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**CITY OF CHICAGO AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS JOIN TO FORM
SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR COLLABORATIVE**

LISC Chicago Making \$50 Million Available for Targeted Economic Development; Partners Include Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corp., Southwest Organizing Project & Teamwork Englewood

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and [LISC Chicago](#), in partnership with the [Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation \(GAGDC\)](#), [Southwest Organizing Project \(SWOP\)](#) and [Teamwork Englewood](#), today announced the Southwest Corridor Collaborative (SWCC). The unprecedented partnership between government, community organizations and businesses is taking a targeted and place-based approach to economic development.

“The Whole Foods Market in Englewood gives us the unique opportunity to double down on historic progress we are making in an area and build on it to revitalize entire neighborhoods,” Mayor Emanuel said. “The Southwest Corridor Collaborative is bringing together a broad coalition of partners focused on innovative ways to drive growth and create new economic opportunities. I look forward to working with these partners as we build world-class city with a world-class future, block by block and neighborhood by neighborhood.”

“When we invest in the economic backbone of our neighborhoods, we invest in the future of the people who live there,” said Maurice Jones, president and CEO of [LISC](#). “People want to work. They want to spend their hard-earned money in their own neighborhood. They want safe streets for their children and a decent place to live. This initiative addresses all of that at once, while also contributing to a stronger, healthier city.”

The SWCC is a coordinated effort primarily along 63rd Street from Cottage Grove to Pulaski, incorporating key nodes along south Halsted and 79th Street. It will produce community-led strategies at targeted intersections along the corridor that will leverage investments in real estate, housing, small businesses, transit and employment opportunities.

LISC's commitment to the SWCC includes seed funding the effort with \$500,000 to cover capacity building and support for the neighborhood partner organizations and an additional \$50 million over the next 10 years in lending for investments in real estate and local neighborhood businesses targeted as part of this initiative.

The SWCC is designed to take a new approach to economic development investment by creating a community-led, tightly-coordinated approach to planning and investment that engages community residents, the City of Chicago and public/private capital sources to develop a model for impacting neighborhood economies.

The goal of the collaborative is to reestablish key sections of the corridor as strong, viable and walkable communities by creating cross-community commercial centers that provide business opportunities, local employment, accessible transit, housing and goods and services for neighborhood residents.

The SWCC came out of one of LISC Chicago's foundational investments, Quality-of-Life Planning, in which Englewood, Auburn Gresham and Chicago Southwest are currently completing their second community-led visions for their future.

The effort builds on Mayor Emanuel's work to drive growth and create economic opportunities in Englewood and across Chicago. The Mayor recently opened the Englewood Whole Foods Market, which is employing 100 people and helping restore 63rd and Halsted as a community anchor. The store's community impact is multiplied by the dozens of community suppliers and entrepreneurs it is supporting. The store is partnering with culinary arts students from nearby Kennedy-King College. The city is also relocating a major Department of Fleet and Facility Management facility and at least 200 jobs to the former site of Kennedy-King at nearby 67th and Wentworth.

Committed SWCC partners include: Ald. Foulkes, 16th Ward, Chicago Cares, Comcast, Community Investment Corporation (CIC), Cook County Land Bank, The National Equity Fund, The PrivateBank, Urban Partnership Bank, US Bank and World Business Chicago.

"LISC Chicago's mission is to connect neighborhoods to the resources they need to become stronger and healthier and together, with the City of Chicago, our neighborhood partners, Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, Southwest Organizing Project and Teamwork Englewood, we are collaborating to establish the Southwest Corridor Collaborative," said Meghan Harte, LISC Chicago's Executive Director. "LISC has been committed to these communities for the last 36 years and has supported capacity building in the neighborhood organizations, community planning, special programs and real estate lending. We are recommitting for another decade to continue to build capacity and deepen our efforts on economic development."

"There is a need for a targeted approach to economic development across neighborhoods in Chicago and working with the City of Chicago, LISC Chicago, Teamwork Englewood and the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, the Southwest Corridor Collaborative will address this need in our neighborhoods," said Jeff Bartow, executive director, Southwest Organizing Project. "The SWCC will highlight the need for a targeted approach to economic development across neighborhoods and, ultimately, the benefits the SWCC will bring to these Chicago neighborhoods and the City."

"In partnership with LISC Chicago, the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation has worked with residents, business owners and stakeholders in recently completing a comprehensive planning process to improve the overall quality-of-life for the people of Auburn Gresham and surrounding communities," said Carlos Nelson, executive director, Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation. "Through the Southwest Corridor Collaborative, in partnership with the City, Teamwork Englewood and SWOP, we will initiate key projects along our commercial districts with the goal of making them pedestrian-friendly and walkable, and move our communities forward as one, creating a movement in Chicago's southwest side neighborhoods."

“Teamwork Englewood is proud to be a partner in the Southwest Corridor Collaborative as we are focused on a long-term vision for Englewood,” said Perry Gunn, Teamwork Englewood’s Executive Director. “With the recent opening of St. Bernard Hospital's New Ambulatory Care Center and Whole Foods, this really was the beginning of the vision – the tip of the iceberg of good things happening in our community and in the communities nearby including Auburn Gresham and Chicago Lawn. We look forward to connecting our communities to produce community-led strategies at targeted intersections along the corridor.”

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