



Allies for Community Business

Our Vision and Mission



Allies for
Community
Business

Supporting small businesses.
Strengthening communities.



Our vision is that entrepreneurs from any background can start and grow businesses that create generational wealth for their families and communities.

Our mission is to provide the capital, coaching, and connections entrepreneurs need to grow great businesses that create jobs and wealth in their communities.

Good Food Fund

- Support food entrepreneurs in communities with inequitable access to food.
- Designed through engagement with the Food Equity Council.
- Seeks to help expand, enhance, and restore the food industry using an equity and community-based approach.



Good Food Fund

Grants, loans, and coaching for food and beverage entrepreneurs in Chicago

Good Food Fund Grant

\$10K to \$100K grants

Good Food Fund Loan

3% interest term loans and lines of credit

Good Food Fund Coaching

Free one-on-one business coaching

Learn more at bit.ly/chicagoodfoodfund

Loans



Overview

Allies for Community Business offers term loans and lines of credit between \$500 and \$100,000 to early, emerging, and established businesses in Illinois and Indiana.

We are a little different from other lenders: we do not use credit scores and do not put liens on your personal assets. Instead, we evaluate how well you have managed your debts over the past two years and how much cash you have available to make monthly loan payments to us.

Terms and policies



We can approve loan requests in as little as 24 hours for eligible borrowers, but we often will ask you follow-up questions that will take additional time.

We charge 9% in interest (3% for F+B!) and 2% in closing fees.

Our standard term is 36 months, but we can adjust that if required.

Apply for a loan at a4cb.org/loans

Loan Options

	Term Loan 	Line of Credit 
Loan Amounts	\$500 to \$100,000	\$500 to \$100,000
Loan Terms	Fixed term from 12 months	Converts to a term loan on month 13
Repayment	Principal and interest	Interest only for the first year
Common Uses	Business start-up expenses, equipment, facility improvements, marketing, vehicle purchase	Inventory, payroll, project materials, sales event, slow A/R payments

*Cynthia's Gumbo Express
Chicago, IL*



1:1 Coaching

Allies for Community Business provides free 1:1 coaching to anyone who wants to start or grow their business.

Group Coaching

We provide frequent business classes online, and run cohort programs such as the Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Lab.

1:1 Coaching

For Early-stage Businesses

- Assessing the Business
- Getting Started
- Preparing to Launch
- Planning for Stability

For Emerging Businesses

- Improving Financial Management
- Defining Business Operations
- Preparing for Growth

For Established Businesses

- Participate in Collaborations
- Attract Outside Investors
- Planning for Succession or Acquisition

**Schedule a free coaching session at
a4cb.org/coaching**

Good Food Fund Grants – Round 1



Key Points

- Not first-come, first-served
- All stages of food production
- We are here to help
- Eligibility Criteria vs. Priorities
- Round 2 later this year

Eligibility Criteria

- Food and beverage business focused on agriculture, manufacturing, processing, marketing, wholesale and distribution, service, retail, or research and development
- Located in Chicago
- Filed a federal tax return in 2022
- Has established a business bank account
- Holds a current food and beverage business license*

*If you don't have this, please reach out!

Priorities

- Located on Chicago's West or South Sides
- Owner has lived in the community where the business is located for at least five years
- Has operated in the community for at least five years
- Offers a median hourly wage that is a living wage
- Is independently owned and operated
- Employs less than 25 full time workers
- Is a worker-owned cooperative

Exceptions

- National Chains (Locally-owned franchises are acceptable)
- Liquor stores and alcoholic beverage wholesalers
- Cannabis dispensaries and other cannabis-related businesses
- Night clubs and bars

Grant Application

2-Step Application Process

- Expression of Interest: open now
 - Closes April 12
- Full Application
 - Eligible businesses invited by email
 - Closes April 26

Questions so far?

Next up

- Expression of Interest Forms
- Full Application Forms

Contact

- Help@a4cb.org
- (872) 710-0035