



Bureau of Economic Development

Elevating growth and community transformation across Cook County

ABOUT

The Bureau of Economic Development (BED) manages strategic initiatives, investments and regional collaborations to promote equitable economic growth and affordable housing. The Bureau includes the Office of Economic Development, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Building and Zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Bureau's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Cook County residents and businesses through transformative and equitable community and economic development.



5M+

Residents served



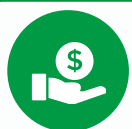
84,000

Free legal consultations
around housing and debt



36,000+

Businesses served since
2021



\$9.2M

Awarded to 92 businesses
through the Catalyst Grants

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE



The Cook County Small Business Source (The Source) provides business advising, access to capital resources and training to business owners at no cost.

Since 2021, The Source has directly served more than 36,000 businesses through business advising and events. Additionally, in late 2025, the Source invested \$2.4 million across five community financial institutions to expand their ability to lend to/finance small businesses.

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



700+

homes purchased
during first two phases

An in-demand resource that assists qualifying homebuyers with down payments, closing costs or mortgage buydowns. The program subsidizes five percent of the home's final first loan amount, up to \$25,000.



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211 METRO CHICAGO

A critical partnership with United Way of Metro Chicago that provides a free, 24-hour helpline linking Cook County residents to resources related to food, employment assistance, housing, mental health services and utility payment assistance. 211 Metro Chicago has connected residents with resources through more than 500,000 referrals.



**500,000+
referrals**

via phone, text
message, website
search and chat
from residents in
multiple
languages.

COOK COUNTY LEGAL AID FOR HOUSING AND DEBT (CCLAHD)

This initiative provides free legal assistance to residents facing critical challenges with housing or debt. CCLAHD has served more than 110,000 residents through more than 84,000 free legal consultations. Cook County Court is seeing 10,000 fewer evictions (20% decrease) compared to pre-pandemic numbers.



residents served



free legal
consultations
around housing and
debt



in evictions
compared to pre-
pandemic numbers

WATER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

The program provides relief to suburban Cook County residents on their water bills through three components: a Technical Assistance Program (TAP) to address systemic issues by working directly with municipalities, Water Bill Relief to eliminate water utility debt and Leak Repair assistance to reduce water use by upgrading fixtures in homes.