

South East Chicago Commission Continues Business Development in Southeast Lakefront Communities via Partnership with PNC Foundation

CHICAGO (January 4, 2019) - The South East Chicago Commission (SECC) is delighted to announce a continued partnership with the PNC Foundation for its Business District Program. The SECC is a City of Chicago Neighborhood Business Development Center (NBDC) and this funding will help provide technical assistance and build capacity of businesses within the SECC's five-community footprint: Hyde Park, Kenwood, Oakland, Washington Park and Woodlawn. This funding will enable the SECC to cover administrative and program costs to expand work with local small businesses to promote economic development.

“PNC Foundation’s investment will help us to facilitate and support economic development within the Southeast lakefront communities to foster collaboration and coordination among businesses, organizations and institutions to promote the creation of jobs, investment and economic vitality,” said Diane Burnham, SECC Executive Director.

SECC’s Business District Program activities include:

- Conducting business consultations with small businesses looking to start up or grow, help refer businesses to financial counseling, business planning, access to training and resources, and applying for City licenses and permits;
- Facilitating skills development for small businesses such as marketing City programs, arranging for local experts to speak at workshops, and hosting networking events;
- Providing economic development support in business corridors (e.g., helping to fill storefront vacancies and marketing TIF programs and projects);
- Playing an active role in driving neighborhood safety efforts by convening small businesses and Chicago Police Department (CPD)/Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) representatives.

The PNC Foundation's priority is to form partnerships with community-based nonprofit organizations within the markets PNC serves in order to enhance educational opportunities for children, particularly underserved pre-K children through our signature, PNC Grow Up Great program, and to promote the growth of targeted communities through economic development initiatives.

Please contact the South East Chicago Commission at 773-324-6926 or via email at diane@secc-chicago.org to learn more about the Business District Program.

