

GRANT - FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant

Round 3 for the Strengthen & Grow Child Care Grant is now **open!** The application window is **May 31, 2022, through June 17, 2022.**

The program started in February 2022 and run through January 2023. Programs who submit applications and are deemed eligible will receive funding beginning in February 2022 for the first quarter (February 2022 – April 2022). Programs must opt-in each quarter, similar to the Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG).

Quarters will run as follows:

- **SGCC Round 3: August – October 2022 (Currently open until June 17, 2022)**
- SGCC Round 4: November – January 2023 (Applications available in September)

The Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grants will be available to all programs who:

- are licensed as a child care center, child care home, or group child care home.
- were in operation as of March 2021 and continue to care for children today.
- operate full-day and full-year, defined as a program that is open and offering at least eight consecutive hours of care per day, five days per week.
- enrolled 10% or more of the program's licensed capacity with children in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) during any month in 2020 or 2021 and currently participate in CCAP.
- receive no more than 50% of total early childhood program/site revenue from Early Childhood Block Grant funding (including Preschool for All (PFA) and/or Prevention Initiative (PI)) or Head Start/Early Head Start.
- do not accept a 2022 Child Care Restoration Extension Grant award (programs can apply for either 2022 CCRG Extension or SGCC, but not both)

The Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant will provide child care homes with \$2,500 per program per quarter, group child care homes with \$3,750 per program per quarter, and child care centers with \$6,250 per classroom per quarter.

How to Apply:

The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) will administer the Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grants. INCCRRA will provide technical assistance through their website and via email throughout the life of the grant. Email grants@incrra.org with questions.

The application for SGCC is available to programs in the [Gateways Registry Director Portal](#). If your program meets the eligibility requirements above and you do not have the option to apply, please email grants@incrra.org for technical assistance.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[Grants to Local Early Childhood Collaborations](#)

Background

In Spring of 2021, the [Governor's Commission on Equitable Early Childhood Education and Care Funding](#) made several bold recommendations on the funding goals and mechanisms to provide more equitable access to high-quality Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services within the State.

Amount Available

- \$3 million funding available for FY23
- \$2.5 million in Implementation Grants for existing local Illinois early childhood collaborations
- \$500,000 in Planning Grants to establish new local Illinois early childhood collaborations (coming Fall 2022)

Implementation Grant Details

Up to \$80,000 per collaboration for Year 1 with the option to seek renewal funding for two additional years. Renewals and renewal amounts are contingent upon funding. Existing local early childhood collaborations must use these grant funds toward strategies to increase enrollment in ECEC programs and services. The deadline for submission is 11 p.m. on July 22, 2022.

A selection panel will review and score all completed submissions. Grant awards will be prioritized toward collaborations serving: young children living in poverty, children of color, households with limited English proficiency, areas of high social vulnerability (as determined by the [Social Vulnerability Index, or SVI](#)), and areas designated as high risk according to the [Illinois Home Visiting: 2020 Statewide Needs Assessment Update Report to the Health Resources and Services Administration](#).

Example allowable expenses are provided below. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

- Staffing
- Coordinated intake and referral systems
- Mileage reimbursement for staff
- Convening stakeholders
- Translation

This is not a grant meant for individual child care providers, homes, or centers. Please see the Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grants program, outlined above, if interested.

Eligibility and Requirements

- Applicant must be [GATA certified](#), per IDHS requirement
- Applicant must be an established Illinois early childhood collaboration
- Collaborations may work at hyperlocal to multi-county level (i.e., areas served may include neighborhoods, towns, cities, county/counties)
- Applicant must be a legal entity and have the capacity to serve and implement state funds
- Applicant is not required to hold 501(c)(3) status
- Applicant must be in good standing with the state of Illinois
- Applicant must have a [Unique Entity Identifier \(UEI\)](#)
- All Our Kids Network grantees are not eligible as grantees
- Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies are not eligible as grantees
- Applicant must provide matching funds

Year 1 – 10% may be in-kind and/or cash

Year 2 (if renewed) – 20%, of which 10% may be in-kind

Year 3 (if renewed) – 25%, of which 5% may be in-kind

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[Applications Open for Racial Equity Capital Fund](#)

Last fall, Exelon, in partnership with the Exelon Foundation, established the \$36 million Racial Equity Capital Fund. The fund is managed by RockCreek, one of the world's largest diverse owned global investment firms. It will help minority-owned businesses in our service areas to grow, create additional jobs and reinvest in their communities.

Applications are now open for the fund. Estimated loan amounts are up to \$300,000 and equity investments up to nearly \$1 million. Employees' family members are not eligible to apply, but please share the news with your neighbors, friends or business owners in your community.

You can direct interested businesses to [submit an application](#) or contact RockCreek at RECFInquiries@therockcreekgroup.com for more information.

[Verizon Small Business Digital Ready](#), a free online learning program to help small businesses like yours succeed. By joining the free program, you'll not only get access to courses, live coaching sessions, and invaluable learning materials, but can also qualify to apply for an exclusive pool of **\$10,000** small business grants.

With the partnership between [Next Street](#) and [LISC](#), Verizon has committed over \$1M in small business grants for 2022 and opportunities to apply will be available throughout the year. To unlock the application for the current round of grant funding, [register](#) on Verizon Small Business Digital Ready and complete two courses or live coaching events.

Applications opened on April 25, 2022 and close on June 30, 2022. All applicants will be notified about whether or not they have been selected to receive grant funding by July 11, 2022.

[Register Today](#)

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

AAPISTRONG Restaurant Fund - With support from Grubhub, this fund serves to support AANHPI restaurant owners. Must be based in US and restaurant must be Asian American/Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian majority-owned. Grants for \$25,000 - \$100,000. Apply by 6/22/22. Learn more [here](#).

Amazon's Black Business Accelerator - Dedicated to helping build sustainable equity and growth for Black entrepreneurs by enabling their success as sellers. Grow your business with access to financial support, strategic business guidance and mentorship, and marketing and promotional support. Learn more [here](#).

Antares REACH Grant Program USA - Hello Alice and the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), the Antares REACH Grant Program will provide \$20,000 grants to small businesses, with an emphasis on businesses preparing for their next stage of growth; operated by historically underrepresented entrepreneurs; and providing important community services. Grant for \$20,000. Apply by 7/14/22. Learn more [here](#).

AT&T Black Future Maker - Black Future Makers are dedicated individuals pursuing greater possibilities for the greater good. Submit a video of 30-60 seconds, or photo, on your Instagram feed explaining how you are pursuing greater possibilities for you and the community. Grants for \$10,000. Apply by 12/31/22. Learn more [here](#).

Bank of America Breakthrough Lab Accelerator - Breakthrough Lab is an accelerator program for minority founders from underserved communities. It provides access to expertise and mentorship for early-stage businesses that are building growth models, establishing industry contacts and positioning themselves for new funding. Apply by 6/20/22. Learn more [here](#).

Black Ambition Prize - The Black Ambition Prize competition provides a platform for Black and Latinx founders across the nation and students and recent alumni of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to access growth capital, pitch feedback, and mentorship. Eligible applicants consist of Black and Latinx innovators building early-stage ventures. Grants for up to \$1MM. Apply by 6/20/22. Learn more [here](#).

Black Girl Ventures (BGV) Fall 2022 Pitch Program - If you're a Black/Brown woman-identifying founder in Austin, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, or Miami, you can apply by 7/1/22. 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](#).

Driving Small Business Forward - Ten \$25,000 grants will be awarded to Hispanic Small Businesses to use towards the purchase of a commercial vehicle. Apply by 6/17/22. Learn more [here](#).

eBay Up and Running Grant - Business sellers will be asked to share details of their small business and how they plan to use the grant to accelerate their growth. eBay is looking to identify sellers who represent a diverse range of backgrounds, bring their unique experiences and inventory to the marketplace, and are committed to their communities and the eBay ecosystem. Grants for \$10,000. Apply by 6/10/22. Learn more [here](#).

Famous Amos Ingredients for Success Entrepreneurs Initiative - Your business must be at minimum 90% Black-owned to be considered for this program and have been in operation for five years or less. Pitch competition for \$50,000. Apply by 6/26/22. 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](#).

Founders First Job Creators - Must be located in the state of Pennsylvania or New Jersey and have a current staff of 2-20 employees. Your company must be a service-based business and at least one revenue stream serving other businesses. Must be a for-profit company with annual revenues between \$100K and \$3 million. Grants for up to \$10,000. Apply by 6/13/22. Learn more [here](#).

HerRise Micro-Grant - Each month a \$500 micro-grant will be awarded to a for-profit small business owned by women of color. Past recipients used their growth grants for computers,

equipment, marketing materials, software purchase, website creation and more. Learn more [here](#).

IFundWomen Fund Forward Awards 2022 - Through this one-of-a-kind funding program, qualified entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to win a \$100,000 equity investment, access to premium educational resources, and cash grants. Apply by 6/30/22. Learn more [here](#).

Juntos Creemos Hispanic Digital & Delivery Program (PepsiCo) - 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](#).

Kapitus Building Resilient Businesses Grant - Create an original video, no more than 2 minutes in length, telling your small business story and how \$100,000 can help you continue to write that story. Apply by 6/30/22. Learn more [here](#).

SBA Thrive Emerging Leaders Training program – Training program for business owners that have annual revenues of at least \$250,000 and have been in business at least 3 years and have at least one employee. Learn more [here](#).

Wish Local Empowerment Program - You must be a Black-owned business with a brick-and-mortar shop within the United States and less than 20 employees. If selected for the program, you must join Wish Local (which is free). Grants for up to \$2000. Learn more [here](#).

Gurnee, IL Small Business Grant - The village of Gurnee, Illinois launched a small business grant program last month. Grants can be used to improve business facilities and each business must provide at least half of the capital (match) for each project. Grants up to \$10,000. Learn more [here](#).

Illinois Restaurant Foundation - Grants for restaurant workers facing hardships. Grants cover living expenses after life-altering events like accident, illness, or death of a close family member. These are for individuals rather than businesses. \$250 to \$1500. Apply by 8/31/22. Learn more [here](#).

Peoria RISE Small Business Grant - The program is called RISE - Recovery, Income, Startup, Expansion - and it's intended to provide financial assistance to Peoria based businesses that were distressed by the impacts of COVID-19. Grants up to \$50,000 Apply by 6/10/22. Learn more [here](#).

Backing Small Businesses - As small businesses continue to feel the impact of the pandemic, many still need support to keep their doors open. To back underrepresented small business owners as they navigate the pandemic and plan for long-term success and resilience, American Express has partnered Main Street America on a \$2.05M grant program called Inclusive Backing. This program builds on American Express' ongoing [Backing Small](#) initiative to provide economically vulnerable small businesses with financial support and other resources to address their critical needs and challenges. Apply by June 30. Learn more [here](#).