

## **West Side United Small Business Grant Application Questions**

### *Introduction to West Side United*

West Side United (WSU) is an ambitious health equity effort by six hospitals (Rush, Presence, Lurie Children's, Sinai, Cook County Health and Hospital Systems, and UI Health) working to reduce life expectancy gaps of up to 16 years between Chicago's downtown and 10 West Side neighborhoods by 2030. WSU seeks to improve neighborhood health by addressing inequality in healthcare, education, economic vitality and the physical environment using a cross-sector, place-based strategy. Partners include healthcare providers, community organizations, residents, the faith-based community, business, government and others working together to coordinate investments and share outcomes. Learn more at [www.westsideunited.org](http://www.westsideunited.org).

### *Description of the Grant and How to Apply*

WSU intends to distribute \$85,000 in grants to West Side businesses that strengthen their communities. Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, Presence Health, Rush University Medical Center, and Northern Trust are providing the funds while Accion Chicago is serving as the fiscal agent for the program. West Side small business owners are encouraged to apply for between \$1,000 and \$15,000 using this link on [westsideunited.org](http://westsideunited.org). Paper copies are also available at the offices of Accion Chicago (1436 W Randolph, Suite 300). Applications must be received by October 31<sup>st</sup>. Grant awards will be announced by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact [info@westsideunited.org](mailto:info@westsideunited.org) if you have questions about this grant.

### *Application Questions*

#### *Business Background*

1. Business Name
2. Business Address
  - a. Is this a storefront?
  - b. Is this a home-based business?
3. Number of years and months since your first revenues?
4. Industry (select from list)

#### *Business Owner Background*

5. Business owner first name
6. Business owner last name
7. Business owner ethnicity (optional, for research purposes only)
8. In what zip code do you live?

#### *Business Financials*

9. Revenues in the first six months of 2018
10. Net income in the first six months of 2018 (before paying yourself)
11. Employees as of 6/30/18 (including yourself)
12. Revenues in 2017
13. Net profit in 2017 (before paying yourself)
14. Employees as of 12/31/17 (including yourself)

#### *Business Opportunities and Challenges*

15. What is your ultimate goal for your business? (150 words)
16. How does your business strengthen your community? (150 words)
17. What is the biggest challenge you face in meeting that goal, besides access to capital? (150 words)
18. What grant amount are you requesting (between \$1,000 and \$15,000)?
19. If awarded, for what purpose will you use the grant funding? Be specific about how you would invest these funds. (150 words)
20. Do you require additional loan capital beyond the potential grant? Y/N
  - a. If so, for what purpose? (150 words)

21. (Optional) Attach a business plan, other grants, awards, project cost estimates, or any other documents or photos you would like the grant funders to consider.

*Closing*

22. Do you attest that all information provided on this application is accurate?
23. If selected, do you consent to West Side United promoting your business as part of this program?
24. If selected, do you commit to providing a report six months after the grant is awarded in which you document how the funds have been used and how your business has improved?
25. How did you hear about this opportunity?

*Disclaimers*

By checking this box I attest that all of the information on this application is true. I understand that Accion Chicago and West Side United do not discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or identity, marital status, or age (provided that the applicant has the capacity to enter into a binding contract). I authorize Accion Chicago and its partners at West Side United to investigate and verify the above information. The release of all information by Accion Chicago and West Side United, in any manner, is hereby authorized whether such information is of record or not and I hereby release all persons, agencies, firms, companies, etc., from any damages resulting from such information.