A SNAPSHOT OF CHICAGO YOUTH OUTCOMES

OUR YOUTH. OUR LEADERS. OUR CITY.
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DEAR PARTNERS,

Moving along the cradle to career continuum, Chicago has over 850,000 youth on the path to adulthood. Too often, headlines focus on stories of despair instead of hope, streets instead of restorative justice, and high school dropouts instead of college graduates. This Snapshot of Outcomes offers a few headlines that you may not have seen:

1,000 more CPS graduates enrolled in college in 2017
2,000 youth received job offers from Opportunity Hiring Fairs

These are reasons to celebrate the hard work done in Chicago. Young people are supported by a remarkable constellation of individuals and organizations committed to their growth, development, and well-being. When cross-sector organizations lock arms, and put the needs of youth at the center, we see real change. We call this collective impact.

Thrive Chicago, the city’s cradle to career collective impact organization, brings together over 300 nonprofit, city agencies, funders and researchers so we can serve Chicago’s youth better together. We are driving real change for Chicago’s youth by providing the connective tissue between youth serving organizations, improving their ability to collaborate and innovate.

When Thrive was first launched in 2013, Thrive convened a broad group of stakeholders to determine the youth outcomes we want our leaders across the city to be held accountable to. Thrive released the first report on these outcomes in its 2014 Baseline Report, and this Snapshot is an update on our progress since then. This 2017 Snapshot is a uniquely comprehensive report that paints the cradle to career picture of Chicago youth outcomes and disaggregates that data by race and gender. Although most of the indicators and outcomes tracked here are trending positively, that progress is not shared equitably.

Graduation rates from 4-year colleges see no improvement over the last 2 years

Significant wage gaps persist: In 2016 Black youth averaged $14,000 a year; White youth averaged $34,000 a year

Chicago still home to 50,000 Opportunity Youth—Black and Latinx youth are 2-3x as likely to be disconnected from school and work, than their White peers

These disparities are symptoms of entrenched systematic barriers that continue to create persistent socioeconomic and racial opportunity gaps. To ensure equity for all, we must collectively remove those barriers. Thrive and its partners are shining a light on the realities that our youth face so that we can continue to coordinate and build on strategic, and innovative partnerships amongst Chicago’s hundreds of community-based organizations, nonprofits, government agencies, researchers, employers, and funders with equity as our most important collective goal.

Together we can ensure that every Chicago youth thrives.

Sandra Abrevaya
President & Chief Impact Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the ways in which Thrive helps the ecosystem of youth serving organizations better collaborate and innovate is by providing critical data on cradle to career outcomes that are indicative of a young person’s success. Many of the trends are positive, suggesting improvements in outcomes for more young people. Yet, that progress has been incremental. There are still persistent gaps disproportionately affecting Black and Latinx youth, youth living in poverty, and youth living on the south and west sides of Chicago. This report provides the first comprehensive view of our youth cradle to career, with disaggregated outcome data from 3rd grade reading to youth employment.

Thrive first reported on these outcomes in the 2014 Baseline Report, the result of a city-wide discussion with over 200 partners to identify the key youth outcomes we need to focus on moving as a city. This 2017 Snapshot of Outcomes in Chicago examines our high-level, collective progress against that starting point. There are three notable takeaways on the state of Chicago’s youth:

1. **THE PERSISTENT, AND SOMETIMES GROWING, RACIAL DISPARITIES IN YOUTH OUTCOMES REINFORCE THE NEED FOR AN EQUITY LENS IN OUR COLLECTIVE WORK.**

   Although Chicago has made progress in milestones tracked here, a disaggregated view shows racial disparities across the board. For instance, White students graduate from 4-year colleges at nearly twice the rate of Black students: the 2016 graduation rate was 73% for White students and only 37% for Black students. Furthermore, once employed, Black and Latinx earn significantly less than their White peers: in 2016, Black youth earned an average of $14,000 a year, while White youth earned an average of $34,000 a year. And Black and Latinx youth in 2015 are 2-3x as likely to be Opportunity Youth, disconnected from school and work, than their White peers. These disparities are why we must employ an equity lens.

2. **CHICAGO IS MAKING GREATER PROGRESS IN THE YOUNGER STAGES OF THE CRADLE TO CAREER CONTINUUM.**

   We see some of the biggest gains since 2014 in the kindergarten through 12th grade space: There are over 4,300 more children enrolled in full day preschool in 2017 than in 2014. The number of students reaching attainment of 3rd grade reading standards grew a solid 6 percentage points, from 52% in 2014 to 58% in 2017, and the number of students reaching attainment of 8th grade math standards grew an astonishing 12 percentage points, from 51% to 63%. These improvements are evidence of exciting progress for our youth.

3. **YOUTH CONTINUE TO FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES IN SECURING A COLLEGE DEGREE AND GAINING EMPLOYMENT.**

   In contrast to the younger stages, we see smaller gains in the college and career focused milestones. Enrollment in a 2- or 4-year college inched up by 4 percentage points to 66% from 2014 to 2016. Graduation rates from a 4-year college have dropped slightly from 2014 to 2016, driven by lower graduation rates for Black and Latinx students. Youth employment rates have also grown lately, adding only 4 percentage points to reach 67% in 2016. This stagnation is a clear call to action to remove barriers to earning a college degree, career credential, and gaining employment.

This Snapshot gives us an opportunity to reassess our progress as a city. We need to examine the systemic barriers that are rooted in structural racism, classism, and sexism. Collectively, we need to take action to ensure that a young person’s future is not dependent on their zip code, parental educational attainment, sexual identity, or the color of their skin.

Collective action is necessary. Thrive and its partners continue to work to unearth actionable data insights, and design and pilot coordinated and targeted interventions across the cradle to career continuum. With our work together, all youth will have equitable access to resources, supports, and opportunities.
PROGRESS SINCE THRIVE’S 2014 BASELINE REPORT

**By the Numbers:**

**THERE ARE OVER 850,000 CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 0-24 IN CHICAGO**

**THERE ARE 381,349 K-12 STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**
- 80% LOW INCOME
- 91% STUDENTS OF COLOR
- 17% ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

**Enter Kindergarten Ready**
- Number of preschool age children enrolled in full-day pre-school

**Prepared to Succeed in High School**
- The number of 3rd grade students reading at or above national standards has increased by 6 percentage points
- The number of 8th grade students doing math at or above national standards has increased by 12 percentage points
- The number of 9th grade students on track has increased by 5 percentage points

**Graduate High School College & Career Ready**
- The number of high school graduates has increased by 2 percentage points
- The number of CPS graduates enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college has increased by 4 percentage points
- The number of youth ages 20-24 employed has increased by 4 percentage points
- No improvement in 4-year college graduation

**Earn A Degree or Career Credential**
- The number of 8th grade students doing math at or above national standards has increased by 12 percentage points

**Enter Self-Sustaining Career**
- The number of youth ages 20-24 employed has increased by 4 percentage points

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**The Number of High School Students Graduating Has Increased by 2 Percentage Points**

**The Number of CPS Graduates Enrolling in a 2- or 4-Year College Has Increased by 4 Percentage Points**

**No Improvement in 4-Year College Graduation**

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**There are Over 48,000 Opportunity Youth Ages 16-24 Who Are Out of School and Work (15% of Chicago’s Youth).**

**Notes:** 1-9
Thrive Chicago mobilizes the ecosystem of youth serving organizations to collaborate and innovate to improve outcomes for Chicago’s youth at scale.

There are hundreds of nonprofits, city agencies, funders and researchers serving youth in Chicago. This very active arena means we have some of the best youth assets in the nation but also some of the greatest challenges to align our efforts and maximize our impact. And while many organizations have developed impactful programs, there are entrenched problems that can only be addressed at the systems level. In a fragmented youth sector, Thrive is driving real change for Chicago’s youth by serving as the connective tissue that allows Chicago’s youth serving organizations to collaborate and innovate.

**WITH COLLECTIVE IMPACT WE CAN:**
- Identify opportunities to collaborate across silos to build a system that is youth-centered, rather than institution-centered
- Give practitioners access to relevant data, expert research, best practices, and each other to increase the ability to generate and share learnings
- Collaborate to maximize the impact of the billions of dollars invested in the youth sector annually
- Pilot innovative solutions with a committed group of organizations, reducing risk of failure for individual organizations
- Empower community based organizations who work with youth in our neighborhoods to design solutions
- Drive improvements in youth outcomes at a scale beyond any one organization or program
CONVENE AND CONNECT CROSS-SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

Thrive brings together cross-sector organizations to build alignment around critical issues and drive action. Imagine the power of individuals, community organizations, researchers, government agencies, and funders coming together to break down silos across the city. That is what happens in the collective groups of committed stakeholders that Thrive connects and facilitates.

Thrive works with a number of stakeholder groups to build a collective agenda, set strategic priorities, and design solutions:

- Uncover data and needs around a certain issue
- Recommend solution strategies
- Recruit the right partners to move work from planning to action

ACTIVE DATA AND RESEARCH

Thrive uses data and research insights to connect practice, research and policy. It is imperative that partners not only have access to relevant data and research, but that they are supported in how to leverage that for action.

- Driving the Thrive Data Partnership: Chicago’s nonprofits can significantly improve how they serve youth if they have access to data on how the youth they serve do in school. Traditionally, this data is challenging to come by. In response, Thrive, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools, developed the Thrive Data Partnership to give Chicago’s community based organizations unprecedented, real-time access to academic data that helps them improve their programs and eases their funder reporting processes. In 2017, the Thrive Data Partnership included 25 organizations, and Thrive aims to grow this partnership to 100 partners. As this Partnership grows, Thrive and CPS will be able to generate service maps of the city to identify communities most in need of additional supports. This growing data project will also provide the collective with better data to drive collaborative action in our city.

- Securing data to drive collaboration and innovation: When Thrive convenes stakeholders, we examine data, bring in the latest research, and create shared understanding in order to generate insights for action. Many times, that means sourcing microdata from our key partners, like Chicago Public Schools, and providing additional capacity to disaggregate, analyze, and share the results with practitioners. We pull data from the Thrive Data Partnership, to provide another source of actionable data. We also connect practitioners to researchers to bolster data with best practices, as well as inform future research efforts.

THRIVE DATA PARTNERSHIP

IN THE CLASSROOM/SCHOOL

DISTRICT

YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Teachers and school staff collect data to understand what’s working for students and adjust instruction and supports.

Academic data is managed by the school district and the Thrive Data Partnership supports secure sharing and using data.

Organizations share youth participation data with CPS to connect to academic outcome data and drive improvements to student supports.

The Thrive Data Partnership gives education organizations special access to CPS data so they can more effectively improve their programs.
In 2016, galvanized by local energy and the growing national movement around post-secondary completion and connections to employment, combined with additional local data, Thrive decided to double down on the later two Cradle to Career Milestones. Our collected efforts are focused on helping Chicago’s youth Earn a Degree of Career Credential and Enter a Self-Sustaining Career, with an additional focus on reconnecting Opportunity Youth, who are disconnected from school and work.

We aspire to increase the scope of our work into the earlier milestones as our capacity grows. The next set of pages dives into the data for each one of these topics and the collective efforts of Thrive and our partners to improve key outcomes.
EARN A COLLEGE DEGREE OR CAREER CREDENTIAL

Why it Matters:

By 2020, 65% of U.S. jobs will require some form of postsecondary education, but only 39% of U.S. working-age adults hold a postsecondary credential. While not the only factor, educational attainment is a key factor in social and economic mobility: with a Bachelor’s Degree, only 17% of children born into poverty will remain in poverty, compared to nearly half of those that only obtain a high school diploma.

All students, regardless of income, age, race, or ethnicity, deserve an opportunity for a college education. Unfortunately, low-income youth face significant barriers to college success, including access to a high quality high school education with a strong college-going culture, guidance in navigating complex college admissions and financial aid processes, and finding additional supports and resources necessary to help them persist in and graduate from college. Despite the fact that over 76% of Chicago Public Schools freshmen aspire to earn a Bachelor’s Degree, it is estimated that only 18% will do so within 10 years of starting high school. While there is significant need for supports focused on putting more youth on the path to postsecondary success, there are limited resources available to meet those needs and limited evidence for effectively investing those resources. Postsecondary success should also not only focus on 2 and 4 year colleges, as there are numerous career credentials valued by employers, including but not limited to; Commercial Drivers License, Project Management Certification, Certified Nursing Assistant, Certified Information Systems Security Professional.

Data Insights:

While the 4-year college graduation rate trends upwards, there are still significant racial and gender gaps. While women tend to complete college at higher rates than men, only 15% of Black High School freshmen women have a college degree 10 years later compared to 30% of White freshmen men. This gap grows during college years: Black women and White men have relatively similar High School Freshman OnTrack rates (which predict high school completion) and are only separated by 5 percentage points in post-secondary enrollment rates (39% for Black women, 44% for White men). This highlights the critical need to focus on postsecondary persistence for all of our youth.
There are a number of college access organizations, secondary stakeholders, higher education institutions, researchers, and funders tackling these issues daily in Chicago. In 2017, Thrive brought a set of these organizations together to form the Postsecondary Working Group, which determined the most pressing issues that needed collective, coordinated efforts. Thrive then helped elevate the voice of practitioners and analyzed data, guiding the group’s first focus to the problem of Summer Melt: the 5,000 CPS college-intending seniors who do not enroll in college in the fall.

1,000 more CPS Students Attended College: Between 2014 and 2016, the Summer Melt rate remained near 32%, equating to nearly 5,000 CPS students “melting” each year. Based on the findings of the Working Group, Thrive and CPS launched the Summer Melt Action Team, which, during the summer of 2017, examined the disaggregated Summer Melt rate for 55 high schools with the highest Summer Melt rates. Thrive then led the design of collaborative solutions, which contributed to a 5% decrease in the Summer Melt rate—an additional 1,000 students enrolled in college in the fall of 2017. This solution was fueled by the Chicago Community Trust investment to place summer transition coordinators at those 55 high schools, as well as supporting 18 near-peer youth ambassadors (current or recent CPS students) in their outreach efforts at some of highest-need schools. 13 city-wide recommendations for first generation and low-income students: Beyond Summer Melt, the Postsecondary Working Group developed 13 citywide recommendations to increase college enrollment and persistence. These recommendations guide Thrive’s postsecondary strategy and help focus the effort of our partners. They fall into 10 categories: social emotional skill development, sense of community/support, financial support and aid, career preparation, postsecondary bridge support (Summer Melt), wraparound services, academic support, family support, and increasing access to/use of data.

In 2018, Thrive, in partnership with CPS, mobilized the College Enrollment and Persistence Action Team (CEPAT), which includes CPS and more than 30 community-based organizations, secondary institutions, and higher education institutions. This group is anchored in achieving student outcomes in two areas: (1) increasing the percentage of students that enroll in college and (2) increasing the percentage of students who attain a postsecondary degree.

Help an additional 750 CPS Students Enroll: To tackle the first goal, Thrive and its partners will build on the results from Summer Melt interventions in 2017, with an aim to support an additional 350-750 students to enroll in college. Thrive and our partners will do this by targeting sub-populations most vulnerable to summer melt. This is made possible by Thrive and CPS’ commitment to sharing new data disaggregated by race, gender, academic performance, and geography. For example, while the summer melt gender gap has closed for Asian and White students in recent years, the gap has grown between Black and Latinx students. Thrive has helped partners process this data, identify promising practices, and coordinate action to test and scale summer melt supports in the summer of 2018, including:

- Universal summer transition checklists that centralize the basic information needed to matriculate successfully
- Texting nudges to encourage students to complete critical college enrollment milestones and connect students to advisors as needed
- Summer transition workshops and targeted college visit days for select CPS schools and networks that make the college-going process real for students
- Partnerships between CBOs and select high-need schools to provide student with a caring adult or peer with the proper resources to address the student’s needs and provide support

In addition to ensuring that a collective impact approach to summer melt is systematized and sustainable in the years ahead, CEPAT’s work will grow to support two additional goals: (1) increasing the percentage of students who enroll in match/fill institutions and (2) increasing the percentage of students who attain a postsecondary degree by identifying collective solutions to improve persistence.
Chicago and Illinois’ economic future lies in the hands of our young people, and it is imperative that we set them up for success not only with employment, but at a living wage. There are clear linkages to educational attainment, employment, and wages, as individuals who are more educated earn more and are more likely to be employed. It’s also vital that youth are earning a meaningful wage with advancement opportunities to support income mobility over the course of their lifetime. Entering a self sustaining career can be a lift out of poverty for our most vulnerable youth and their families, yet nationally, we see lower rates of upward mobility for Black and Latinx children, leading to income disparities that span generations. For instance, Black and Latinx youth, regardless of their neighborhood and family income, earn less in adulthood than their White peers.

While the Black-White employment gap has closed by 8 percentage points over the last 4 years, the wage gap has actually increased by approximately $2,000. In 2016, White youth ages 20 - 24 earned an average of $34,000 a year, whereas Black youth earned approximately $16,000 on average. Latinx youth, on the other hand, have seen less remarkable increases in employment rate, but on average a $5,000 wage increase over the last 5 years. While there are many reasons for both the increases in employment rates and average yearly wages, we have to ask ourselves about the types and quality of those positions. Chicago needs more jobs, but, jobs at a living wage that will support upward social and income mobility for our most vulnerable youth.

Since 2015, Thrive, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, and numerous CBOs have organized seven hiring fairs as part of the 100K Opportunities Initiative. Together, these fairs were attended by more than 6,000 youth, who participated in more than 4,000 interviews and received more than 2,000 offers from over 50 employers. Thrive and The Partnership worked together, playing a critical lead role in organizing these fairs, identifying best practices around youth outreach, convening employers to provide a full array of services during these fairs, and connecting youth to critical on-site services (i.e. resume review, mock interviews, financial literacy/banking services, record expungement services). Thrive has documented these best practices and the learnings from the initial seven fairs in a Chicago 100K Hiring Fair Toolkit to empower any community to host their own fair and provide new opportunities for their youth.
Thrive enhances the infusion of 100K into Chicago’s OY hiring strategy infrastructure by a) disseminating the Chicago 100K Hiring Fair Toolkit, which includes employer profiles and strategies for youth engagement, employer engagement, and lessons on data collection, and b) connecting employers to community partners who will host the three City-funded Opportunity Fairs. In 2018, hiring fairs modeled on those organized by Thrive in previous years will take place in Englewood, Roseland and Little Village, specifically focused on connecting Opportunity Youth to entry-level job opportunities. These fairs are each supported by a $20,000 investment from the City of Chicago, which Thrive helped secure. Thrive will also continue to convene the 4 organizations that are part of the Pathways to Careers community of practice to document and disseminate best practices.

**Thrive Chicago 2017**

**The Work Ahead:**

Thrive enhances the infusion of 100K into Chicago’s OY hiring strategy infrastructure by a) disseminating the Chicago 100K Hiring Fair Toolkit, which includes employer profiles and strategies for youth engagement, employer engagement, and lessons on data collection, and b) connecting employers to community partners who will host the three City-funded Opportunity Fairs. In 2018, hiring fairs modeled on those organized by Thrive in previous years will take place in Englewood, Roseland and Little Village, specifically focused on connecting Opportunity Youth to entry-level job opportunities. These fairs are each supported by a $20,000 investment from the City of Chicago, which Thrive helped secure. Thrive will also continue to convene the 4 organizations that are part of the Pathways to Careers community of practice to document and disseminate best practices.

**IN 2018, THRIVE WILL CONTINUE WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN THE LEARN & EARN ACTION TEAM TO TEST AND STUDY ACTIONS RELATED TO THE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES THEY DEVELOPED:**

**Current Milestones of Focus**

1. Shared Platform: Create combined program directory with uniform data collection framework and assess existing youth career platforms
2. Trained Network of Career Guides: Enhance College and Career Advising Credential curriculum to include advising on all postsecondary pathways and train both school- and non-school-based Career Guides
3. One Summer Chicago Apprenticeship Pathways: Change summer experience for OSC participants not returning to school to extend beyond the summer, by increasing their chances of successfully joining apprenticeship or other “learn and earn” pathways. Thrive specifically supports two pilots related to this strategy: one in partnership with the City of Chicago’s Strong Futures program and one with the Apple Everyone Can Code initiative.
4. Career Guide Employer Connections: Plan long-term strategies that allows for Career Guides to get to know employers with career pathways, starting with a networking event to begin fostering these connections

**IDENTIFYING BEST PRACTICES FOR APPRENTICESHIP AND INTERNSHIPS PROGRAMS:**

Thrive has convened a group of about 20 public sector organizations, non-profits, employers, researchers, and funders to form the Learn & Earn Action Team. These stakeholders identified best practices of programs that concurrently provide paid work experience and skills training toward a credential, and developed intervention strategies for expanding access to these opportunities for youth. Through a facilitated collective impact process, stakeholders also developed a set of interventions to test in 2018 that seek to build on existing assets and best practices. One of these interventions focuses on bridging select youth in One Summer Chicago, this second largest summer youth employment program in the country, to pathways and programs that prepare them for year-round employment.

**BUILDING CAPACITY OF YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTNER WITH EMPLOYERS:**

Thrive facilitates a Pathways to Careers Community of Practice for four youth-serving organizations with direct employer partnerships. During the quarterly discussions and site visits, Thrive works with the stakeholders to generate best practices and learnings around employer relationship management, youth recruitment, youth employment barrier mitigations, and sustainability of programming. All four organizations and Thrive have received generous support from the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions to build strong evidence of success for utilizing collective impact and community collaboration strategies to build and deepen pathways that achieve better outcomes in employment for Opportunity Youth.

**ENGAGING YOUTH IN THEIR LOCAL ECONOMIES THROUGH MAPSCORPS:**

During the summer of 2017, Thrive co-designed a research project with 15 youth who mapped community assets in partnership with the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation and MAPScorps. While mapping these assets, youth examined how they could best promote the employability of youth on the mid-Southside. Youth documented opportunities and threats in their community related to youth employment and provided key organization and policy recommendations. While interviewing over 30 local businesses, they found that the top barriers to youth employment were age restrictions and criminal background. Thrive used the findings of this project to inform employer engagement around youth employment.

The W ork Ahead:

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There remain tremendous systemic barriers that create a decline of the Opportunity Youth population in Chicago, all 16-24 year olds in Chicago, well above the national average of nearly 12%. Despite the positive trend in the decline of the Opportunity Youth population in Chicago, there remain tremendous systemic barriers that create persistent socioeconomic and racial opportunity gaps among our youth. Almost a quarter of Black youth in Chicago are disconnected from school and work and the gaps between Black and Latinx youth with their White peers have not changed dramatically between 2012 and 2016. It’s also notable that this remains true regardless of educational attainment: Chicago Black youth who have a high school diploma have a higher chance of being Opportunity Youth than their White peers.

Data Insights:

Despite considerable progress, nearly 50,000 Chicago youth ages 16-24 in 2016 were neither working nor in school, the majority of which were Black or Latinx. A high school diploma, low-income, and ages 20-24. This figure represents about 15% of all 16-24 year olds in Chicago, well above the national average of nearly 12%. Despite the positive trend in the decline of the Opportunity Youth population in Chicago, there remain tremendous systemic barriers that create persistent socioeconomic and racial opportunity gaps among our youth. Almost a quarter of Black youth in Chicago are disconnected from school and work and the gaps between Black and Latinx youth with their White peers have not changed dramatically between 2012 and 2016. It’s also notable that this remains true regardless of educational attainment: Chicago Black youth who have a high school diploma have a higher chance of being Opportunity Youth than their White peers.

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Given the existing collaborations around the younger milestones, including the City of Chicago’s Early Learning Executive Council (ELEC), Thrive promotes these milestones through those existing collaboratives. We are committed to gathering, disaggregating, and reporting data on these milestones and we are excited to dive deeper into Kindergarten Readiness, K-8 Success, and High School Graduation with partners over the next several years.

The following few pages share trend data for those Milestones, informing our future collective work and recognizing that while gaps have narrowed, we still have a lot of work to do.

SAMPLE OF FINDINGS FROM OPPORTUNITY YOUTH LANDSCAPE SURVEY:

- THERE ARE AT LEAST 116 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING YOUTH ACROSS CHICAGO, MANY OF WHICH ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE SOUTH AND WEST SIDE COMMUNITIES OF CHICAGO

- OF THESE YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS, 84 REPORTED SERVING OPPORTUNITY YOUTH, OVER HALF OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING THEM FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS

The Work Ahead:

In 2018, Thrive continues to work with its network of partners to move those 10 recommendations forward, including:

- Supporting the launch of the Roseland Reconnection Hub by providing a framework for shared data collection, a shared digital platform for case management and referrals, and connections to potential funders.

- Partnering with UChicago Urban Labs to unlock key insights by linking program and administrative datasets, producing a segmentation analysis to better understand pathways to and from disconnection, and conducting evaluations of what works to support disconnected youth.

FUTURE MILESTONES OF FOCUS
Skills developed in a child’s early years have a huge influence on future success. Expanding access to quality early childhood education has shown positive benefits in the areas of reduced healthcare costs, increased school achievement and a more educated workforce. Yet, less than 1 in 5 low income children are enrolled in high-quality early childhood education, and lower income children often receive lower-quality care. We also know that high-quality, birth-to-five early childhood education provides a higher rate of return on investment than preschool alone.

Chicago has significantly increased the number of children enrolled in full-day programming since 2013-14, with 48% more preschool-age children enrolled in full-day programs across school and community settings.

Since 2011 the City of Chicago Mayor’s office has convened an Early Learning Executive Council, an advisory and accountability body to advise on coordination of the early childhood work across city agencies with the goal of increasing access, raising program quality, and bolstering transparency and accountability in Chicago’s early learning systems to ensure that every child enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. Thrive is currently taking part in the ELEC subcommittee of this Council, which is working towards developing a subset of metrics to evaluate progress in these areas. We know that if the City of Chicago provides equitable opportunities, resources, and environments for young children, then children aged 0-8 will be physically, mentally, and emotionally healthy; academically on track; and socially supported and connected.

Early grade reading and middle grade math scores are two indicators of student progress in K-8. One in six children who are not reading proficiently in third grade do not graduate from high school on time, a rate four times greater than that for proficient readers.

Overall more CPS students are reaching and exceeding relative national averages for reading and math on the NWEA, regardless of race and ethnicity. For 3rd grade reading, the gap between Latinx and White students also has begun to close. For 8th grade math attainment, while we do see a slight decrease from last year overall, the racial gap closed further for both Black and Latinx students.

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN FULL-DAY PRESCHOOL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013-2014</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8,920</td>
<td>13,249</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERCENT OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE 3RD GRADE READING ATTAINMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATINX</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERCENT OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE 6TH GRADE MATH ATTAINMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LATINX</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIAN</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITE</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLACK</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE & CAREER READY

Why it Matters:

Most jobs require a high school diploma. Students who are on-track to graduate from high school in 9th grade are also 3x more likely to graduate. Ninth grade GPA is strongly predictive not only of a student’s likelihood of graduating from high school, but also for enrolling and persisting in college. However there are still significant disparities between racial groups.

Data Insights:

With a district focus on ensuring that freshman are on-track to graduate, Chicago overall has seen an increase in both of these metrics for success. 2016-2017 data shows that more students are likely to graduate than ever before, with a Freshman OnTrack rate of 89%, up by 5 percentage points in the last three years, and by 24 percentage points since the 2008-2009 freshman class, driven largely by vulnerable and high risk students. The CPS graduation rate has also improved steadily, rising from 65% in 2011 to 75% in 2017 for the class of 2013-2014 first time freshman, growing more than three times faster than the national rate.

PERCENT OF FRESHMAN ON TRACK, BY RACE

HS GRADUATION RATE, BY RACE
This work cannot be done by one organization. Thank you to our collaborative partners pushing for systems change, cradle to career:

**INVESTORS**


**ACTION TEAMS**

**PLANNING COMMITTEES**

**WORKING GROUPS**

**BOARD & LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

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Microsoft

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Partner and Managing Director  
The Boston Consulting Group
NOTES


[2] Kindergarten Readiness Data. (n.d.) Retrieved from the City of Chicago. This represents an estimated unduplicated count in Community-based agencies, and based on historical analysis this number represents an approximate 80% duplication across funding streams. The City of Chicago and Thrive are working towards stronger measures indicative of Kindergarten Readiness beyond enrollment.


[6] Postsecondary Enrollment data: 2017 data not yet released, this indicates 2016 numbers or 2010 high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary


[9] Self-sustaining Career Milestone: Overall goal for all Chicago Youth is to be employed at a living wage, which is $13.30 according to http://livewage.wm.chicagoca.gov/county/170031 (amount for a single adult for Cook County, no children). Limited by census data to date.


[15] Summer Melt decrease data source: National Student Clearinghouse and CPS Senior Exit Questionnaire. Note that 2017 summer melt data is based on fall 2017 reporting from the National Student Clearinghouse, this figure will be updated after spring 2017 reporting.


[19] 100,000 Opportunities Initiative, a national and local initiative that aims to bridge the opportunity divide for the 4.9 million Americans, aged 16 – 24, who are out of school and not working. https://www.100kopportunities.org/ and http://chicago100kopportunities.org/

[20] Additional details can be found in the Reconnecting Chicago’s Youth 2018 Annual Report shared at the OY Summit on May 24th, 2018.


[22] Census data is lagging, thus data around Opportunity Youth and employment represent 2016. Thrive is currently working with Urban Labs to get more granular data year over year.

[23] This national youth disconnection rate equates to approximately 4.6 million Opportunity Youth. From “Disconnected Youth.” Measure of America – A Project of the Social Science Research Council, www.measureofamerica.org/disconnected-youth/

[24] Additional details can be found in the OY Fiscal Scan published by Thrive Chicago, forthcoming 2018.

[25] Additional details can be found in the Landscape Report shared at the OY Summit on May 24th, 2018.


[29] 3rd and 8th grade reading and math attainment data from spring 2017 NWEA obtained from CPS. Additional years and subjects forthcoming in future years. Data provided is the percent at or above the relative national average.

[30] Freshman OnTrack Freshman definition: A student is “on-track” if he/she has failed no more than one semester of a core course and earns at least 5 credits by the end of 9th grade (To & Through). Longer Definition at “Technical Notes for Freshman On Track.” Network for College Success. Retrieved from https://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/NTT_FOT_Toolkit_A4_0.pdf

[31] Freshman OnTrack Freshman definition: A student is “on-track” if he/she has failed no more than one semester of a core course and earns at least 5 credits by the end of 9th grade (To & Through). Longer Definition at “Technical Notes for Freshman On Track.” Network for College Success. Retrieved from https://toandthrough.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/documents/NTT_FOT_Toolkit_A4_0.pdf

