



GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES & PROCESS

Chicago Connected is accepting proposals from organizations capable of **providing outreach and basic technology training services** to eligible households.

ABOUT

Announced by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, on Thursday, June 25, 2020, **Chicago Connected** will provide free high-speed internet service to approximately 100,000 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students for the next four years.

ABOUT CHICAGO CONNECTED

Chicago Connected was launched in June 2020 to provide free high-speed internet service to approximately 100,000 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students for the next four years. With over 42,000 households and 64,000 students currently enrolled in Chicago Connected, this first-of-its-kind program is the largest and longest-term effort by any city to increase internet access for students and help build a permanent public support system for families in Chicago.

Chicago Connected is accepting proposals from organizations capable of providing outreach and basic technology training to both eligible and connected Chicago Connected households.

Chicago Connected is centered on digital equity and internet connectedness as a way to lay the foundation for success for students and their families by increasing access to online learning, skills and workforce development training, and other critical services and resources.

To achieve these goals, Chicago Connected will partner with organizations to:

- **Eliminate** internet accessibility as a barrier for eligible families;
- **Provide** newly-connected households with digital learning resources and skills development training; and
- **Connect** households with critical resources and services available through partner organizations, the City of Chicago, and other supportive institutions.

KEY PARTNERS

Chicago Connected was created by the City of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools (CPS), in partnership with Kids First Chicago, United Way of Metro Chicago, and the Children First Fund, with the generous support of Ken Griffin, philanthropist and CEO of Citadel, Crown Family Philanthropies, the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund, Illinois Tool Works (ITW), Pritzker Traubert Foundation, JPB Foundation, and the Joyce Foundation.

An additional joint commitment from President Barack Obama and Mrs. Michelle Obama, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Chicago Community Trust to the Children First Fund (CFF), the independent partnership and philanthropy arm for CPS, will specifically support efforts by CBOs on the South Side.

CORE DELIVERABLES, TIMELINE & KEY DATES

CORE DELIVERABLES

Organizations will be responsible for carrying out at least one of the two core deliverables:

- **OUTREACH:** Conduct outreach activities in consultation with CPS schools to sign up eligible households to receive free high-speed internet service.
- **TECHNOLOGY TRAINING:** Provide newly-connected households with digital literacy and skills development training, such as delivering self – designed content or approved third party offerings, one - on - one touchpoints like technology helplines, office hours or hosting learner meet - ups, guidance sessions and/or other approved workforce and professional development programming. This content will equip households with the power to create an individualized learning plan – from developing online safety and job readiness skills, to accessing telehealth resources, to utilizing Google and Microsoft Office tools and registering to vote.

TIMELINE & KEY DATES

THURSDAY, JULY 1

Application window opens

FRIDAY, JULY 16

Application window closes at 5 PM

WEEK OF JULY 19 [EXPECTED]

Notification to all applicants regarding status

PROCESS, APPLICATION FORM, & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Chicago Connected is accepting proposals from organizations capable of providing outreach and basic technology training to both eligible and connected Chicago Connected households.

The Chicago Connected review committee will consider competitive proposals from organizations with experience in partnering with CPS schools, community outreach, technology training, and connecting community members to critical resources.

PRIORITIZING FACTORS

Priority Communities: Organizations interested in providing outreach and/or digital learning support in a specific community should review the list of prioritized communities and the methodology used to identify priority communities in the *Appendix*. Organizations will need to currently operate in one of the listed priority communities or have staff that live and/or work in the community.

Priority Populations: Organizations with experience in serving Chicago Connected special populations, including Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS), English Language Learners (ELLs), and students and families living in high-hardship communities, as defined by the [UIC Hardship Index](#), will also be prioritized.

APPLICATION FORM

All organizations must complete the [CHICAGO CONNECTED CBO APPLICATION](#) to be considered as a partner for Chicago Connected.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Organizations interested in applying **must** meet the following criteria:

- Have 501(c)3 status and can accept funds
- Have ability and is willing to participate in survey dissemination as well as share aggregate data and program results with stakeholders in the initiative.

Please note that replying “No” to either of these questions will disqualify an applicant for consideration

SELECTION CRITERIA - SCORED

All applications will receive a comprehensive evaluation using transparent scoring criteria on the elements below.

	POSSIBLE POINTS
ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	2 POINTS
Priority communities served	2 points
PROGRAM AREA(S) & REACH	5 POINTS
Core issue(s) on which the organization is engaged	1 point
Experience in conducting outreach and/or technology training	2 points
Experience with supporting priority populations (STLS, ELLs, and households in high-hardship communities)	2 points
OUTREACH & TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PLAN	20 POINTS
Proposal to increase community broadband adoption, including conducting outreach in partnership with CPS schools and helping households sign-up with internet service providers. <i>Applicants will be required to describe how their plan can be adapted to align with evolving social distancing guidelines.</i>	10 points
Proposal to support newly-connected households with digital literacy and skills development training, including relevant prior experience. ¹ <i>Applicants will be required to describe how their plan can be adapted to align with evolving social distancing guidelines.</i>	10 points
OPERATIONS & FINANCES	3 points
Cash on hand	1 point
Instances of fraud or financial misappropriation of funds in the last 12 months, financial or legal covenants in default	2 points
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	30

¹ Please note that if your organization does not currently use a specific digital literacy or skills development training curriculum, your application will still be considered and, if awarded, you will be provided with all necessary training resources.

SELECTION CRITERIA – INTERROGATORY

All applications will also be considered based on responses to the following interrogatories. Applicant responses to these questions will help provide the review committee with critical contextual information to make an informed decision.

- **Mission & History**
- **Racial/Ethnic background of clients served**
- **Number of clients**
- **Existing staff capacity to manage program**
- **Consideration of sub-grant partnerships**
- **Annual operating budget**
- **Average monthly cash on hand**
- **Most recent audit opinion type**
- **Number of current full-time and part-time employees**
- **Diversity of Staff**

APPENDIX

COMMUNITY-PRIORITIZATION METHODOLOGY

The community-prioritization methodology incorporated:

1. The number of disconnected households with children,
2. The total of all disconnected households,
3. The percentage of disconnected households,
4. The median household income by community area; and
5. An evaluation using the [University of Illinois at Chicago's \(UIC\) Hardship Index](#).

This resulted in a list of 50 priority community areas. These community areas were then grouped together into 26 coverage areas to ensure greater parity between partner organizations as to the number of households requiring individualized support. For households who connect outside of the priority communities, digital learning and skills development resources will still be offered by a CBO that is capable of providing citywide support.

Chicago Connected is maintaining its partnership with many organizations that supported the program in Year 1. Listed here are priority communities where we are seeking new organizations to serve either through outreach to eligible households, digital learning training to connected households, or both.

PRIORITY COMMUNITIES WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO SERVE

OUTREACH

- LOWER WEST SIDE

DIGITAL LITERACY & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- ALBANY PARK
- BRONZEVILLE (DOUGLAS),
OAKLAND & GRAND
BOULEVARD
- ROGERS PARK & WEST RIDGE

SPECIAL THANKS

Chicago Connected is a partnership program between the City of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, the philanthropic community, and community organizations.



SUPPORTING LOCAL
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
SERVING OUR HIGHEST-
NEED STUDENT POPULATION



PRITZKER
TRAUBERT
FOUNDATION



THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST
A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

TheJoyceFoundation

MacArthur
Foundation

President Barack Obama &
Mrs. Michelle Obama



United Way
of Metro Chicago