

Investor Report

AS OF DECEMBER 2019

A BETTER CHICAGO

We are changing how Chicago fights poverty by investing in bold ideas that create opportunity for Black and Latinx youth.

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A BETTER CHICAGO
C/O FBRK Impact House
200 W. Madison Street
3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60606

Portfolio Activity

Value Added

A Better Chicago provides a combination of unrestricted funding and management support, including capacity-building assistance and thought partnership, to empower our grantees to tackle their most pressing strategic and operational challenges.

VALUE PROVIDED TO GRANTEES



- \$2.81M: Monetary grants
- \$1.37M: Co-investment and leveraged funding
- \$0.10M: Pro bono support
- \$0.46M: Management support

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES



- 4: Professional Development
- 4: Strategic Planning
- 4: Leadership Development
- 2: Talent Strategy and Development
- 1: Recruitment Strategy
- 1: Fundraising and Communications Strategy

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In partnership with **The Management Center**, A Better Chicago hosted a two-day workshop targeted for new managers among grantee staff across the portfolio. The workshop equipped participants with the tools and techniques to effectively manage teams, projects and themselves. With hands-on experiential learning, participants learned how to better hire, develop and retain a talented team. They also developed skills to set project goals, assign roles and delegate and check in with their teams. A Better Chicago covered all expenses for this training.

The **Noble Network of Charter Schools** completed a comprehensive strategic planning effort led by The Bridgespan Group to set an ambitious vision for the next five years. Based on input from over 1,500 stakeholders in the Noble community—including students, alumni, parents, teachers, principals, administration and board members—Noble identified key strategic priorities to ensure that all students have equitable and positive school experiences that equip them for college and career success. A Better Chicago covered 50 percent of expenses for this project.

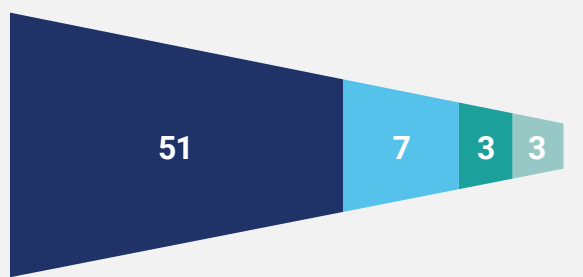
iMentor Chicago completed a fundraising and marketing project with Prosper Strategies to support the organization's vision for future growth. The project has enabled iMentor Chicago to create a compelling story to share its vision and galvanize support among key stakeholders, as well as implement the strategies needed to engage these supporters. A Better Chicago provided regular support by participating on the project steering committee and covered 75 percent of expenses.

Sourcing and Selection

A Better Chicago scours the landscape to identify potential investments and selects grantees through a rigorous vetting process that assesses candidates across the areas of program, leadership, operations and scale.

ORGANIZATIONS VETTED

- 51 Assessed
- 7 Shortlisted
- 3 Entered due diligence
- 3 New grantee



Portfolio Changes

+ PORTFOLIO ADDITIONS

Our first investment in career-readiness, **Braven** partners with undergraduate institutions to provide underrepresented young people with the skills and experiences needed to transition from college to strong first jobs.

Intrinsic Schools is a charter school focused on personalized blended learning to prepare all students for post-secondary success. We initially discontinued investment in Intrinsic in 2017 due to lack of scale, but they have continued demonstrating strong impact and opened a second campus in Fall 2019, leading to a re-investment.

Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR) delivers a time-bound transformation model focused on meeting students' social-emotional and academic needs to create equitable schools in which every student has access to high-quality education regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status.

- PORTFOLIO EXITS

We discontinued investment in **GROWCommunity**. Despite establishing valued partnerships with the schools and community it serves, GROW continued to face challenges with fundraising, scale, and academic outcomes, making it no longer a fit for our portfolio.

Portfolio Performance

In 2015, we established portfolio-wide performance targets for student achievement and scale. **While our new strategic plan has led to updated dashboards that we will debut in 2021, our 2019 progress is shown below in relation to the goals we originally set for our portfolio.**

We track a range of indicators along the education continuum to understand how many of the students served by our portfolio are on paths to college and career success. This dashboard also compares our portfolio results and targets to key external benchmarks, including a portfolio benchmark that shows the performance of students with demographic and socioeconomic characteristics similar to those of the students served by our grantees.

A Better Chicago's portfolio served more than 32,000 students in 2019. Of these students, 90 percent were from low-income households and 89 percent identified as students of color.

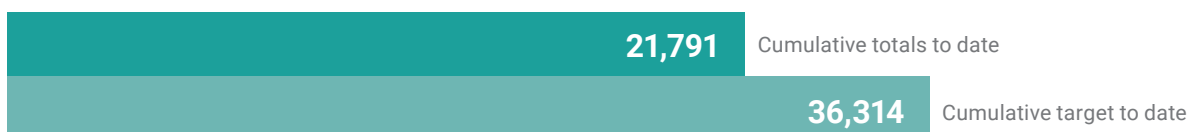
KEY INDICATORS OF STUDENT SUCCESS	PORTFOLIO BENCHMARK*	2019 PORTFOLIO ACTUAL	ACTUAL VS. BENCHMARK	2025 PORTFOLIO TARGET	CHICAGO AVERAGE
College graduation rate of 9th graders (2-year or 4-year college)	21%	26%	+5	60%	22%
College graduation rate of enrollees (2-year or 4-year college)	40%	38%	-2	70%	41%
College enrollment rate of high school graduates	68%	80%	+12	95%	67%
High school graduation rate of 9th graders	79%	85%	+6	90%	79%
Average SAT score	883	987	+104	1010	943
Freshman On-Track	85%	88%	+3	92%	89%
Attendance	90%	93%	+3	95%	93%
PROFICIENT IN 8TH GRADE READING					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	63%	55%	-8	70%	65%
Percent at or above average performance	63%	64%	+1	60%	75%
PROFICIENT IN 8TH GRADE MATH					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	60%	56%	-4	70%	64%
Percent at or above average performance	51%	60%	+9	60%	65%
PROFICIENT IN 3RD GRADE READING					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	54%	55%	+1	70%	58%
Percent at or above average performance	45%	47%	+2	60%	57%
PROFICIENT IN 3RD GRADE MATH					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	56%	59%	+3	70%	61%
Percent at or above average performance	47%	49%	+2	60%	59%

Sources: Chicago Public Schools, Illinois State Board of Education, U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics, The University of Chicago Consortium on School Research, City Colleges of Chicago.

Scale

Since 2015, A Better Chicago's portfolio organizations have increased their service capacity by over 18,000 students. While this falls below our original 2019 target, we are actively seeking new strategies and opportunities to achieve our goal of 80,000 students by 2025.

CUMULATIVE ACTUALS VS. CUMULATIVE TARGET (FY15-19)



A Better Chicago's Portfolio

Growth Fund

Significant investments to grow successful organizations with strong track records



Bottom Line Chicago

Six-year college access and success program with personalized one-on-one guidance and mentoring



Chicago Scholars

Seven-year college access and success program for high-achieving low-income students



COLLEGE PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

KIPP Chicago Schools

National charter school network operating six open enrollment public schools serving grades K-8



NOBLE

Noble Network of Charter Schools

Local charter school network operating 17 open enrollment public high schools



OneGoal-Chicago

Three-year college access and success program implemented by high school classroom teachers



One Million Degrees

Wraparound support providing low-income community college students with academic, financial and personal supports

Venture Fund

Seed investments in promising, early-stage models with strong leaders



BARR Center

Access to a high-quality education where adults know them personally, recognize their strengths and help them succeed



Braven

Empowers underrepresented young people with the skills, confidence, experiences and networks necessary to transition from college to first jobs that lead to meaningful careers and lives



College Possible Chicago

Six-year college access and success program for low-income high school and college students implemented by AmeriCorps volunteers



iMentor Chicago

Six-year college access and success program that harnesses the power of mentoring to support students in 11th and 12th grade through college



Intrinsic Schools

Preparation for postsecondary success and world-changing endeavors and a roadmap to sustainable implementation



NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY
1886

National Louis University

Highly supportive, affordable and professionally focused bachelor's degree program



Pitch In

After-school program providing fourth- through eighth-grade students with the academic, social and emotional skills needed to successfully transition to high school

For more information about our grantees, please visit our website at www.abetterchicago.org.