



For Immediate Release

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Rogers Park Business Alliance's GROW/PROGRESANDO Entrepreneurial Training Center announces fall registration for the return of its FREE business education program

The virtual five-week curriculum offers foundational business education to small business owners and entrepreneurs, culminating in a Capital Access Fair, and an Idea Contest with a prize of \$500

CHICAGO (September 2, 2025) – Rogers Park Business Alliance (RPBA) is proud to announce that fall registration for the GROW/PROGRESANDO Entrepreneurial Training Center's no-cost, virtual 5 Week Program is now open. The weekly program, available in English and Spanish, offers business education to beginner entrepreneurs in Chicago and nationwide. Registration for both English and Spanish sessions is available at [RPBA.org](https://rpba.org).

The GROW/PROGRESANDO 5 Week Program focuses on the foundations of developing a business, from honing a business plan to understanding the ever-changing business environment. Training subjects include Business Model Development, Entity Selection, Business Formation, Budget Development, Pricing Strategies, Business and Personal Financial Planning, Risk Management, and more. The training cohorts are private and confidential, providing entrepreneurs with a secure space to focus on starting their businesses. The **English** class of the 5 Week Program meets every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. from October 16th through November 13th. The **Spanish** class meets every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. from October 14th through November 11th. The English and the Spanish programs culminate in a Capital Access Fair on Wednesday, November 12th.

At the end of the program, an "Idea Contest" is hosted for participants as an opportunity to present their creative business ideas and receive constructive feedback from a panel of local business owners, community leaders, funders, bankers, and stakeholders. The winners from each program receive a \$500 prize sponsored by Wintrust to help them continue to grow their business idea. The

Idea Contest is a fun, learning-focused way to celebrate entrepreneurship and encourage the next generation of business owners.

From 2013 to 2023, over **150 participants** graduated from the GROW/PROGRESSANDO Entrepreneurial Training programs, and RPBA has supported more than **1,000 businesses** through its small business assistance. It is the only comprehensive small business training program of its kind on Chicago's north side and is open to all small businesses and independent entrepreneurs across Chicagoland and nationwide.

Past GROW Participant, **Nicole Henry**, Chef and Owner of Chicky's Kitchen Creations, LLC, shares, "The GROW program gave me the tools to clearly define my catering business and the confidence to move forward with my vision of a shared kitchen space."

"The GROW/PROGRESANDO program not only cultivates successful business owners and entrepreneurs, but also community leaders," shares **Sandi Price**, Executive Director of Rogers Park Business Alliance. "Many past participants who now run their own businesses have also become board members of RPBA, guiding our work to better help up-and-coming entrepreneurs like them. We will continue to grow and develop our program to reach as many people as possible."

In addition to the GROW/PROGRESANDO training courses, other small business support offered by RPBA includes programs that provide early entrepreneurs with accessible knowledge, expert technical assistance, resource referrals, and specialized support services. Other services include being a Small Business Development Center that provides resources to start-up and existing small businesses, in addition to business support through the Economic Empowerment Center for historically marginalized communities, the Business Accessibility Toolkit (BAT) small business assistance program, and an RPBA Help Desk. For more information about RPBA's small business assistance and to register, visit businesssupport.rpba.org.

About Rogers Park Business Alliance

Rogers Park Business Alliance is a nonprofit organization that has served Chicago's diverse Rogers Park neighborhood for more than 30 years, providing services in both English and Spanish to a broad community. RPBA works to cultivate and sustain a thriving economic environment in Rogers Park, serving businesses and residents with a variety of public events and business initiatives. RPBA programs include the GROW/PROGRESANDO entrepreneurial training program, the Illinois Small Business Development Center at RPBA, annual Best of Rogers Park awards, Taco Crawl, and the Glenwood Sunday Market farmers market. For more information, visit RPBA.org.

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Photos l-r:

GROW/PROGRESANDO training sessions

Photos courtesy of Rogers Park Business Alliance.

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