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YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Named a Community-Based Organization in Chicago's COVID Contact Tracing Corps Program

The YWCA is one of 31 chosen to hire contact tracers in and near the communities it serves

(Chicago) – **YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is proud to announce it is one of the 31 Community-Based Organizations designated by The Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (The Partnership) to hire individuals for Chicago's COVID Contact Tracing Corps (Corps).**

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, with more than 10 community-based locations across the city and suburbs, was notified recently that it is a successful bidder in The Partnership's competitive procurement seeking CBOs to hire and supervise people to serve as community-based contact tracers. In July, The Partnership received a two-year, \$56 million grant from the City of Chicago and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) to serve as the Lead Coordinating Organization overseeing the Corps.

"We are proud to participate in this critical public health and workforce development initiative," says Dorri McWhorter, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. "The Corps helps us address two critical needs: local hiring for healthcare sector jobs at a time when many residents are out of work, and helping our community fight the spread of this pandemic."

The YWCA Metropolitan Chicago has completed its hiring, and now employs 18 contact tracers and 2 supervisors who are undergoing onboarding, which includes employee orientation, contact tracer training and professional development workshops. All told, the 31 CBOs will create roughly 500 community-based jobs throughout the city while supporting CDPH's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If someone is interested in other employment opportunities with YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, they should visit [the YWCA's Employment Page](#) to view and apply for open positions.

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The Partnership and its collaborators will offer the contact tracers ongoing professional development and “Earn and Learn” opportunities designed with input from public health experts and private sector institutions. Through the Earn and Learn program, participants can gain credentials and permanent placement in allied health and adjacent occupations.

Tracers will undergo training and receive certification through **Malcolm X College**, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, with onboarding support from **Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI)** which will also offer earn and learn programming. **The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health (UIC)** will help train contact tracers and provide access to educational programs for the earn and learn initiative. **NORC at the University of Chicago** will lead the development and creation of a Resource Coordination Hub which will serve as a central call center and location to refer diagnosed individuals (and those who have had sustained contact with them) for testing, treatment, social services, and other resources. UIC will also support the Hub.

The CBOs will hire and supervise the community-based Corps consisting of contact tracers and supervisors earning \$20 and \$24 an hour respectively. Contact tracers may work full or part-time hours.

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About YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Founded in 1876, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a social enterprise committed to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. As a leading association among a national network of more than 200 YWCAs, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago impacts tens of thousands of women and families annually through comprehensive human services provided across the region. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a leading service provider in the areas of sexual violence support services, early childhood and child care provider services, family support services, youth STEM programming, and economic empowerment services. Our commitment to racial justice, equity, and inclusion runs through all of our programs. Located in the third-largest American city, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago serves as a national incubator for innovative programming, outreach and engagement strategies. Contributing to our diverse and balanced economy, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is working at the individual and systems levels to create an inclusive marketplace where everyone thrives. The organization is also an active member of many national, state, county and city-level coalitions, advocating for policies that combat racism and positively affect women and families. Learn more at www.ywcachicago.org or follow [@ywcachicago](https://twitter.com/ywcachicago).