

Greater Southwest Development Corporation Spotlight



Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC) has served as a resource for southwest Chicago since 1974, and works to improve the quality of life in southwest Chicago through entrepreneurial, commercial and residential development. Over the past 44 years, GSDC initiatives have spurred more than \$500 million in development activity, generated \$100 million in retail development and transformed key community facilities, such as a local Chicago Police Department Station.

As a longtime supporter of the Chicagoland business community, GSDC understands how critical small businesses are to the city's economy and the vibrancy of its neighborhoods. Unfortunately, many small businesses run into serious challenges finding financing when they need it most—throttling their growth potential and for many, forcing them to close. In fact, research found 90% of business owners identify inability to access capital as a problem.

GSDC partnered with SimpleGrowth as a business assistance partner, because the mission of the lending platform lined up perfectly with theirs: to not only provide capital, but to support and help Chicagoland small businesses grow. As businesses apply for financing, they can also connect with GSDC and other business assistance partners to receive business coaching, credit counseling and other services – often free of charge.

GSDC specializes in many different areas – such as business, residential and real estate services, but particularly in supporting new and established commercial or manufacturing businesses on Chicago's southwest side.

“We understand how difficult it can be for small businesses to receive access to financing and capital – Greater Southwest Development Corporation's mission is to help improve entrepreneurial pursuits for southwest Chicago residents,” said Christine James, Director of Operations. “We want to be a catalyst for creating a vital community, and we can do that by partnering with the SimpleGrowth platform.”

To learn more about GSDC's work, or to apply for a loan or to access support for your small business, visit simplegrowth.biz.