



MEDIA ALERT

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**Northeastern Illinois University Receives
an AARP Foundation Grant**

**NEIU is among 18 organizations nationwide selected to receive
funds to help older adults build the skills to work for themselves**

CHICAGO — AARP Foundation has awarded a grant to Northeastern Illinois University to conduct Work for Yourself@50+SM workshops in Chicago. This national grant initiative is designed to help vulnerable older adults assess opportunities for self-employment, build skills, and connect with resources that will enable them to generate income by working for themselves.

“For many older adults, self-employment and business ownership is an opportunity to change their future,” said Emily Allen, Senior Vice President AARP Foundation Programs. “AARP Foundation is proud to work with organizations like [insert grantee] who are committed to helping older adults successfully run their own business. Our Work for Yourself@50+ program is designed to enable older adults to pursue self-employment by connecting them with trustworthy resources in their own communities.”

The grant will fund work to be performed by an entrepreneurship center that the College of Business and Management plans to unveil in the fall.

“This partnership is a win-win for our students and the community,” Dean Michael Bedell said. “The grant will give the College of Business and Management the opportunity to help family businesses in the communities we serve by providing student interns from an AACSB-accredited institution.”

Through a nationwide open request for proposals, AARP Foundation identified and then selected promising organizations in high-need communities to receive grant awards to implement the Work for Yourself@50+ workshop model. The workshops help adults 50 and older understand the pros and cons of self-employment and support them through the early steps that can lead to success.

Working with AARP Foundation, each grantee will put together a plan in its community to:

- Publicize Work for Yourself@50+ resources and workshops to potential entrepreneurs
- Host and facilitate a 90-minute introductory workshop, designed by AARP Foundation, to walk participants through the Work for Yourself@50+ materials
- Connect program participants with local, accessible resources to help them take action on their income-generation plans

“I am thrilled that this grant directly speaks to our University’s mission to serve a diverse community,” Northeastern President Gloria J. Gibson said. “Diversity is more than just numbers, and this program will put theory into practice with real outcomes for our students and Chicago families.”

In addition to receiving grant funds, grantees will also participate in a community of practice and regular assessment to help build a body of knowledge about effective older-adult services and programs.

“As an alumna of Northeastern Illinois University, I’m always proud of my alma mater’s commitment to public service,” said Chicago Ald. Margaret Laurino, whose ward encompasses Northeastern’s Main Campus. “This program will continue that tradition of service by providing older adults with the tools to follow their entrepreneurial dreams.”

Creating and owning a business has long been heralded as a path to financial success and economic mobility; older adults, however, face unique hurdles when re-entering the workforce in a nontraditional capacity. AARP Foundation’s investment in these grantees seeks to improve the lives of vulnerable populations by supporting and advancing effective solutions.

“We are working closely with the community to develop workshops that will best serve the community,” Northeastern Entrepreneurship Instructor Marge Johnsson said. “These workshops will draw on the collective expertise of the Northeastern faculty and our friends and partners in Chicago’s dynamic business community.”

To learn more about the Work for Yourself@50+ initiative, please visit aarpfoundation.org/workforyourself or call 1-800-339-5617 to receive a free toolkit and sign up for a local workshop.

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ABOUT AARP FOUNDATION

AARP Foundation works to ensure that low-income older adults have nutritious food, affordable housing, a steady income, and strong and sustaining social bonds. We collaborate with individuals and organizations who share our commitment to innovation and our passion for problem-solving. Supported by vigorous legal advocacy, we create and advance effective solutions that help struggling older adults transform their lives. AARP Foundation is the affiliated charity of AARP.

ABOUT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Northeastern Illinois University's Main Campus is located on 67 acres in an attractive residential area on the Northwest Side of Chicago. The University offers more than 40 undergraduate degree and certificate programs and more than 50 graduate degree, certificate, licensure and endorsement programs. The University has additional locations in the metropolitan area, including the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies, El Centro, Center for College Access and Success, and the University Center of Lake County.