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.
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

$4.34M

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

20 Projects

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.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Indicators of Student Success</th>
<th>Portfolio Benchmark</th>
<th>2018 Portfolio Actual</th>
<th>Actual vs. Benchmark</th>
<th>2025 Portfolio Target</th>
<th>Chicago Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College graduation rate of 9th graders (2-year or 4-year college)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>+8</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College graduation rate of enrollees (2-year or 4-year college)</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>+3</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College enrollment rate of high school graduates</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>+11</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduation rate of 9th graders</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>+7</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average SAT score</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1001</td>
<td>+101</td>
<td>1010</td>
<td>951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshman On-Track</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>+2</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proficient in 8th Grade Reading**

- Percent meeting or exceeding average growth: 59% vs. 45%, -14
- Percent at or above average performance: 61% vs. 55%, -6

**Proficient in 8th Grade Math**

- Percent meeting or exceeding average growth: 61% vs. 61%, 0
- Percent at or above average performance: 50% vs. 52%, +2

**Proficient in 3rd Grade Reading**

- Percent meeting or exceeding average growth: 50% vs. 53%, +3
- Percent at or above average performance: 43% vs. 47%, +4

**Proficient in 3rd Grade Math**

- Percent meeting or exceeding average growth: 53% vs. 69%, +16
- Percent at or above average performance: 43% vs. 62%, +19


**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)**

- Cumulative actuals to date: 18,211
- Cumulative target to date: 27,257
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

KIPP Chicago Schools
National charter school network operating six open enrollment public schools serving grades K–8

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
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.

Portfolio as of January 2019