Cook County Starting Block Grant
Outreach and Social Media Toolkit

GRANT OVERVIEW

Cook County has announced a Starting Block Grant initiative to provide capacity building resources and support to community-based nonprofit organizations serving Cook County residents. Cook County Starting Block Grants will support small organizations looking to build internal capacity and develop their infrastructure to promote organizational health, growth and sustainability. This initiative goes beyond traditional grants for organizations to deliver services and allows them to focus on strengthening how they run.

The grant opportunity is open to community-based organizations in diverse sectors, including Arts and Culture, Community and Economic Development, Education, Health and Human Services, and Violence Prevention. Awarded organizations will receive $100,000 in funding for capacity building over two years. Cook County will award up to $5 million in Starting Block Grants in 2023, with a subsequent grant award cycle planned for 2024. The Justice Advisory Council is administering this grant initiative in partnership with the Office of the President.

Key Dates & Information

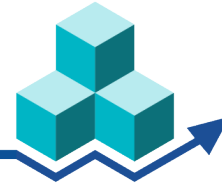For more information and to apply, visit cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants

- Virtual Information Session: Wednesday, August 2, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00pm
- 2023 grant application period: August 7 – September 8, 2023
- Virtual Pre-Submittal Conference: Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00pm

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT

Cook County Website & Outreach Email Content

COOK COUNTY
STARTING BLOCK GRANTS
Building Capacity, Supporting Growth

In 2023, Cook County will award up to $5 million in capacity building grants to community-based organizations serving Cook County residents. Starting Block Grants will provide $100,000 over two years to small organizations looking to build internal capacity and develop their infrastructure to promote organizational health, growth and sustainability. This initiative goes beyond traditional grants for organizations to deliver services and allows them to focus on strengthening how they run.

The grant opportunity is open to community-based organizations in diverse sectors, including Arts and Culture, Community and Economic Development, Education, Health and Human Services, and Violence Prevention. To be eligible, organizations must have non-profit status and an annual operating budget under $1 million.

For more information and to apply, visit cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants

Key Dates

- Virtual Information Session: Wednesday, August 2, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00pm
- 2023 grant application period: August 7 – September 8, 2023
- Virtual Pre-Submittal Conference: Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 12:00 – 1:00pm

Grant Information Session: August 2nd 12:00pm

Cook County will hold a virtual information session to help organizations prepare for the grant application process. The information session is open to the public and will cover eligibility criteria, the application process, and will provide an opportunity for questions.

Register for the 8/2 Information Session
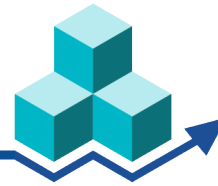
Pre-Submittal Conference: August 16th 12:00pm

This session will serve as another opportunity for perspective applicant organizations to receive information on the funding opportunity and ask questions.

Register for the 8/16 Pre-Submittal Conference

Short Newsletter Blurb

COOK COUNTY
STARTING BLOCK GRANTS
Building Capacity, Supporting Growth

Cook County Starting Block Grant Opportunity

In 2023, Cook County will award $5 million in capacity building grants to community-based organizations serving Cook County residents. Starting Block Grants support small organizations looking to build internal capacity and develop their infrastructure to promote organizational health, growth and sustainability.

The grant application period is August 7 – September 8 2022. To learn more, visit cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants or attend the Information Session on August 2nd at 12:00pm: **Register here**!

Through partnering with and supporting our local community-based organizations, we will build strong and healthy communities for all Cook County residents.

Social Media Post Promoting Info Session
Post before August 2nd

Download Graphics

Calling all community organizations! @cookcountygov announced a new capacity building grant opportunity for community-based non-profit organizations: Cook County Starting Block Grants. Register for the August 2nd Information Session to learn more. #InvestInCommunities #CommunityOrganization #nonprofit

Social Media Posts Promoting Application
Post after August 7ᵗʰ

Download Graphics

- Community organizations strengthen our communities! Organizations may apply for @cookcountygov's first round of Starting Block Grants through September 8, 2023. Visit cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants for details. #CommunityOrganization #nonprofit

- @cookcountygov is committed to supporting community organizations that promote the health, safety, and success of Cook County residents. Learn more and apply for Cook County Starting Block Grants at cookcountyil.gov/JACGrants. #CommunityOrganization #nonprofit # InvestInCommunities

Hashtags

#CommunityOrganization

#nonprofit

#InvestInCommunities

Accessibility

When sharing posts and images, we encourage you to follow these two accessibility practices:

1. Use CamelCase for hashtags. This means capitalizing #TheFirstLetter of each word in every hashtag. For example, write #CookCounty and not #cookcounty.

2. Use image descriptions:
   [How to add image descriptions on Twitter](#)
   [How to add image descriptions on Facebook](#)
   [How to add image descriptions on Instagram](#)