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?

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