

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, August 8, 2022
CONTACT: Joshua Stewart, jstewart@bluestate.co

Chicago Beyond Celebrates the Power of Hyperlocal Community Leaders through the Rapid Response Fund

The Summer 2022 Rapid Response Fund Will Reach 63 Organizations, Provide \$1.7 million dollars to Chicago Hyperlocal Organizations, and Include a \$1,000 Stipend for each Organization to Use for Healing

CHICAGO – [Chicago Beyond](#), an impact investor that works to ensure all young people have the opportunity to live a free and full life, today announced another round of unrestricted funds directed to hyperlocal community organizations and leaders through its Rapid Response Fund. The funds are unrestricted as Chicago Beyond believes that community leaders' experience and understanding of their own neighborhoods enable them to best determine what is most critical and impactful for their own communities.

"We trust and believe in leaders who are using knowledge of their own communities to best serve our young people," said **Liz Dozier, Founder and CEO of Chicago Beyond**. "We hope that this fund serves as an example of how philanthropy can better show up in the space to support hyperlocal organizations."

The Rapid Response Fund also acknowledges the positive impact of hyperlocal community organizations, which historically have not received adequate support, funding, or recognition for their work in the community. Frieda Holly launched [Frieda's Place](#) to support people in Chicago who are experiencing poverty and hunger. When Holly received the news of her Rapid Response Fund award, she shared, "I have been doing this work for 33 years, and I have never received a call like this. I feel so honored to know you have seen my dedication to my community!"

Recipients, who are called Rapid Response Fund partners, provide a broad spectrum of opportunities, including offering relationships of care, donating emergency food and supplies, fueling passions for academics, arts and sports, increasing employment, organizing community events, and contributing to wellbeing and joy. **Here is how some of the Rapid Response Fund partners serve our communities:**

- [Elevate Energy](#): Ensures everyone has clean and affordable heat, power, and water in their homes and communities.
- [Natty Bwoy Boards and Bikes](#): Engages youth through skateboarding, biking, and art-making.
- [Brown Books & Paint Brushes](#): Educates young children and families about Black culture through high-quality literacy, art, and cultural programming.
- [Swish Queer Basketball Club](#): Cultivates a space of joy and community through Chicago's first basketball meet-up for BIPOC queer women/trans/enby.

Other key highlights of the Rapid Response Fund include:

- Acknowledging the abundance of Black-led community organizations, which are too often overlooked and underfunded.

- Gathering recommendations for Rapid Response Fund recipients from the Chicago Beyond People's Assembly, a group that shares their knowledge of organizations' work and impact in their own communities.
- Providing transformational, rather than supplementary, funding to help organizations significantly advance their missions.
- Including a \$1,000 healing stipend to help leaders care for themselves and their teams.
- Inviting Rapid Response Fund partners to use Chicago Beyond's [Home for Social Innovation](#), a space that amplifies voices, radically reimagines individual participation in our collective liberation, and seeks to unabashedly stand for youth, for meetings and special events, and attend Chicago Beyond events.

To learn more about Chicago Beyond's 150+ Rapid Response Fund partners and how they are amplifying the beauty and strength of their communities, [click here](#).

###

About Chicago Beyond

[Chicago Beyond](#) is an impact investor that works to ensure all young people have the opportunity to live a free and full life. Since its inception, Chicago Beyond has invested more than \$40 million in ideas, individuals, and organizations that support all young people in achieving their fullest human potential. Because there is no single barrier to equity, Chicago Beyond invests in everything from education, to youth safety, health and wellness, and beyond.