



Chicago Recovery Plan Community Development Grant

Informational Webinar

Jan. 6, 2022

Agenda

Program Overview

- The Chicago Recovery Plan
- Community Development Grant Overview
- Eligibility

Application

- Application Process
- Application Tips

Questions





Program Overview





Chicago Recovery Plan

\$1.2 billion
in new investments in our residents and their future

Equitable Economic Recovery

- * Community Development
- * Small Business & Workforce Support
- * Community Climate Investments
- * Arts & Culture
- * Tourism & Industry Support
- * Parks & Infrastructure

Thriving and Safe Communities

- * Affordable Housing
- * Assistance to Families
- * Violence Prevention & Reduction
- * Health & Wellness
- * Youth Opportunities
- * Homelessness Support Services
- * Environmental Justice

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★ Community Development Grants

The purpose of this program is to expand upon the Department of Planning and Development's (DPD) investments and support for catalytic local development.

Through these grants, the City aims to:

- Strengthen local corridors
- Enhance neighborhood vitality
- Drive equitable economic recovery



★ Program Overview

- **Grant uses:**
 - **Expansion or Renovation** for existing businesses
 - **New Locations** for start-up businesses or existing businesses
 - **New Construction** at vacant properties
- **Grant amount:**
 - Applicants can apply for up to \$5 million
 - **Small grant track:** Under \$250,000
 - **Large grant track:** \$250,000 to \$5 million
 - Grant cannot be more than 75% of total project costs



Eligibility

This application is open to:

- ✓ Commercial, mixed-use, or light manufacturing projects
- ✓ Business owners and entrepreneurs, property owners, and community developers
- ✓ Applicants from all areas of Chicago

Eligible expenses include:

- ✓ Major exterior and interior renovations to existing businesses
- ✓ Build-outs for incoming businesses
- ✓ Acquisition, site preparation, demolition
- ✓ Architectural and engineering fees
- ✓ Roofing, masonry, façade, windows, doors
- ✓ Mechanical systems, such as HVAC, electrical, and plumbing
- ✓ Security systems, ADA accessibility improvements

*Only eligible expenses can be covered by the Community Development Grant.
Other items can be included in the total project cost, but those will not be reimbursable.*

★ Chicago Recovery Plan expands eligibility beyond current programs

- ✓ Locations not limited to specific corridors
- ✓ Light manufacturing projects and mixed-use residential projects are eligible
- ✓ “Vanilla box” projects (where the tenant is not yet known) with a strong community impact are eligible



Project Selection

Priority will be given to applications that incorporate these components:



Catalytic projects with a strong local impact (job creation, amenities and services that benefit the community, alignment with local community plans, community wealth building, etc.)



Projects located in historically disinvested areas that build upon existing efforts, such as INVEST South/West and community safety initiatives



Projects that demonstrate momentum and are expected to break ground in 2022



Site control is preferred



Application Proces



Application process

2022 application deadlines

- **First round:** Monday, January 31
- **Second round:** Thursday, March 10
- **Third round:** Late summer 2022

Application process depends on size of requested grant amount

Small Grants
(up to \$250,000)

Online application portal, opening this Friday, January 7

Large Grants
(over \$250,000)

Apply via **editable PDF** and Developer Input Form

Small Grants (up to \$250,000)

Online application portal opening this Friday, January 7

1. Access via Chicago.gov/ChiRecoveryGrant
 2. First step will be the Project Assessment. After completing it, you will either be directed to the full application or to additional resources to help you prepare for the next round
 3. After successfully completing the Project Assessment, create account on Submittable.com
 4. Begin the online application – you may save and continue later if preferred
 5. Upload all supplemental files and review to ensure accuracy and completeness
 6. Submit via the portal before the deadline
- A PDF of the application questions is currently [posted online](#) to allow for applicant preparation
 - Applications must be submitted in Submittable portal; PDF applications will not be considered
 - To receive email notification when the portal is open for submission, complete [this survey](#)

★ Large Grants (more than \$250,000)

- Apply via editable PDF, posted at [Chicago.gov/ChiRecoveryGrant](https://chicago.gov/ChiRecoveryGrant)
- Click the link for “*Grants for more than \$250,000 (Large)*” and the application will be downloaded onto your computer
 - File name: fid_developer_input_form
- Follow the instructions in the application:
 1. Complete all required fields; complete optional fields as needed
 2. Attach all supporting documentation within the PDF, including the *Developer Input Form*, using the ‘ATTACH’ buttons
 3. Save the completed application
 4. Submit via Submit button or through email to: FID_Intake@cityofchicago.org



Application Tip 1: Project Readiness

Successful applications must show sufficient planning to demonstrate feasibility and the applicant's readiness to begin as soon as possible

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- **Site Control:** Does the applicant have site control? If not, is the applicant able to demonstrate a secured path to site control?
- **Plan for Construction:** Does the applicant provide a knowledgeable plan for how and when the project will begin and end?
- **Itemized Costs (Budget):** Has the applicant worked with an architect and/or General Contractor to develop a project budget with hard and soft costs fully itemized?
- **Applicant Equity (Funding Capacity):** Has the applicant secured any of the additional funds necessary to complete the project? If not, can the applicant demonstrate capacity to do so?



Application Tip 2: Community Engagement

Successful applications show knowledge of the neighborhood's unique needs and priorities and responds to the community's interests

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- **Community Plans:** Has the applicant reviewed the published community plans for the area to know the goals of the neighborhood?
- **Community Engagement:** Does the applicant demonstrate engagement with the community through business or personal experience? Is the proposed project supported by local residents or community organizations?
- **Corridor Conditions:** Does the applicant show an awareness of the existing services/amenities in the area? Does the applicant know about new business projects nearby, or how the applicant's proposed project will affect the corridor?



Application Tip 3: Design Impact

Project design is not only critical to the success of the business but also makes a statement regarding the community it serves.

Successful applicants have thought carefully about the design of their project and will engage a design professional when appropriate.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- **Equity & Inclusion:** Achieving fair treatment, targeted support, and prosperity for all residents
- **Innovation:** Implementing creative approaches to design and problem-solving
- **Sense of Place:** Celebrating and strengthening the culture of our communities
- **Sustainability:** Committing to environmental, cultural, and financial longevity
- **Communication:** Fostering design appreciation and responding to community needs

★ Resources

Please visit the [Community Development Grant Resources](#) page for:

- Links to City resources
- Materials to assist with:
 - Enhancing project readiness
 - Demonstrating financial feasibility
 - Construction planning
 - Showing catalytic impact
 - Business planning





Questions?





Next Steps

- Thank you for attending. We look forward to reviewing your project applications!
- The session recording and frequently asked questions from today will be posted to the [Chicago Recovery Plan Community Development Grant website](https://www.chicago.gov/ChiRecoveryGrant) (Chicago.gov/ChiRecoveryGrant)
- For any additional questions, please email DPD@cityofchicago.org