2026 Supplier Summit: Buy Local Chicago

COMMUNITY CONTRACTING PROGRAM

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Sankofa Wellness Village, Garfield Park

Welcome to the third annual **Supplier Summit: Buy Local Chicago**. This event brings together healthcare leaders, suppliers, and community partners to explore how collaboration can expand local procurement, strengthen supply chains, and create economic impact across the Chicago region.

Hosted by **Rush University System for Health, West Side United, and Vizient's Community Contracting Program**, we hope you leave with new connections, practical ideas, and momentum to advance local partnerships in healthcare procurement.

Today's Program

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00 a.m.	Welcome	Jennifer Zimmerman, Program Services Director, Vizient
9:05 a.m.	Rush University System for Health Remarks	Jeremy Strong, Chief Supply Chain Officer
9:10 a.m.	Chicago Department of Planning & Development Remarks	Brian Hacker, Supervisor, West Region
9:15 a.m.	Host Remarks	Ayesha Jaco, Executive Director, West Side United
9:20 a.m.	Panel Discussion: The Power of Partnership on the West Side & Beyond	Moderator: Eve Shapiro, Director of Evaluations & Programming, West Side United Panelists: • Mariem Ruiz Martinez, Rush University System for Health • Brenda Palms, North Lawndale Employment Network • Luis Gutierrez, CEO, Latinos Progresando • Mariela Estrada, Associate VP of Community Engagement, United Way
10:10 a.m.	Community Contracting Program Overview	Jennifer Zimmerman, Program Services Director, Vizient
10:20 a.m.	Closing Remarks	Rukiya Curvey Johnson, VP Community Health Equity & Operations, Rush University System for Health
10:30 a.m.	***OPEN NETWORKING***	***Lunch served at 11:15am***
12:30 p.m.	Event Concludes	

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