



2019 Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation Community Grantees

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation announced the recipients of its 2019 Community Grants, awarding \$204,200 over two years to 21 organizations in Oak Park-River Forest and neighboring communities. The Foundation awarded grants totaling \$144,700 to local organizations and initiatives working on housing and homelessness. Education and youth development organizations will receive grants totaling \$41,000, and \$18,500 will go to arts and culture organizations.

Grant recipients

African American Christian Foundation

The African American Christian Foundation provides job training programs combined with job placement efforts, counselling and family support services. This grant supports community sustainability by helping individuals achieve dignified work, financial stability and affordable housing.

Alliance to End Homelessness

Alliance to End Homelessness works to prevent and end homelessness. This grant allows them to expand and improve Coordinated Entry and make services more accessible, equitably distributed and efficient.

Beyond Hunger

Beyond Hunger, formerly known as the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry, works to reduce hunger locally through direct hunger relief services, hunger awareness education and advocacy. This grant supports and stabilizes community members who are at risk of hunger and homelessness.

BUILD

BUILD seeks to address mental health and substance abuse needs of youth by helping them develop coping skills and increase healthy functioning. Receiving a program grant will support year-round mental health services to youth in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago.

Children's Research Triangle

Children's Research Triangle provides research-driven services aimed at improving the quality of life for all children at risk for developmental, behavioral, psychological and/or educational problems. This grant will provide trauma-informed care to families and youth in Austin who otherwise don't have access to such care.

Collaboration for Early Childhood

The Collaboration champions high-quality early childhood care, support and learning experiences so that all children develop to their full potential. This grant will increase the capacity of early childcare providers to address social-emotional issues and behavioral challenges in the classroom.

Hephzibah Children's Association

Hephzibah's mission is to help children thrive and families flourish through innovative, community-based programs. This grant supports the psychological, emotional and physical needs of severely traumatized children for children who reside in Hephzibah Home.

HOPE Fair Housing

HOPE Fair Housing aims to eliminate housing discrimination and segregation. This grant will allow them to further their mission in Oak Park and River Forest by increasing fair housing awareness and improving fair housing investigations.

Housing Forward on behalf of the Oak Park Homeless Coalition

Housing Forward transitions people from housing crisis to housing stability. This grant contributes to the Flexible Rental Assistance Fund, an initiative of the Oak Park Homeless Coalition, which supports households in financial crisis to sustain or obtain stable housing.

Lutheran Child & Family Services

Lutheran Child & Family Services' mission is to nurture and strengthen children and families in need. This grant will support the foster parent recruitment initiative so that LGBTQ+ youth are placed in safe and loving homes.

MOMENTA

MOMENTA creates and presents dance productions in Oak Park with dancers of all abilities. This grant will provide diversity and inclusion training to improve cultural competency between staff, collaborators, students and stakeholders in order to create a safe and welcoming environment where people of all racial, cultural and economic backgrounds are poised for their greatest potential success.

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services

Oak-Leyden Developmental Services helps children and adults with developmental disabilities meet life's challenges and reach their highest potential. This grant will provide sustained employment support to participants with developmental disabilities experiencing housing instability or homelessness.

OPRF Day Nursery

OPRF Day Nursery's mission is to provide exceptional, high-quality early childhood education. This grant will support community sustainability and access to affordable early childhood education and childcare by providing families with financial assistance for day-care.

Pro Musica Youth Chorus

Pro Musica Youth Chorus educates and empowers young singers to grow and express themselves joyfully through diverse and exceptional musical experiences. This grant will increase enrollment, retention and diversity of singers and develop their youth leadership skills.

Race Conscious Dialogues

Race Conscious Dialogues strives to educate and activate white people regarding their privilege, power and identity in order to reduce harm and fight for racial justice. This grant will increase awareness about white privilege and power, increase skills to interrupt racism and increase educational outcomes in our local schools.

Sarah's Inn

Sarah's Inn improves the lives of those affected by domestic violence and breaks the cycle of violence for future generations. This grant will support the intervention program, which provides system advocacy, emotional support and safety planning for survivors and their children.

Sisterhouse

Sisterhouse is a shelter and recovery program for women. This grant will support women in the Recovery is Possible Program who are struggling with addiction, untreated mental illness and chronic homelessness.

Strategic Partnerships in Arts & Culture (SPAC)

SPAC is a partnership of four performing arts organizations (The Symphony of Oak Park & River Forest, Oak Park Festival Theatre, The Oriana Singers, Pro Musica Youth Chorus) committed to enhancing the public's experience with the arts. This grant will result in a shared and expanded fundraising capability for the four organizations, benefitting artists and audience members in the forthcoming performance season.

Thrive Counseling Center

Thrive Counseling Center provides comprehensive mental health services. This program grant will help sustain psychiatric services including psychiatric and medication management, 24/7 crisis intervention, in-home counseling for older adults and the Suicide Safer Community Program.

United Way Metropolitan Chicago

This grant will provide support for the Live 2020 Campaign, a community impact plan for Chicagoland and the western suburbs.

Youth Educational Mentoring Basketball Association (Y.E.M.B.A.)

Y.E.M.B.A. provides mentoring and training to high-risk youth. This grant will expand Y.E.M.B.A.'s girls mentoring program and provide on-site job training, professional development training and year-round mentoring to middle school and high-school aged youth

“These organizations help maintain and enrich the social fabric of our communities, and we are grateful to the generous donors who have entrusted us with their philanthropic legacy, which makes these grants possible... With this year’s grant monies, recipient organizations will be able to further transform their programs and increase their meaningful impact on people’s lives. This is a powerful measure of how we can work together to positively affect the lives of residents throughout Oak Park, River Forest and nearby communities.”

Tony Martinez, *President and CEO, Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation*