

The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities

August 19, 2016

Statement of Purpose

Recognizing the potential for another spike in violence in Chicago over the remainder of the summer and immediately beyond, several major Chicago philanthropies – The Chicago Community Trust, the Joyce Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, the Polk Bros. Foundation, the Woods Fund Chicago and others – are collaborating to support immediate intervention by organizations that are proactively working to keep our neighborhoods safe over the Labor Day holiday weekend and through the beginning of the school year.

The Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities offers “rapid response” grant opportunities designed to support community-based actions and activities that will make neighborhoods safer, reduce violence and promote peace. This new \$300,000 Fund has been created in direct response to the many people and organizations who are seeking to take action in their neighborhoods right now, on the ground.

While each of these participating foundations is already engaged in larger, long-term efforts to help address the problem of violence prevention and community safety, this particular Fund is purposely intended to provide highly targeted, immediate support to smaller local groups over the short term. The Fund is not meant to be a quick fix to the broad and complex problem of violence nor is it a substitute for the intensive and wide ranging efforts already underway or planned to develop responses to the many root causes of the challenge.

Who is eligible?

The Fund will award grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to projects or programs within the city of Chicago. Nonprofit organizations interested in leading activities that promote community cohesion, foster constructive relationships between police and community residents, and reduce violence — including educational events, group or youth activities, recreational activities, festivals, performances, picnics, block-level activities, and more — are invited to apply.

The program will consider proposals from groups, agencies, and organizations with a valid 501(c)3 designation or that have a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor whose interests are consistent with the goals of the Fund to support grassroots, community-based solutions that make Chicago neighborhoods safer. *Funds may not be used to support or advocate for the purchase or use of guns as part of any response.*

Eligible recipients must serve residents and communities in the Chicago area and have a valid letter from the IRS recognizing the applicant as a section 501(c)3 organization,

or designate a fiscal sponsor with a valid 501(c)3 designation. Criteria for funding will include the expected activities and the prospect for promoting peace and reducing violence, the track record of the applicant, the degree of collaboration with others and willingness to share information and plans, and the quality of the proposal as described below.

Grant decisions will be made weekly on a rolling basis, with the first awards anticipated for August 29, 2016. All activities must be completed by October 31, 2016.

Submission deadline is September 30, 2016.

How it will work - funding and oversight

The Chicago Community Trust will establish the Chicago Fund for Safe and Peaceful Communities as a donor-advised fund. Each interested funder will provide its funding to the Fund by August 31, 2016 in accordance with its respective processes and agreements. Initial funds are intended to be used through October 31, 2016.

Oversight Through Advisory Council: An Advisory Council will be established to make recommendations on grants from the Fund. The Council will be led by Polk Bros. Foundation Senior Program Officer Deborah Bennett, who has been selected based on her related expertise and experience. Other Advisory Council participants are:

- Jessyca Dudley, Program Officer, Joyce Foundation
- Anna Laubach, Director, Special Initiatives, McCormick Foundation
- Tawakalitu Mitchell, Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation
- Teresa Rufaro Prim, President, Prim Lawrence Group
- Elena Quintana, Executive Director, Adler University Institute on Public Safety and Social Justice
- Phillip Thomas, Board Member, Woods Fund of Chicago

Grant Amount: Grants from the Fund will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Use of Proceeds: Proceeds may be used for activities that promote community cohesion and the reduction of violence, such as educational events, group or youth activities, resident leader stipends, recreational activities, festivals, performances, picnics, block-level activities, including rental of venues and supplies, and activities that promote constructive relationships between police and community residents.

Form of Proposal: Organizations requesting funds must submit a short proposal, not to exceed one page, plus the budget, addressing the following:

- Communities to be served
- Qualifications of the applicant, including existing programming and success to date

- Planned activities, expected participants, community partners and hoped-for outcomes
- Chicago Police Department collaboration (if applicable)
- Budget for requested funds
- How the activities will contribute to addressing violence, build community cohesion, and/or improve relationships with law enforcement and residents

The grant agreement will contain a provision that the funds will not be used to support or advocate for the purchase or use of guns as part of any activity.

The applicant will also agree to share its experiences with the funders and others so that lessons learned can benefit other participants and be used to inform decisions about use of the Fund in the future.

The application will be available on the website of [The Chicago Community Trust](#).

Applications will be considered through September 30, 2016 or until funds are all distributed, whichever is first. The donors may extend the time in which activities may occur in their discretion.

Reporting

Each applicant will be asked to submit a report (not to exceed one page) on the following:

- how the money was spent as against the budget
- who was impacted
- what was achieved
- lessons learned
- what, if anything, did not work and why

Funding Decisions

Funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis, with the first grants awarded by August 29, 2016.

Successful applicants will be asked to meet at the conclusion of activities to discuss lessons learned.