



GREATER SOUTHWEST  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## GREATER SOUTHWEST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SELECTED BY CITI FOUNDATION'S COMMUNITY PROGRESS MAKERS FUND TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN CHICAGO

*\$500,000 Investment in core operating support will enable Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC) to address the stressed commercial climate on the southwest side of Chicago. GSDC is hard at work to provide commercial and industrial support and development, and entrepreneurial job creation. Core support from the fund will enable GSDC to take their work to the next level.*

**April 26, 2018, CHICAGO** – The Citi Foundation announced that [Greater Southwest Development Corporation](#) (GSDC) was selected as the recipient of a \$500,000 grant as part of the 2018 Community Progress Makers Fund. The Fund is a \$20 million, two-year initiative by the Citi Foundation to support high-impact community organizations that are driving economic opportunities in our communities by bringing together residents, nonprofits, businesses and municipal agencies. GSDC joins a group of 40 change agents who are playing a key role in coordinating the efforts of multiple partners toward common goals and working in new ways to address urban challenges in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, San Francisco Bay Area, and Washington D.C.

Through the fund, GSDC will reinvest in itself, innovate new programs and modify or expand existing ones. They will further invest in technology to maximize operational impact and develop new and significant real estate projects. GSDC will also ensure new businesses have strong resources to support their growth. Greater investment in real estate development will not only create greater community impact, but also generate earned income to support the organization and make it more sustainable over time.

“We launched this program in 2015 as our version of ‘venture philanthropy’ – a chance to invest in the vision and mission of these organizations who are helping positively transform their communities,” said Brandee McHale, President of the Citi Foundation. “We’re pleased with the results from our inaugural Community Progress Makers and are looking forward to implementing the lessons we’ve learned with this next, impressive group of community leaders as they scale, innovate and drive impact.”

“The southwest side of Chicago is ripe for revitalization and Greater Southwest Development Corporation is perfectly positioned to be a catalyst for growth. The Community Progress Makers Fund will allow GSDC to expand its offering of entrepreneurial, commercial and residential resources in order to increase commerce and create financial security while reducing vacancy and unemployment,” said Ghian Foreman, Executive Director of Greater Southwest Development Corporation. “Moreover, this fund will be vitally important in GSDC becoming an apparatus to share best practices in technology and data that will result in more prosperous communities throughout the city.”

"Greater Southwest Development Corporation has proven to be an incredible asset and partner to the city in our efforts to make sure that every neighborhood has opportunities for growth and

vibrancy,” said Aarti Kotak, Deputy Chief of Staff for Neighborhood Economic Development, Office of Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, City of Chicago. “With this Citi Foundation recognition, I am certain GSDC’s work will continue to make our City better, as they work to support the economic development of the Southwest side for all residents so that the promise of our City is shared across all of our neighborhoods.”

In 2016-2017, the inaugural cohort of Community Progress Makers helped more than 14,700 low-income people secure financial assets; built over 10,500 affordable housing units; strengthened more than 1,100 small businesses; and connected 1,800 young people to jobs in their communities.

Below is a full list of 2018 Community Progress Makers:

### **Chicago**

Cara  
Chicago Commons  
Elevate Energy  
[Greater Southwest Development Corporation](#)  
North Lawndale Employment Network

### **Los Angeles**

East LA Community Corporation  
Homeboy Industries  
Koreatown Youth & Community Center  
LISC Los Angeles  
Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
United Way of Greater Los Angeles

### **Miami**

Catalyst Miami  
Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF)  
The Miami Foundation  
United Way of Miami-Dade  
Urban League of Broward County

### **New York City**

Brooklyn Workforce Innovations  
Center for NYC Neighborhoods  
Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation  
Green City Force  
Hot Bread Kitchen  
LISC NYC  
Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF)  
Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners  
Start Small Think Big  
The HOPE Program  
The POINT Community Development Corporation  
WHEDco

**San Francisco Bay Area**

Enterprise Community Partners Northern CA  
Jewish Vocational Service  
Main Street Launch  
Pacific Community Ventures  
San Francisco Housing Development Corporation (SFHDC)  
Social Finance

**Washington, D.C.**

Building Bridges Across the River  
Byte Back  
Groundswell  
Latino Economic Development Center-LEDC  
Mary's Center

**About Greater Southwest Development Corporation**

[Greater Southwest Development Corporation's](#) mission is to be a catalyst for creating and maintaining a vital southwest Chicago community by empowering, building and sustaining development that raises the quality of life for our neighborhood residents, businesses, and industries. GSDC promotes economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals and communities by building and supporting the local business community, which creates jobs, encourages local hiring, circulates money within the community, and increases the incomes of business owners who also live in the community; helping residents achieve financial security and connecting them to local jobs; and providing stable affordable housing to those who qualify.

**About the Citi Foundation**

The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant cities. The Citi Foundation's "More than Philanthropy" approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation. For more information, visit [www.citifoundation.com](http://www.citifoundation.com).

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