NBDC Organization Name	Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
NBDC Category Type	Place-Based Generalist
Success Story Year	2022
Success Story Month	MAY
Business Name (As reported in ECM) or Business Corridor	Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
Business Need/Issue or Business Corridor Initiative	Business Coaching, Mentoring and Outreach
In 250 words or less, please provide a narrative about helping your clients or members successfully start, maintain, or grow their business, implement a business corridor initiative, or resolve a business need or issue	The Auburn Gresham business network is very purposeful, equitable and transparent onboarding new businesses, whether engaging via a standalone brick and mortar, tenant and/or home based locations. The new Auburn Gresham Healthy Lifestyle Hub will be home to over eight new businesses. One the businesses making its home on the second floor, is a collaboration with UIC, the new Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Center (AGNC). Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation collaborated with UIC to secure capital, operations grant funding, and participated in the selection process to hire the first local Auburn Gresham resident, Crystal Stevenson as the center's first site program manager. The new Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Center has a first objective to connect small businesses to UIC business coaches, training and access to business legal training and resources. To prepare Crystal for this work, a successful set of meetings outlining the business engagement philosophy and goal to include community voice in the new Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Center was completed. These mentor and coaching sessions have deemed Crystal is ready and has fully embraced this new challenge to help bring visibility and equity of the many institutional issues UIC is working to address and improve with communities on the south and west side---starting with small businesses access to UIC resources.
Provide hyperlink(s) to article, web page, or social media post with additional details	

	(If applicable)	

Insert relevant photo(s)/image(s) below (If applicable):