



# Community First® Developer Program

## What is the Community First Developer Program?

The Developer Program provides nonprofit, for-profit, and quasi-governmental organizations grant funds to train and support aspiring developers of affordable housing in FHLBank Chicago's district of Illinois and Wisconsin. Through our member institutions, we offer grants to help qualifying organizations provide valuable professional opportunities to new talent, further their affordable housing mission, and create housing in the District.

## How can you participate?

- Organizations with a footprint in FHLBank Chicago's district of Illinois and Wisconsin can apply during the annual application round from June 29 through July 31, 2026.
- Applications are submitted in partnership with an FHLBank Chicago member.

## What are the benefits?

- Establishes partnerships between FHLBank Chicago members and organizations supporting affordable housing development
- Supports initiatives that expand access to the affordable housing development industry
- Increases the pipeline of housing developers working to expand or preserve the supply of affordable housing in Illinois and Wisconsin
- Increases housing supply in the District

## Learn More:

For more information on the Developer Program, please contact FHLBank Chicago's Community Investment team at [ci@fhlbc.com](mailto:ci@fhlbc.com) or 312.565.5824.

[ci@fhlbc.com](mailto:ci@fhlbc.com)

[fhlbc.com](http://fhlbc.com)



## Key Program Elements:

- Examples of eligible applicants include:
  - Development firms seeking to add talent to their team
  - Organizations offering programs/initiatives that support career development for individuals in the affordable housing industry
- Eligible uses for 2026 program funds:
  - Internships/Fellowships:** Grant funds must be used to support compensation for internships/fellowships that provide meaningful professional experience in the affordable housing development industry.  
**New in 2026:** Onboarded individuals should be new to the organization or new to affordable housing.
- The target grant amount is \$50,000 to \$200,000 per beneficiary organization. Requests for other grant amounts will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Grant recipients receive disbursement of grant funds through the FHLBank Chicago member with which they partnered on the application.
- Grant recipients and members are required to submit impact reporting post-award including an expense certification.

## Ineligible Uses of Funds:

- External consultants to support the organization
- Tuition/academic reimbursement
- Office space rent/purchase
- Extensive travel

\*This list is not exhaustive.



**FHLBank**  
Chicago