



# Community First® Capacity-Building Grant Program



## What is the Capacity-Building Grant Program?

The Community First Capacity-Building Grant Program provides funding for nonprofit community development lenders. Through our member institutions, we offer grants of up to \$50,000 to strengthen an organization's financial position, operational efficiency, and/or human capital in support of community development lending in Illinois and Wisconsin.

## How can you participate?

- Nonprofit lenders (e.g., CDFIs, CDLFs, and CDCs) with a footprint in FHLBank Chicago's district of Illinois and Wisconsin can apply during the annual application round
- Applications are submitted in partnership with an FHLBank Chicago member financial institution

## What are the benefits?

- Provides flexible operational support to nonprofit lenders
- Establishes partnerships between nonprofit lenders and FHLBank Chicago member institutions
- Supports affordable housing, economic development, and small business lending in Illinois and Wisconsin

## Learn More:

For more information on the Capacity-Building Grant Program, please contact Community Investment at [ci@fhlbc.com](mailto:ci@fhlbc.com) or 312.565.5824.

## Key Program Elements:

- Applicants must be nonprofit, non-depository lenders with affordable housing, economic development, and/or small business loan programs in FHLBank Chicago's district
- **Eligible uses of funds include, but are not limited to:** New program or product development, market research, branding, professional development of staff and/or boards, strategic planning, information technology and systems, and lending, financial, and/or mission-related reporting
- **Ineligible uses of funds include, but are not limited to:** Staffing, lending capital, loan loss reserves, legal expenses, and lobbying
- Applications will be evaluated based on how well the organization's mission aligns with the grant program, the organization's strategy to increase community development lending, and the organization's financial, operational, and management strength
- Recipients are required to submit impact reporting post-award



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Chicago