2025 INVESTOR REPORT

# 15 Years of Impact

A BETTER CHICAGO

In 2010, A Better Chicago made its first investments—$400,000 supporting three nonprofits that collectively reached approximately 2,500 students. Today, our investments support nearly 75,000 young people annually, and since our founding, we have deployed more than $50 million to high-impact organizations across Chicago.

These milestones reflect the vision that launched A Better Chicago: an evidence-based approach to philanthropy can help expand opportunity and drive meaningful change for Chicago's youth. As the challenges facing young people continue to evolve, so does the importance of investing in proven solutions; supporting innovative, community-led initiatives; and working toward a future where every young person in Chicago has the opportunity to thrive.

> FOR 15 YEARS, WE HAVE INVESTED IN BOLD IDEAS AND THE FUTURE OF CHICAGO'S YOUTH—AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING ON THAT IMPACT FOR YEARS TO COME.

# Our **Model**

As Chicago's only venture philanthropy, A Better Chicago invests in high-impact organizations that are improving outcomes for young people across the city.

Our work focuses on increasing the number of young people that are economically mobile; thriving in education, career, and life.

**We raise and pool funds** from donors who want to amplify their impact.

**We invest that capital**—along with strategic capacity-building support—to help the high-performing nonprofits in our portfolio grow their reach and deepen their impact.

AT A BETTER CHICAGO, WE BELIEVE INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITY IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WAYS TO BUILD A MORE EQUITABLE AND VIBRANT CITY.

# Our **Portfolio**

A Better Chicago's portfolio is comprised of 4 investment funds:

### CATALYST FUND
Investments made in early-stage, community embedded programs with promising approaches to serving youth across the south and west sides of Chicago.

### VENTURE FUND
Investments made in organizations that have proven program models, demonstrate strong early results, and are poised to scale in the city.

### GROWTH FUND
Investments awarded to well-established organizations with proven impact and aspirations for meaningful scale.

### ALUMNI FUND
Organizations previously part of our actively-managed portfolio, including nonprofits that received multi-year investments that supercharged their journey to achieving scale.



## 2025 PORTFOLIO

Our 2025 portfolio included **23 organizations**: 5 in the Catalyst Fund, 7 in Venture, 9 in Growth, and 2 in Alumni.

### CATALYST FUND

### VENTURE FUND

### GROWTH FUND

### ALUMNI FUND

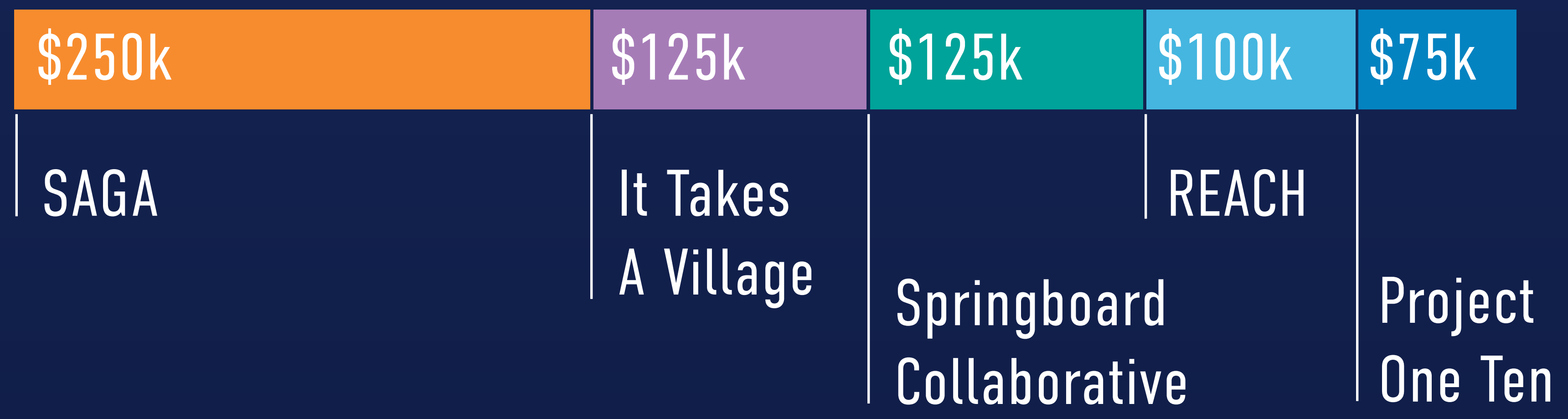
# 2025 By The **Numbers**

## $5,661,686

Deployed to high-impact nonprofit organizations

## $675K

Invested in five new portfolio partners




Reached over

## 74,000

young people

## $453,716

(+40%) in management support for

## 14

New Projects

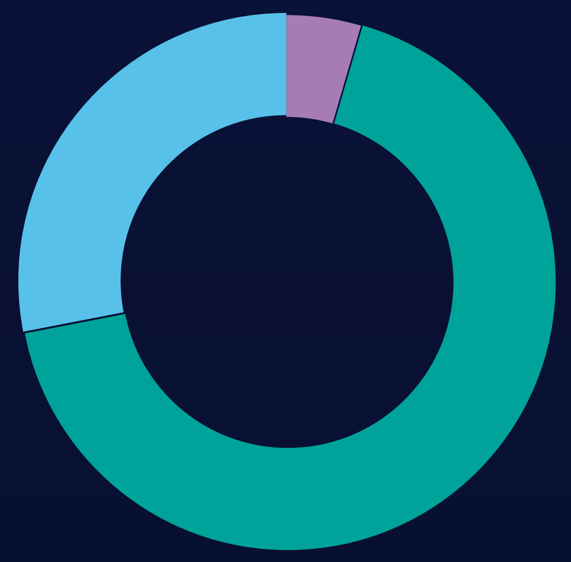
## 96%

(+15%) of portfolio beneficiaries are **from low-income backgrounds**

## 16%

Portfolio performance **increased, (+3%) above benchmark**

Our portfolio supports young people **at every stage of their educational journey**:



- 4% Early Childhood Education
- 68% Elementary, Middle, and High School Students
- 28% Young Adults

## 100% Impact

Every dollar donated directly supports Chicago's youth-serving nonprofit organizations

# State of **Our Youth**

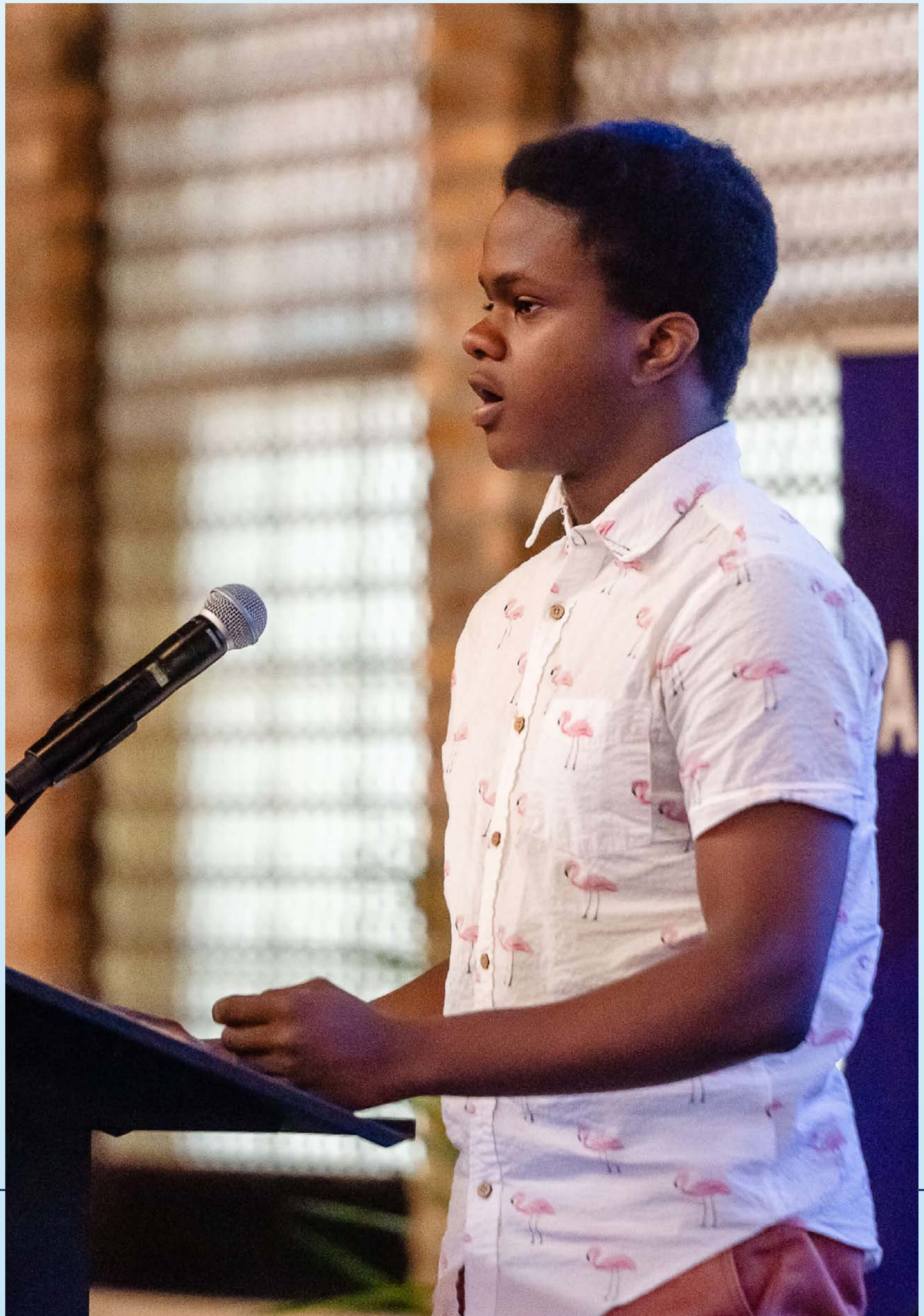
In April 2025, A Better Chicago published its inaugural **State of Our Youth** report, drawing on data from the **Youth Opportunity Dashboard™** along with insights gathered through our annual youth survey and focus groups. The findings not only validate the need for our work, but fueled a sense of urgency:

- One in four Chicago youth live in **poverty** and for Chicago's youngest residents under the age of 5, that figure is 43.5%.
- 94% of youth say **mental health** is a critical issue, and they need more support.
- Almost one in four Chicago youth **witness violence** weekly.
- Reading and math **proficiency rates** remain below pre-pandemic levels.

Despite these challenges, nearly all youth surveyed—95%—reported feeling **optimistic** about their future.

They also identified a key source of support: **community-based programs** like the organizations in A Better Chicago's portfolio.

> THIS SPEAKS TO A REMARKABLE RESILIENCE IN OUR YOUTH AND THE NEED TO INVEST MORE DEEPLY IN THE POTENTIAL OF EVERY YOUNG PERSON IN THIS CITY.



# Welcoming our **New Board Chair**

In October 2025, A Better Chicago proudly welcomed Steve Beard, Chairman and CEO of Covista, as Chair of our Board of Directors. Steve brings a deep commitment to expanding access to opportunity and a proven track record of leading transformational change across both the corporate and nonprofit sectors.

> "EDUCATION OPENED EVERY DOOR FOR ME. A BETTER CHICAGO'S DISCIPLINED, EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CAN MAKE CHICAGO THE NATIONAL MODEL FOR CREATING OPPORTUNITY AT SCALE—PROVING THAT STRATEGIC CAPITAL, DEPLOYED WITH RIGOR, DRIVES LASTING CHANGE."
>
> **—STEVE BEARD, CHAIRMAN, A BETTER CHICAGO**

## Steve Beard

**CHAIRMAN, A BETTER CHICAGO**

# Looking **Ahead**

## AS WE LOOK AHEAD, WE REMAIN FOCUSED ON EXPANDING AND DEEPENING OUR IMPACT.

We will continue bringing together experts, scaling what works, and identifying innovative solutions to some of Chicago's most complex challenges.

A key milestone in this work is the launch of Every Day Counts in 2026, a $10 million, citywide initiative designed to reverse the trend of chronic absenteeism. Over the next five years, A Better Chicago will partner with communities across the city to meaningfully reduce absenteeism and help more students thrive in school.

BY ENSURING YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND SUPPORT THEY NEED, WE CAN HELP BUILD A STRONGER, MORE EQUITABLE CHICAGO FOR ALL.

**CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT** A BETTER CHICAGO'S MISSION

# Thank You

For more information,contact
info@abetterchicago.org
ABetterChicago.org

A BETTER CHICAGO