of Chicago

One Fair Wage in partnership with the City of Chicago has launched the High Road Kitchens program, offering grants between \$10,000 and \$30,000 to Chicago restaurants. – [APPLY HERE](#)

Eligibility

- Restaurant located in Chicago
- Annual revenue of under \$3 million
- Experienced financial loss due to COVID-19 totaling 25% of annual revenue

Application Deadline: Rolling basis

DishRoulette Kitchen \$1k Campaign

Recipients will be selected via a scoring system based on TEAM, NEED, and GROWTH. [Click Here for Further Details.](#)

Grant funds must be used for working capital (payroll, rent, contractors, insurance, taxes, etc.)

Frequently Asked Questions

Submit Questions to the DishRoulette Kitchen Grant team via these links:

[English](#)

[Spanish](#)

Chicago's [Small Business Resource Navigators](#) can provide assistance for this program and other financial opportunities.

Eligibility

- Located in Chicagoland area
- Majority Minority-Owned
- Less than \$500,000 annual revenue
- In business for at least one year
- 25% decrease in revenue due to COVID-19

Required Documents

- All winning applicants will be asked to provide the following documents before receiving funds (clear and legible pictures will be accepted):
- A business bank statement that includes the business address and business name
- A valid business license
- A valid identification card (Driver's License, State ID, CityKey, Consular ID, Passport, or other form of identification)
 - Undocumented immigrants and green card holders who own businesses are welcome to apply.
- A completed W9 form (access a [fillable form here](#))

Chicago Recovery Grant Application for Community Development

The City of Chicago and Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot are committed to strengthening local business corridors and enhancing neighborhood vitality. Throughout 2021, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has supported a diverse set of projects that brought more than \$500 million in development investment to Chicago's neighborhoods.

The Chicago Recovery Plan provides additional opportunities for the City to invest in catalytic local development, expanding upon DPD's existing investments and support. DPD is now accepting applications for grant funding to support local commercial, mixed-use, and light manufacturing development. All are welcome to apply. City staff will prioritize projects in areas of Chicago where there is a history of disinvestment or limited private investment.

Eligibility

- Grant funding can be used for pre-development, construction, or renovation costs for permanent capital improvement projects.
- Open to community developers, business owners and entrepreneurs, and property owners. Site control is preferred, but not required.
- Residential-only development is not eligible, but mixed-use projects are eligible. Further funding opportunities for residential projects are expected to be announced in Q1 2022.
- Priority will be given to catalytic projects with a strong local impact, that are able to leverage local talents, capacities, and institutions to strengthen and contribute to the community.
- Applicants from all areas of Chicago are eligible to apply. Priority will be given for projects in historically disinvested areas as well as projects that build upon existing efforts, such as Mayor Lightfoot's INVEST South/West initiative and community safety initiatives.
- Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate momentum and are expected to break ground in 2022.

- The City expects awards to be capped at \$5 million, though larger, catalytic projects may be considered.

Deadline

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The deadline for this year's final round is August 19, 2022. Applicants who are not prepared to apply this round are encouraged to review all relevant materials and prepare to apply for a potential future round in 2023.

Please do not submit duplicative applications for the same project.

LEARN MORE

Prepare to Apply

Applications will be segmented based on the size of the grant. Grant requests should represent no more than 75 percent of the anticipated total project cost.

#ComcastRISE has supported more than 6,700 underrepresented small businesses across the country (nearly 550 in Illinois, Northern Indiana and Southwest Michigan alone) and provided over \$60M in grants, marketing and technology services. **@Comcast** just expanded the program to all women-owned businesses.

Click below to learn more about the program and apply for the chance to receive technology services from **@ComcastBusiness** or marketing services from **@Effectv**, Comcast's advertising sales division.

Eligibility

- 51% owned and operated by someone who identifies as Black, Indigenous, a Person of Color, or a Female
- Independently owned and operated; and not a franchise location
- registered to conduct business in the US
- Has been operating for one or more years
- Is located within the Comcast Business or Effectv service area footprint

Please see Official Rules located at <https://www.comcastrise.com/legal/>.

For questions about completing or submitting your application, please contact a Comcast RISE Representative at ComcastRISEInfo@comcast.com.

Please review your application prior to submission. Applications that are inaccurate, incomplete or unintelligible for any reason will be voided. Technology Makeover recipients will be required to provide the W-9 form for their business, to comply with IRS guidelines.

The next wave of applications for Comcast RISE Marketing & Technology Services opened on January 16, 2022, and **will close on June 17, 2022**. Click below to apply for Comcast RISE Marketing & Technology Services.

LEARN & APPLY HERE

Cleveland Avenue State Treasurer Urban Success Fund (CAST US)

A \$70M initiative that will bridge the capital and resource gap impacting Black, Latinx, and women entrepreneurs in Chicago's South and West Side neighborhoods.

CAST US will leverage the investment and entrepreneurial development expertise of Cleveland Avenue to support this historically underserved group and empower underrepresented entrepreneurs.

Ideal Candidates

- Founded by Black, Latinx, and women entrepreneurs
- Headquartered (or have significant business operations) in the South and West Side neighborhoods of Chicago
- Representing any industry and seeking early-stage growth capital
- Currently in operation (generating revenue)

Interested in partnering with CAST US to grow your business?

[**LEARN MORE & APPLY HERE**](#)

Fund Allocation:

75%

Of the fund will be invested in Black and Latinx owned companies.

75%

Of the fund will be invested in South and West Side Chicago neighborhoods

50%

Of the fund will be used to invest in Women Entrepreneurs

Giving Joy Microgrant - Available to women 18 and older, you can use the grant to start a new business, or expand your existing business. You can also use the grant to start or expand a nonprofit, non-governmental organization (NGO), charity, or propose a specific activity or project you would like to implement. Grant for \$500. Apply by 6/30/2022. Learn more [here](#).

KKR Small Business Builders Grant for Women - Recovery grants for local companies in communities around the world. For the seventh round of the program, KKR is supporting small businesses with female founders from **Australia, China, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Singapore, Spain, United Arab Emirates, and/or the United States**. Grants are \$10,000. Applications due 4/22/2022. Learn more [here](#).

MassChallenge Accelerator - U.S. Early Stage program attracts top founders from around the world and provides access to the tools, resources, and talent founders and corporate innovators needed to make transformational impact, without taking any equity. They have more than a decade of experience accelerating startups, industry, and innovation ecosystems. They work across sectors to drive a stronger future through collaborative innovation. Applications due 4/20/2022. Learn more [here](#).

Jobber Grants For Home Service Businesses - Any home service business owner or aspiring business owner 18 years old or older, residing in the U.S. and Canada, excluding Québec is eligible to apply for a grant from \$2500-\$15,000. Apply by 5/26/22. Learn more [here](#).

Dear God Are We There Yet? - Community social good activists in US and Canada are encouraged to apply (including Teachers, Students, Entrepreneurs, Small Business Owners, and Community Members). Additional grants for Hispanic women. Grants are \$100-\$500 and awarded quarterly. Learn more [here](#).

4.0 Fellowships (two options) - Essentials Fellowship is a program for founders at the ideation stage. The Tiny Fellowship is for those who have more established ideas. Capital is invested in startups via stipends. Apply by 4/29/2022. Learn more [here](#).

Derby Diversity Week Business Idea Competition - All submissions on innovative business concepts will be accepted with those ideas with a revolutionary “technological bent” being favored. Finalists will be chosen, introduced at the 2022 Derby Diversity Week in Louisville, Ky., and will receive support, mentoring, and resources to put your idea in motion. Finalists will also have the opportunity to compete later this year for the \$50,000 grand prize which will include a host of benefits including monetary support for production. Learn more [here](#).

Dream Big Awards - Must be a for-profit business operating for at least one (1) year primarily within the United States with less than 250 employees OR gross revenues of less than \$20 million for each of 2021 and 2022. Grant for \$25,000. Apply by 7/8/2022. Learn more [here](#).

ESSENCE x Pine-Sol Build Your Legacy contest - ESSENCE + Pine-Sol are partnering to offer a \$100,000 Legacy Award to help champion Black women and the entrepreneurial spirit. To enter you must have a registered business (LLC, Inc, etc). Apply by 4/16/22. Learn more [here](#).

Fearless Strivers - Open to black women who are legal U.S. residents (including DC), 18+ and the principal owner of a U.S.-based small business. Grants for \$10,000. Apply by 12/31/22. Learn more [here](#).

Juntos Creemos Hispanic Digital & Delivery Program - PepsiCo is inviting Latina entrepreneurs who work in food service to apply for eight weeks of personalized expert consultation, including best practices across operations, technology, marketing and digital presence. Learn more [here](#).

Kitty Fund - Helping Mompreneurs – If you are a founder who identifies as a mother and have annual revenue does not exceed \$5M, you can apply. Business must be located in the United States. Grant for \$500. Apply by 4/11/2022. Learn more [here](#).

Northwestern Mutual Black Founder Accelerator - Invests in up to ten high-growth startups per year (two cohorts of five) founded by Black entrepreneurs. Companies with founders or at least 20%

ownership who identify as Black/AA can apply. Company must be in following industries: Fintech, Insurtech, Digital Health, Data Analytics. Accelerator will award \$100,000 investment or convertible note. Apply by 4/29/2022. Learn more [here](#).

WalMart Open Call - Walmart is looking for small businesses and U.S. manufacturers that have shelf ready, innovative, new items at the great value that meet the needs of our customers and members. If your product is made, grown or assembled in the U.S. and you want the chance to pitch your products at Open Call 2022, register by 4/8/2022. Learn more [here](#).

UnderFUNDED Spring 2022 - Grant for \$5000 for one deserving Black female small business owner. Learn more [here](#).

You Glow Girl Women Entrepreneur Grant – Grant for \$10,000 is open to all women entrepreneurs in the US. Apply by July 1. Top 25 will be announced for round 2 on July 8. Top 10 will be announced for round 3 on August 1. Winner announced mid-August. Learn more [here](#).