Fast Facts.


Chicago Beyond invests in innovative ideas and scalable programs to amplify impact in two areas that are flip sides of the same coin – youth safety and educational attainment.

Over time, Chicago Beyond aims to leverage its findings to spark further public and philanthropic investments in work that does the most good per dollar to improve the lives of Chicago’s young people. Chicago Beyond believes that by investing in and measuring programs and ideas, the organization can do and learn more for the future of Chicago’s youth.

The Need:

• Only 29 percent of incoming Chicago Public School ninth graders enroll in four-year colleges the year after high school, and only 17 percent are expected to graduate from college by age 25.

• In Chicago, nearly half of all deaths of African American males aged 15-24 are due to homicide.

• One of the strongest protective factors against youth crime involvement is a diploma. Post-secondary success is one of the most powerful predictors of earnings, voting, giving back to one’s community, and overall health.

Our Approach:

• Source and support innovative programs that improve educational attainment and increase safety for young Chicagoans.

• Invest in research that will allow our partner organizations to better understand what works and why, so that they can scale and improve their programs over time.

• Spark further public and philanthropic investments in work that does the most good to improve the lives of young people.

Our Investments:

• GO Innovate: Chicago Beyond invests in crowdsourcing and testing the best ideas from the nonprofit sector in Chicago, the nation, and around the world. One or more winners who propose the most ambitious ideas will receive funding of up to $2 million each.

• GO Together: Chicago Beyond invests in existing programs, allowing them to expand and increase their capacity to serve a greater number of young people. In doing so, Chicago Beyond will generate critical lessons about how to drive transformative change and take effective programs to scale. Four nonprofit organizations will receive immediate funding: SAGA Innovations, OneGoal, Youth Advocate Programs and After School Matters. Each investment is aimed at answering specific questions that will ultimately help us better understand what works, for whom, and why.

Connect with Us:
Visit us and subscribe to our email list at ChicagoBeyond.org.

Contact Us:
General inquiries may be directed to info@chicagobeyond.org or by phone at 773.834.1283. For press-related inquiries, please contact us at press@chicagobeyond.org
Frequently Asked Questions.

Q: What is Chicago Beyond?
A: Chicago Beyond invests in innovative ideas and scalable programs to amplify impact while addressing two urgent issues that are flip sides of the same coin – youth safety and educational attainment. Over time, Chicago Beyond aims to leverage its findings to spark further public and philanthropic investments in work that does the most good per dollar to improve the lives of Chicago’s young people.

Q: What types of programs and organizations does Chicago Beyond invest in?
A: We invest in programs that work with Chicago’s young people. Our investments are geared toward organizations that have the capacity and willingness to expand and serve a significant number of youth while generating critical lessons on how to take effective programs to scale to support youth in two key areas.

Q: Is Chicago Beyond part of the University of Chicago?
A: No, Chicago Beyond is a separate, privately held organization. Chicago Beyond works in close partnership with UChicago Urban Labs to measure the impact of our investments and share what we learn.

Q: How can my organization partner with Chicago Beyond?
A: We encourage you to check the Chicago Beyond website (ChicagoBeyond.org) regularly for updates on opportunities for your organization. As part of our GO Innovate Challenge, Chicago Beyond is currently seeking LOIs from organizations with innovative program offerings in two issue areas: supporting college matriculation and graduation and reengaging youth in work and school. Winners will be selected to receive awards of up to $2 million. Find more information at ChicagoBeyond.org.

Q: How can I volunteer with Chicago Beyond?
A: To stay informed of any future opportunities, please sign up for our newsletter at ChicagoBeyond.org.