



MICRO-GRANTS PROGRAM

At a glance

The Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), in partnership with SGA Youth and Family Services, launched a **micro-grants program** to invest in youth-serving organizations.

Equity Power

The My CHI.
My Future.

Micro-Grants program is a model for how to shift traditional city contracting practices and create a pathway for local organizations to deliver transformative programming and services.

PROBLEM

This program addressed the COVID-19 pandemic-related effects on young people and communities across the City's most impacted regions. DFSS used data tools, including the **Chicago Community Vulnerability Index** and the **UIC Chicago Community Area Economic Hardship Index**, to guide investments in youth employment, arts initiatives, and career exploration activities.

SOLUTION

In June 2024, DFSS, in partnership with SGA Youth and Family Services, awarded **\$600,000 in micro-grants** to 62 community-based organizations across 15 My CHI. My Future (MCMF) community strategy regions. The program helped bridge the gap in access to city resources through targeted outreach, a user-friendly application, and ongoing capacity-building assistance, enabling many organizations to receive financial support from the City.

RESULTS & IMPACT

1

Investments in Smaller Organizations

More than 70% of the organizations awarded grants had not contracted with DFSS in the last decade.

2

Investments in Communities

Funds went to neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic hardships.

BACK OF THE YARDS
AUBURN GRESHAM
AUSTIN

+ **MORE**

EACH ORGANIZATION
RECEIVED GRANTS OF
UP TO \$10,000