



CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

MISSION

The mission of the Corporate Coalition is to significantly reduce historic and continuing racial and economic inequities in the Chicago region. To accomplish this goal, Corporate Coalition members believe that companies must stretch beyond their critical philanthropic contributions and their shared responsibility to help the public and non-profit sectors succeed. Leaders must question "business as usual" and create new opportunities through core business functions, including talent acquisition, employee advancement, site location, procurement, investments, and more.

With community input and involvement, Corporate Coalition members are identifying new ways to work together to deploy their firms' capital, capabilities, and employee enthusiasm, where collective action holds the promise of greater impact than companies working alone.

CORPORATE COALITION, A DISTINCTIVE MODEL

Chicago is blessed with many business-led organizations committed to the vitality of our region and its people. The Corporate Coalition is distinctive in this rich mix by:

- Focusing specifically on reducing racial and economic inequities
- The commitment of members to use and where necessary change their firms' business activities in pursuit of the overall goals
- Focusing on initiatives in which working together creates greater impact than working alone
- Leveraging the networks and capabilities of anchor non-profits (e.g., the CBO Collaborative, Chicagoland Chamber, United Way) and public sector partners (e.g., the Mayor's Office, County Board President's Office, World Business Chicago)
- Focusing on action and execution
- Committing to tracking progress, measuring outcomes, and sharing lessons learned
- Fostering working relationships among businesses and community leaders

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The Corporate Coalition provides members with opportunities to have a positive impact on their company performance and long-standing inequities in the Chicago region, including:

- Tangible ways to engage member company's assets, capabilities, and employee enthusiasm to address inequities in the region via the Coalition's initiatives, currently:
 - Chicago Resiliency Network: Supporting employees with trauma-informed practices to increase retention and improve business performance
 - EPIC Fund: Investing in capital pools such as the EPIC Fund to create new asset classes that expand markets, advance catalytic real estate projects, and support greater participation in the overall economy
 - Corporate Connector: Creating relationships between member companies and community-led real estate developments and businesses
- Regular communication on reducing inequities across Chicagoland region, including:
 - Weekly newsletter
 - Full Coalition Meetings every other month
 - Forums that provide new practice sharing between members
- Exclusive updates from local public sector and business leaders on city- and region-wide initiatives, along with description of how these and the Coalition's work fit together to increase impact
- Participation in a learning community that
 - Confidentially tests new ideas
 - Learns about new opportunities to leverage company assets through Coalition and non-coalition initiatives seeking corporate involvement
 - Hears from thought leaders with new insights on business practices
- Contribution to a national dialog and helping raise expectations and performance in supporting employees and communities while pursuing business objectives
- Employees engagement via *pro bono* opportunities
- Access to a strong membership with other civically engaged organizations
- Demonstrated corporate commitment and action

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

All companies are welcome, no matter where they are on their journey to address inequities. To be a member:

- Firms make an annual membership contribution of least \$10,000 to support Corporate Coalition general operations, *and*

- For those participating in an initiative that entails a fee (currently the Chicago Resiliency Network) or investment (currently the EPIC Fund) firms provide the associated fee or investment.

The preference, but not requirement, is that members participating in initiatives requiring a fee or investment will also make the Coalition membership contribution. Where this is not feasible, or where firms make exceptional contributions via *pro bono* services or other investments, exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis.

These guidelines are intended for large and medium-sized employers. Arrangements for small companies for which the membership fee is a burden will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Potential members are welcome to attend 1-2 meetings before deciding whether to join.