

**CHICAGO COMMONS SELECTED BY CITI FOUNDATION'S  
COMMUNITY PROGRESS MAKERS FUND  
TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN CHICAGO**

***\$500,000 Investment in core operating support will enable Chicago Commons to strengthen its Early Education Family Engagement program and provide wrap around services for more families and students.***

April 26, 2018, [CHICAGO] The Citi Foundation announced that CHICAGO COMMONS 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. CHICAGO COMMONS 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, CHICAGO COMMONS will strengthen its Family Hub and Early Education programs in Chicago's Pilsen, Back of the Yards and West Humboldt Park neighborhoods. Commons' leadership has joined efforts with partners across the nation in the renewed national discourse on ensuring the intergenerational cycle of success for families.

"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."

*"We at Chicago Commons look to partner with individuals, families, and communities to help them overcome poverty, discrimination, and isolation. At our four Reggio Emilia inspired early childhood education schools and partner schools, we serve nearly 1,500 low income children annually. With support from the Citi Foundation Community Progress Makers Fund we will be able to scale our 2-generational family engagement work and our Pathways for Parents initiative to help the parents of our students advance their own education and secure meaningful employment at our early childhood schools."*

*Edgar Ramirez, CEO and President, Chicago Commons*

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.

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## **About Chicago Commons**

For more than 123 years, Chicago Commons' mission has been to partner with individuals, families, and communities to overcome poverty, discrimination, and isolation. Our programs are designed to help children, families and seniors go further to live richer, more fulfilling lives. From our first settlement house, we've centered ourselves in underserved communities to give our neighbors the tools and skills they need to reach their greatest potential.

## **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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