THE FIELD FOUNDATION OF ILLINOIS

LEADERS FOR A NEW CHICAGO AWARD: A BACKGROUNDER

The Field Foundation is now accepting nominations for the Leaders for a New Chicago award, an initiative supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. As Chicago redefines itself, this program advances equity and access to opportunity and fosters conditions that recognize and promote people who bring a broad diversity of background and experience to leadership positions.

WHAT WILL AwarDees RECEIVE?
Leaders for a New Chicago will award $50,000 to 10-15 recipients a year: a no-strings-attached $25,000 award for individuals and a $25,000 general operating grant for the individuals’ affiliated charities, if applicable. The program will support 30 to 50 recipients over its first three years.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Leaders will be selected from a broad array of Chicago metro area residents, with strong representation from African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) communities. No individual will be denied consideration or selection because of race, religion, nationality or ethnic origin.

The selection committee will also keep in mind a diversity of religion, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation; age and expertise, people with disabilities, and those from different geographies and income levels. Nominees must be Chicago residents whose organizations have been awarded grants within the past two years by the Field Foundation or MacArthur’s Chicago Commitment or Jack Fuller Legacy Initiative.

Details on the nomination process, including nomination requirements, eligibility rules, deadline information and application are available at https://fieldfoundation.org/how-to-apply/program-grants/.

HOW WILL THE AWARD WORK?
The Field Foundation is now accepting nominations, and candidates can be nominated by colleagues, peers, or self-nominated. Nominees will then be reviewed by the Leaders for a New Chicago Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will include a select group of Field Foundation representatives, a Chicago Commitment team member, and recognized field leaders. Recipients will be selected in May 2019.

WHY NOW?
Chicago is redefining its leadership. Although over 60 percent of Chicago residents are from African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American (ALAANA) communities, the city’s civic leadership does not reflect these demographics. Whether in the private, public, or in the philanthropic sector, many individuals who are leaders in their communities, professional fields, or interest areas are not heard or given a platform in the public discourse.

WHAT WILL RESULTS LOOK LIKE?
The Field Foundation will gain insight into:
● How the Leaders for a New Chicago program can support leaders from divested communities;
● How the program can help to form a more racially equitable talent pipeline in Chicago; and
● How we can help to create a different power network in the city.

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