

North Lawndale Fresh Grantee Project Descriptions

North Lawndale Fresh 2026 Grantees

The North Lawndale Fresh funders collaborative, [Builders Initiative](#), [Food:Land:Opportunity](#), [Steans Family Foundation](#), [The Lumpkin Family Foundation](#) and the [Walter Mander Foundation](#), reviewed applications for year five of North Lawndale Fresh's five-year commitment to work collaboratively with partners to expand healthy retail options, support community gardens and local food production, grow food enterprises, and protect and strengthen food assistance programs in the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. The North Lawndale Fresh funders made seven grant awards for 2026 totaling \$1,025,000.

Projects being funded this year are:

- [Above and Beyond Food Pantry](#)—to support the six-day per week food pantry operation in a new, larger location in North Lawndale. The pantry provides nutritious food with a client-choice retail model, community nutrition workshops, and holistic support services including connections to housing and employment assistance. \$100,000
- [Chicago Grows Food](#)—to hire additional support staff to continue the Grow Your Groceries Home Garden program which aims to address food insecurity and barriers to gardening in low food access areas by providing residents with grow kits and a variety of educational resources for maintaining their gardens and increasing their knowledge of how to grow their food. \$50,000
- [Common Threads](#)—to expand the Growing Farm-to-School Learning Opportunities collaborative program with Sumner Academy, Corkery Elementary, and CYC-Sidney Epstein Youth Center which provides cooking and nutrition education programs with local ingredients to increase students' and families' food literacy, cooking skills, and access to healthy snacks and meals. The program will work to bring on one other school in North Lawndale to expand program offerings. \$50,000
- [Faith in Place](#)—to support the construction work on and pay ramp-up costs for the Community Incubator Kitchen at Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church. The project will help the kitchen become fully licensed to be used as an entrepreneurial resource for residents of North Lawndale to turn their cooking talents into viable food businesses. \$100,000
- [Gardeneers](#)—to support the school garden programs in the North Lawndale community. These school garden programs provide students with knowledge, skills, and tools to become food justice leaders in their communities and bring fresh produce to local residents, and provide food to North Lawndale residents. \$200,000
- [Good Food Catalyst](#)—In partnership with North Lawndale based orgs, GFC promotes health and food access in North Lawndale by supporting local growers, producers, and consumers through cooking classes, community meals, and partnerships with retailers and restaurants to expand access to healthy, culturally relevant food. \$75,000
- [YMEN](#)—to support the North Lawndale Garden to Table Pipeline and the operation of its food and distribution hubs—NL Greening Committee, Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church, YMEN, The Firehouse Community Art Center and Street Vendors Association of Chicago—that distribute locally grown produce, prepared meals, and donated/rescued food reaching North Lawndale's most isolated residents. \$450,000

North Lawndale Fresh Grantee Project Descriptions

North Lawndale Fresh 2025 Grantees

The North Lawndale Fresh funders collaborative, [Builders Initiative](#), [Food:Land:Opportunity](#), [Steans Family Foundation](#), [The Lumpkin Family Foundation](#) and the [Walter Mander Foundation](#), reviewed applications for year four of North Lawndale Fresh's five-year commitment to work collaboratively with partners to expand healthy retail options, support community gardens and local food production, grow food enterprises, and protect and strengthen food assistance programs in the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. The North Lawndale Fresh funders made eight grant awards for 2025 totaling \$1,221,000.

Projects being funded this year are:

- [A Safe Haven Foundation](#)—will scale and re-launch the Culinary Arts Training Program for individuals experiencing homelessness and to sustain the existing catering social enterprise. \$50,000
- [Chicago Grows Food](#)—to continue the Grow Your Groceries Home Garden program which aims to address food insecurity and barriers to gardening in low food access areas by providing residents with grow kits and a variety of educational resources for maintaining their gardens and increasing their knowledge of how to grow their food. \$25,000
- [Common Threads](#)—to expand the Growing Farm-to-School Learning Opportunities collaborative program with [Sumner Academy](#) and [CYC-Sidney Epstein Youth Center](#) which provides cooking and nutrition education programs with local ingredients to increase students' and families' food literacy, cooking skills, and access to healthy snacks and meals. The program will work to bring on two other schools in North Lawndale to expand program offerings. \$50,000
- [Chicago Horticultural Society \(Windy City Harvest\)](#)—to support the expansion of the VeggieRx program in partnership with the Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC). VeggieRx creates a linkage between fresh produce and clinical care for patients with diet-related illnesses. \$200,000
- [Dion's Chicago Dream](#)—to provide Dream Deliveries to the community of North Lawndale via partnership with The North Lawndale Food Alliance, thus improving health outcomes in the community through nutritional philanthropy. \$175,000
- [Gardeneers](#)—to continue supporting school garden programs in the North Lawndale community. These school garden programs provide students with knowledge, skills, and tools to become food justice leaders in their communities and bring fresh produce to local residents and provide food to North Lawndale residents. \$196,000
- [Good Food Catalyst](#)—In partnership with North Lawndale based orgs, GFC promotes health and food access in North Lawndale by supporting local growers, producers, and consumers through cooking classes, community meals, and partnerships with retailers and restaurants to expand access to healthy, culturally relevant food. \$75,000
- [YMEN](#)—to continue supporting the North Lawndale Garden to Table Pipeline and the operation of its food and distribution hubs—[NL Greening Committee](#), Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church, YMEN, [The Firehouse Community Art Center](#) and [Street Vendors Association of Chicago](#)—that distribute locally grown produce, prepared meals, and donated/rescued food reaching North Lawndale's most isolated residents. \$450,000

North Lawndale Fresh Grantee Project Descriptions

North Lawndale Fresh 2024 Grantees

The North Lawndale Fresh funders collaborative, [Builders Initiative](#), [Food:Land:Opportunity](#), [Steans Family Foundation](#), [The Lumpkin Family Foundation](#) and the [Walter Mander Foundation](#), reviewed applications for year three of North Lawndale Fresh's five-year commitment to work collaboratively with partners to expand healthy retail options, support community gardens and local food production, grow food enterprises, and protect and strengthen food assistance programs in the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. The North Lawndale Fresh funders made six grant awards for 2024 totaling \$883,000.

Projects being funded this year are:

- [Chicago Grows Food](#)—to continue the Grow Your Groceries and Home Garden programs which aim to address food insecurity and barriers to gardening in low food access areas by providing residents with grow kits and a variety of educational resources for maintaining their gardens and increasing their knowledge of how to grow their food. \$25,000
- [Common Threads](#)—to expand the Growing Farm-to-School Learning Opportunities collaborative program with [Sumner Academy](#) which provides cooking and nutrition education programs with local ingredients to increase students' and families' food literacy, cooking skills, and access to healthy snacks and meals. The program will bring on the [CYC-Sidney Epstein Youth Center](#) as a collaborative partner to expand program offerings. \$28,000
- [Gardeneers](#)—to continue supporting school garden programs in the North Lawndale community with [Holy Family Ministries](#), [Homan Rails Farm](#), and [North Lawndale College Prep](#), and expand their reach to support programs at [Roswell B. Mason Mathematics & Science Academy](#). These school garden programs provide students with knowledge, skills, and tools to become food justice leaders in their communities and bring fresh produce to local residents. \$130,000
- [Faith in Place](#)—for their Faith Community Action partnership with [Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church](#) which advances North Lawndale's Quality of Life Plan by supporting community health and building the local economy. Fruit trees will be planted at the neighborhood greenspace, [James Stone Freedom Square](#), and a licensed shared kitchen will be completed to provide nutrition classes and food entrepreneurial opportunities to local residents. \$150,000
- [Food Access Project](#)—for the Food is Medicine Delivery Pilot for People with Chronic Disease in collaboration with [Mt. Sinai Hospital](#) which will connect the healthcare system with the local charitable food infrastructure to provide deliveries of medically-tailored groceries and supplemental produce to food-insecure neighbors managing chronic health conditions in North Lawndale. \$100,000
- [YMEN](#)—to continue supporting the North Lawndale Garden to Table Pipeline and the operation of its food and distribution hubs—[NL Greening Committee](#), Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church, YMEN, [The Firehouse Community Art Center](#) and [Street Vendors Association of Chicago](#)—that distribute locally grown produce, prepared meals, and donated/rescued food reaching North Lawndale's most isolated residents. \$450,000

North Lawndale Fresh Grantee Project Descriptions

North Lawndale Fresh 2023 Grantees

The North Lawndale Fresh funders collaborative, [Builders Initiative](#), [Food:Land:Opportunity](#), [Steans Family Foundation](#), [The Lumpkin Family Foundation](#) and the [Walter Mander Foundation](#), reviewed applications for year two of North Lawndale Fresh's five-year commitment to work collaboratively with partners to expand healthy retail options, support community gardens and local food production, grow food enterprises, and protect and strengthen food assistance programs in the North Lawndale neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. The North Lawndale Fresh funders made six grant awards for 2023 totaling 1,222,000.

Projects being funded this year are:

- [Chicago Grows Food](#)—for the Grow Your Groceries and Home Garden programs which aim to address food insecurity and barriers to gardening in low food access areas by providing residents with grow kits and a variety of educational resources for maintaining their gardens and increasing their knowledge of how to grow their food. \$25,000
- [Common Threads](#)—for the Growing Farm to School Learning Opportunities collaborative program with [Sumner Academy](#) which provides cooking and nutrition education programs with local ingredients to increase students' and families' food literacy, cooking skills, and access to healthy snacks and meals. \$28,000
- [Gardeneers](#)—to expand community events and production at the [Homan Rails Farm](#) and the garden at [North Lawndale College Prep](#) which provide fresh produce, resources, and knowledge to families and local residents through farm stands or garden workshops. \$95,000
- [North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council NLCCC](#)—to continue the Lawndale Gateway development project which aims to increase healthy food access in the West Side. This second investment will support staffing, as well as architecture, engineering, and design of the affordable, full-line grocery store. \$485,000
- [North Lawndale Greening Committee](#)—for the North Lawndale Urban Agricultural Expansion project which aims to add four new urban agriculture gardens and revitalize five existing gardens, provide workshops and education to growers and volunteers, and foster community outreach to residents to educate them on growing their own food, preparing nutritious meals, and leading healthy lifestyles. \$94,000
- [YMEN](#)—to continue supporting the North Lawndale Garden to Table Pipeline, which operates four food hubs—NL Greening Committee, Stone Temple Church, YMEN, and The Firehouse Community Art Center—that distribute locally grown produce, prepare meals, and donated/rescued food. This grant will help identify and add a new hub and equip drivers to expand to reach the most isolated residents and reduce the distance residents have to travel for food. \$495,000

North Lawndale Fresh Grantee Project Descriptions

North Lawndale Fresh 2022 Grantees

- [Chicago Horticultural Society](#): This grant will support the Chicago Botanic Garden's Windy City Harvest (WCH) requests for critical upgrades to the point of sale system at its North Lawndale headquarters, the Farm on Ogden (FOO). These upgrades respond to growing demand at FOO, alleviating wait times and improving overall customer experience. This investment and additional efforts by the Farm on Ogden team will steadily enhance and increase North Lawndale customer participation.
- [North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council NLCCC \(New Covenant Community Development Corp](#) as fiscal sponsor): The NLCCC Food Collaborative will expand healthy food options for community residents and build the North Lawndale economy through food-related enterprises by expanding a successful food distribution initiative (with Top Box Foods) and supporting Black-owned, local grocery businesses. The North Lawndale Community Coordinating Council (NLCCC) is a group of North Lawndale stakeholders, including community-based organizations, business owners, elected officials and individuals, that have come together to guide comprehensive planning and implementation in North Lawndale (Chicago's Community Area 29). NLCCC member organizations include Boxing Out Negativity, Firehouse Community Arts Center, Foundation for Homan Square, Lawndale Christian Development Corporation, Lawndale Christian Legal Center, New Covenant Community Development Corporation, North Lawndale Employment Network and Sweet Beginnings LLC, Sinai Chicago, and Sinai Community Institute, among others.
- [YMEN](#): This grant will support the North Lawndale Garden to Table Pipeline, which creates a sustainable food system that connects proven community organizations to combine locally grown, nutrient rich food with available food. Prepared meals and food packages will be distributed in community settings and delivered to elderly and isolated. This cooperative project involves YMEN, Stone Temple Church, Firehouse Community Arts Center, and the North Lawndale Greening Committee.