



# Mobilizing Local Philanthropy for Advocacy

MARCH 23, 2021

# Chicago Funders Together to End Homelessness (CFTEH)

- Formal network of FTEH with **27** funders and growing
- Incubated at Michael Reese Health Trust since May 2020
- Mix of public foundations, private family foundations, corporate philanthropies, local United Way, and individual philanthropists
- Intersectional group also working on affordable housing, public health, education, employment, justice reform, and more
- **\$25 million** collectively invested via **500** grants to **200** organizations in 2020

# What's allowed?

## Permissible Foundation Advocacy and Foundation Support of Advocacy

ISSUE EDUCATION, OUTREACH, POLICY DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING	Permissible for Public and Private Foundations?
<b>PUBLIC EDUCATION:</b> Printed materials, neighborhood canvassing, petition drives, social media outreach (without providing views on specific legislation)	UNLIMITED
<b>POLICYMAKER EDUCATION:</b> Providing responses to written requests from a legislative body, holding meetings on an issue without providing views on specific legislation	UNLIMITED
<b>ORGANIZING:</b> Mobilizing individuals and groups to speak out about issues (without discussing specific legislation)	UNLIMITED
<b>CONVENING KEY CONSTITUENCIES:</b> Gathering nonprofits, community leaders, unions, businesses, or others to build support for acting on an issue (not specific legislation)	UNLIMITED
<b>NEWS MEDIA OUTREACH:</b> Educating journalists, editors, and bloggers; writing letters to the editor, op-eds, and advertising	UNLIMITED
<b>POLICY DEVELOPMENT:</b> Researching and developing policy options	UNLIMITED
<b>CAPACITY BUILDING:</b> Supporting the development of staff, infrastructure, or advocacy capabilities of an organization	UNLIMITED
<b>NON-GOVERNMENT TARGETS:</b> Advocacy directed at businesses, trade associations, private organizations	UNLIMITED

Source: Alliance for Justice Philanthropy Advocacy Playbook

## BRING CHICAGO HOME

### What are Chicago advocates pushing for?

- Dedicated, sustainable revenue source
- Reallocate from police to housing
- Low barrier shelter options
- Tenant protections + right to counsel
- Alternate crisis response models
- Registry and housing banishment reform
- State Interagency Council on Homelessness
- COVID-19 vaccine prioritization

# What can CFTEH do to help?

- Supporting a city-wide **narrative change campaign** that increases public and political will to address homelessness
- **Funding people with lived expertise** to organize around Bring Chicago Home
- **Funding and pushing out research** about low-barrier shelter, alternate crisis response models, and other best practices to prevent and end homelessness
- **Writing op eds or submitting public comments** that shine a light on grantee partners' successes and challenges
- A CFTEH **community-designed pooled fund**, ensuring that philanthropy shares power with people with lived expertise when making decisions about resources

# How do we get there?

- **Listening** + community engagement
- **Convening** policymakers and grantee partners
- **Leaning on the FTEH network**, learning from other cities about what's possible
- **Building credibility and trust** with grassroots advocates
- **Forming a CFTEH advocacy committee** to identify training needs
- **Analyzing grantmaking data** to make the case for greater investments in advocacy



## 2020 grantmaking analysis

- \$25 million collectively invested
- Opportunities for greater investment in advocacy/policy engagement
- Chance to streamline grantmaking processes and data collection
- Reflection on racial and geographic equity—who has access to our dollars?
- Opportunities to share power via participatory grantmaking

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