

## ON THE ROAD LENDING ANNOUNCES \$25,000 GRANT FROM WE RISE TOGETHER Funds to assist with expansion of life-changing car loans into the Chicago market

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE— On the Road Lending, a nonprofit organization that launched in Dallas in 2013 to provide life-changing car loans, recently received a \$25,000 grant from We Rise Together: For an Equitable & Just Recovery to assist with its expansion into the Chicago market.

We Rise Together is a funders collaborative that works with community members to respond to the urgent economic needs of Black and Latinx communities. The funding for On the Road Lending will assist with developing a strategy, business plan and relationships for On the Road Lending to provide affordable loans for reliable cars in Chicago that help working families overcome transportation barriers to find and retain employment in the clean energy and infrastructure sectors.

"We're grateful to We Rise Together for joining our mission to help us expand our footprint geographically," said Michelle Corson, On the Road Lending's founder and CEO. "We share a common vision of the vital role that transportation plays in economic mobility. Better cars truly lead to better jobs and better lives."

"Increasing the number of people employed in quality jobs that pay good wages is a key strategy for supporting stronger local economies in Chicago's disinvested communities," said We Rise Together Program Director Christen Wiggins. "This latest round of grants will support organizations to leverage federal funding to connect job seekers in the communities in which we've invested with good job opportunities in the emerging clean energy sector." **ON THE ROAD LENDING** is a human empowerment initiative that provides vehicle selection assistance and long-term financial mentoring. **OTR FUND I, LLC** is an impact investment fund that provides affordable loans to clients of On the Road Lending. Investors include individuals, corporations, foundations and institutions that may earn an annual preferred return. OTR Fund I, LLC is a Community Development Financial Institution certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Together, On the Road Lending and OTR Fund I, LLC provide financial advocacy and affordable loans to help individuals improve their credit, avoid predatory lenders and purchase fuel-efficient, reliable cars. Learn more at <u>ontheroadlending.org</u>. Read about our successful clients at <u>ontheroadlending.org/clients</u>.

**WE RISE TOGETHER: FOR AN EQUITABLE & JUST RECOVERY** is a funders collaborative working with community members to respond to the urgent economic needs of Black and Latinx communities. Our model for community investment at scale supports coordinated, community-led commercial and economic development. Through strategic grants to community-directed real estate development projects that leverage additional investment, we are building thriving neighborhoods and a stronger Chicago. Learn more at wrtogether.org.