

EDUCATION

DESTINATION GRADUATION

United Way
of Metro Chicago

The early years of life are the most formative for children. Without the proper supports, young children are vulnerable to starting school without the skills they need to succeed, and then struggle to catch up as they move from grade to grade throughout their school years. United Way supports a wide variety of programs that provide quality early childhood experiences, school-aged after-school programs, and parent support—all designed to ensure students start and stay on track to graduate from high school.

THE CHALLENGE



64% OF 3RD GRADERS

in Illinois did NOT meet English/Language Arts learning standards in 2017.

Access to high-quality early education **establishes foundational literacy skills** that children build upon throughout school, better preparing them to succeed in high school and beyond.



1 OUT OF 10 FRESHMEN

in CPS schools were **NOT** on-track to graduate in 2017.

Freshman-on-track data (grades, attendance, behavior) is **highly predictive of high school graduation**, an important component to securing gainful employment as an adult.

THE GOAL

To increase the number of high school graduates.

Strong communities exist when children and youth have access to high quality, well-rounded educational opportunities.

WHAT WE'RE DOING

In our experience, no single agency or program can improve graduation rates alone. Our role as funder and coordinator allows us to provide **a network of services and programs for children and youth that support whole families, provide wrap-around services, and partner with schools for extended impact.**

To achieve our goal, we are focused on the following strategies:

EARLY LEARNING In order to see that children and families build a strong foundation in language, motor skills and socio-emotional development, we invest in well-rounded, high-quality early learning programs.

MIDDLE SCHOOL In order to improve high school success we support at-risk middle school students and their families with academic resources, after-school enrichment programs and physical and mental health services.

OUR IMPACT



of youth participating in middle school programs met social and emotional learning standards and are better prepared for high school*



infants and toddlers (ages 0–5) and their families were served through vital early care and education programs like Home Visiting and Pre-School*



of infants and toddlers (ages 0–5) improved across all developmental domains*

*between July 2016 and June 2017

THE UNITED WAY DIFFERENCE

Three years ago, United Way of Metro Chicago was searching for a structured way to partner with Chicago region residents to create long-term change in their neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Network was formed as a region-wide strategic initiative to address local community challenges by driving focused collaboration to achieve lasting change.

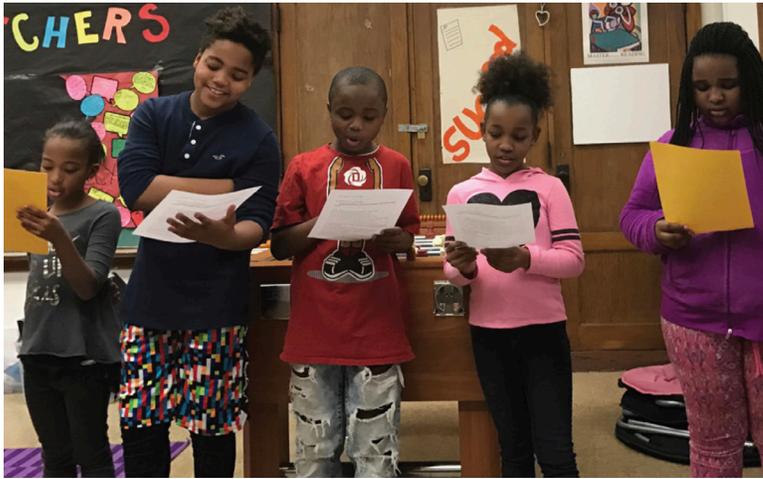
The coalitions in 10 Chicago-region neighborhoods consist of community stakeholders who identify the challenges that the collective group works toward solving. Stakeholders include:

- ▶ Residents
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Nonprofits
- ▶ Government officials
- ▶ Churches
- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ Businesses



Education Progress Highlights in our Neighborhood Networks include:

- ▶ In **Little Village**, an inaugural education summit—attended by over 100 people—offered bilingual workshops on social emotional learning, STEM, immigration, conflict resolution and wellness.
- ▶ The Network in **Evanston** expanded “Talk, Read, Sing”—a parent initiative reaching 150 parents—by adding partners, including healthcare providers.



WE ARE INVESTING MORE THAN \$4.9 MILLION IN 53 AGENCIES ACROSS THE REGION.

These vetted, best-in-class agencies provide **high quality early education and middle school programming to start and keep kids on track for successful learning, and ultimately, graduation.** Through these programs and partnerships, we have made steady progress toward our goal. View a full list of our agency partners online at LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/Our-Partners.



COLLABORATIONS

Exelon Stay in School Initiative

Since 2005, United Way of Metro Chicago and Exelon have partnered to support college and career readiness for high school students across the region. The Stay In School Initiative provides critical out-of-school-time programs coupled with group mentoring, to help students connect with peers and supportive adults, and build leadership and academic skills. In the 2016–17 school year, 95% of the seniors in the program graduated from high school.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The academic and life skills students gain through high-quality educational experiences result in greater qualifications for future employment and success in life. **We focus on education, income, health and basic needs strategies to address interconnected challenges and ensure that our community members have the support they need to thrive.**



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**United Way
of Metro Chicago**



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As the largest private funder of social services in the region, United Way fights for the health, education, financial stability and safety of every person in every Chicago region neighborhood.

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