

Chi Codes

In 2021, The Partnership graduated our final cohort of the Chicago Codes pilot initiative, a unique “boot camp” that trained dozens of residents of Chicago’s African American and Hispanic communities for rewarding careers in Information Technology. Chicago Codes was launched in 2019 with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, Facebook, Microsoft, Motorola, and the City of Chicago, and despite COVID-related challenges, **successfully engaged nearly 60 participants in preparation for careers in the fast-growing field of computer programming.** Instruction included building skills in JavaScript, HTML coding, Python, and a variety of commonly used coding applications. The course included an intensive 10-week session with the goal of enrolling up to 20 participants in each cohort.

Overall, 87% of program participants graduate from Chicago Codes, with all but a handful now gainfully employed.

Chicago Codes graduates were hired by such leading companies as Mason Dixie, CDW, Capgemini, Accenture and Tinkbox. Working with a variety of corporate and philanthropic partners and supporters, Chicago Codes met its goal of identifying an untapped tech talent pool in high-need Chicago communities and building a diverse pipeline for Chicagoland’s tech companies.



Ida M. lost her job due to COVID-19 and was accepted into the Chicago Codes Bootcamp cohort in September 2020. The 11-week bootcamp provided supportive instructors, class tutors and consultants. After successfully completing the program, Ida went from being laid off due to COVID-19, to getting a full-time job in upper management with a successful startup.