

CHICAGO

MARKET

A COMMUNITY

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Chicago Market's Commitment to Accessibility and Inclusion:

Chicago Market is driven by a vision of constructing an alternative to the traditional, corporate-driven food supply chain. Because of the current state of our food economy, this bold vision immediately presents numerous dilemmas. For instance, how can a grocery store support dignified and justly compensated rural farm labor while making the fruits of that labor accessible to our low-income urban neighbors? This and similar challenges abound, but we are committed to our vision of a just and sustainable local foodshed, which we maintain is possible.

Here are some of our strategies for seeking progress and justice in the Uptown neighborhood and Chicago's broader northside community.

Chicago Market is open to all for shopping -- not just Owners.

- Owners have a say in the cooperative operations and administration of the Market, but the grocery store is for all Chicagoans to shop!

Chicago Market will be accessible to people of all income levels.

- We will accept SNAP/LINK benefits. We are researching LINK Match, making dollars worth twice as much when spent at Chicago Market, such as when these dollars are spent at a local farmer's market.
- We are currently researching and brainstorming additional ways to cut prices while upholding our financial solvency and commitment to fair labor practices and purchasing from local food producers. This might look like an "imperfect produce" section, a surplus grocery section, a "Pay it Forward" program or a combination of these or similar initiatives. Other food co-ops in the country do such things and we will too.

Chicago Market is committed to providing employment opportunities to the residents of the Uptown neighborhood, including historically marginalized and underemployed groups of people.

- We have established a hiring memorandum of understanding with Back on My Feet, a not-for-profit organization that supports community members who are experiencing

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homelessness, by providing educational support, job training programs, employment partnership referrals and housing resources.

- We are building partnerships with non-profit and social service agencies that serve Uptown, including: Inspiration Kitchen, Lakeview Pantry, Care for Real and others.

Chicago Market is proactively seeking the input of the Uptown community.

- Our Outreach & Inclusion team of Owners and volunteers are professionally experienced (or passionate about) social equity and justice.
- This team will be holding listening sessions and actively soliciting the feedback of Uptown community residents and marginalized voices in regards to their hopes for and concerns about Chicago Market.

Chicago Market Ownership is now accessible to a greater range of community members.

- We began with a 10-month payment plan of \$25/mo to become an Owner. This greatly reduces the immediate burden of the \$250 Ownership fee.
- And we've added our [All Are Welcome payment plan](#) as a pathway to Ownership for those on limited incomes, experiencing financial instability, or participating in programs like LINK, SNAP, WIC, or SSI/SDI..

Chicago Market community events and education programs will be open to all.

- Once the store is open, we are excited to offer programs in nutrition education, how to sign up for SNAP/LINK benefits, tips for eating healthy on a budget, cooking classes for local produce and other topics that our Owners and surrounding community let us know are of interest.
- We welcome all residents of Uptown, regardless of age, gender, housing situation, income level or race to visit our store and partake in our events.

Chicago Market is proud to follow the Seven Cooperative Principles, including Principle 7 - Care for Community.

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