



Investor Report

AS OF DECEMBER 2018

A BETTER CHICAGO

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

☎ 312.674.7090

✉ info@abetterchicago.org

🖥 abetterchicago.org

📘 [abetterchicago](https://www.facebook.com/abetterchicago)

📷 [_abetterchicago](https://www.instagram.com/_abetterchicago)

🌐 [a-better-chicago](https://www.linkedin.com/company/a-better-chicago)

📺 [abetterchicago](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqBj8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8)

A BETTER CHICAGO
600 West Van Buren
Suite 510
Chicago, IL 60607

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



- \$2.35M: Monetary grants
- \$1.53M: Co-investment and leveraged funding
- \$0.24M: Pro bono support
- \$0.22M: Management support

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR GRANTEES



- 5: Strategic planning
- 4: Leadership development
- 4: Talent strategy and development
- 3: Marketing and communications
- 2: Legal support
- 1: Finance
- 1: Fundraising

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

In partnership with **Greater Good Studio**, A Better Chicago hosted a day-long workshop on human-centered design—a creative approach to problem solving—for grantee staff across the portfolio. The workshop equipped participants with tools and methodologies to more effectively overcome operational and strategic hurdles. Following the workshop, grantees had the opportunity to explore their specific challenges in one-on-one consultations with Greater Good Studio. A Better Chicago covered all expenses for this project.

National Louis University (NLU) completed a marketing strategy project with Sandstorm Design. Using insights from market research and stakeholder interviews, NLU developed an actionable plan to more effectively differentiate its model to target audiences to better attract and serve more students. A Better Chicago covered 75 percent of project costs.

Chicago Scholars conducted an executive search for a President/COO to strengthen the organization's leadership and bring additional capacity to its day-to-day work, enabling the CEO to spend additional time on critical partnership-building activities. A Better Chicago covered 50 percent of project costs.

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

- 145 Assessed
- 10 Shortlisted
- 2 Entered due diligence
- 1 New grantee



Portfolio Changes

+ PORTFOLIO ADDITION

The Wood Family Foundation's Pitch In program (Pitch In) bridges the gap between middle and high school with an after-school curriculum focused on developing academic and social-emotional skills for students in fourth through eighth grades. With high-quality mentoring relationships, access to unique experiences and deep partnerships in schools, Pitch In ensures students are equipped to successfully transition to high school.

- PORTFOLIO EXITS

We discontinued investment in **SAGA Innovations** and **Reading In Motion**. Despite compelling outcomes for the students they serve, both organizations have struggled in recent years to expand to reach more students. SAGA Innovations' funding model and organizational challenges have hindered sustainable growth. Reading In Motion has faced persistent fundraising and expansion challenges, with recent staff departures exacerbating these issues.

Portfolio Performance

As part of A Better Chicago's ten-year strategic plan launched in 2015, we established portfolio-wide performance targets for student achievement and scale. Our 2025 student achievement targets and 2018 actuals are presented in the dashboard below. 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. The 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 37,000 students in 2018. Of these students, 88 percent were from low-income households and 93 percent identified as students of color.

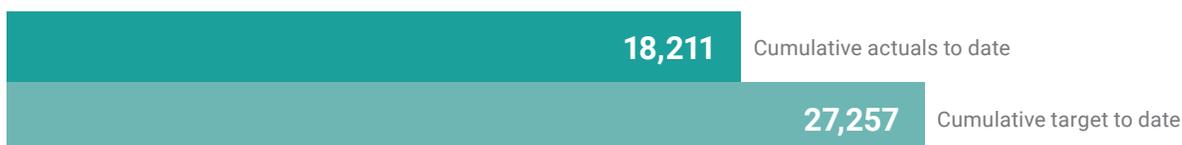
KEY INDICATORS OF STUDENT SUCCESS	PORTFOLIO BENCHMARK*	2018 PORTFOLIO ACTUAL	ACTUAL VS. BENCHMARK	2025 PORTFOLIO TARGET	CHICAGO AVERAGE
College graduation rate of 9th graders (2-year or 4-year college)	21%	29%	+8	60%	21%
College graduation rate of enrollees (2-year or 4-year college)	39%	42%	+3	70%	41%
College enrollment rate of high school graduates	72%	83%	+11	95%	65%
High school graduation rate of 9th graders	77%	84%	+7	90%	78%
Average SAT score	900	1001	+101	1010	951
Freshman On-Track	87%	87%	0	92%	89%
Attendance	90%	92%	+2	95%	93%
PROFICIENT IN 8TH GRADE READING					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	59%	45%	-14	70%	63%
Percent at or above average performance	61%	55%	-6	60%	73%
PROFICIENT IN 8TH GRADE MATH					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	61%	61%	0	70%	64%
Percent at or above average performance	50%	52%	+2	60%	65%
PROFICIENT IN 3RD GRADE READING					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	50%	53%	+3	70%	56%
Percent at or above average performance	43%	47%	+4	60%	57%
PROFICIENT IN 3RD GRADE MATH					
Percent meeting or exceeding average growth	53%	69%	+16	70%	60%
Percent at or above average performance	43%	62%	+19	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 2018 target, we are actively seeking new strategies and opportunities to achieve our goal of 80,000 students by 2025.

CUMULATIVE ACTUALS VS. CUMULATIVE TARGET (FY15-18)



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



College Possible Chicago

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



GROWCommunity

Neighborhood school transformation initiative with a focus on high school



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



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.