

## ‘CHICAGO BEYOND’ LAUNCHES WITH A MISSION TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITY FOR CHICAGO’S YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES INNOVATION CHALLENGE;  
ONE OR MORE WINNING PROGRAMS WILL BE AWARDED UP TO \$2 MILLION EACH

CHICAGO – Chicago Beyond, a new, privately held organization launched today with the goal of creating opportunity and access that the young people of Chicago deserve in school, career and life. Led by Liz Dozier, a lifelong educator and former high school principal, Chicago Beyond will invest 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.

“As an educator, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary potential that lies within Chicago’s young people,” said Managing Director Dozier. “The key to unlocking that potential is in creating opportunity and increasing access. Chicago Beyond will identify and invest in innovative ideas and programs, measuring their impact along the way. By understanding what works, we can do and learn more for the future of Chicago’s children.”

Chicago Beyond will initially focus on two kinds of investment initiatives: the GO Innovate challenge and GO Together investments. Through GO Innovate, Chicago Beyond will invest in and test new ideas from the nonprofit sector while GO Together will focus on expanding existing programs so they can serve a greater number of youth. 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 will partner with UChicago Urban Labs to evaluate the impact of initial investments in order to better understand what works, for whom, and why.

“Our team has partnered with Chicago Beyond to ensure their work is powered by data at every turn,” said Timothy Knowles, Pritzker Director of UChicago Urban Labs and Chairman of the Urban Education Institute. “Because investments made by Chicago Beyond hold great promise, Urban Labs is committed to learning what works, rigorously testing it, and bringing our knowledge to bear. This partnership aims to function in a way that not only moves the needle in Chicago, but well beyond our city limits.”

Today, Chicago Beyond kicks off the GO Innovate challenge, which will award up to \$2 million to winners with innovative ideas crowdsourced from the nonprofit sector in Chicago, the nation and around the world. Awardees will be selected from applicants that offer innovative programming in two areas:

- **Supporting College Matriculation and Graduation:** Potential high-impact, scalable programs that dramatically increase the pipeline of high school students on a path to complete two and four-year college degrees.
- **Re-engaging Youth in Work and School:** Potential high-impact scalable programs that target “Opportunity Youth,” 16-24 year olds who are disconnected from both work and school and who are living in neighborhoods most impacted by violence. Programs should be designed to prevent involvement in violence by providing paid employment, workforce skill development, and/or educational re-engagement.

Please visit [ChicagoBeyond.org](http://ChicagoBeyond.org) for information on GO Innovate. Letters of interest are due April 29, 2016.

Chicago Beyond has partnered with four nonprofit organizations to receive funding from its GO Together initiative. Each of the nonprofit partners will utilize their GO Together investment for specific initiatives that will allow them to serve more young people immediately. The four initial GO Together investments will be rigorously evaluated from Urban Labs and results will be shared publicly by Chicago Beyond.

Chicago Beyond's four initial GO Together partners are:

- **SAGA Innovations:** SAGA Innovations is a program that provides highly targeted, personalized math tutoring to students in the 9th and 10th grade who need it most. With Chicago Beyond's investment, SAGA Innovations will nearly double the number of students they serve in Chicago for each of the next two years. The investment and research partnership will generate knowledge on how to scale an effective tutoring program without sacrificing quality.
- **OneGoal:** OneGoal is a program that provides college support for students in 11th and 12th grades and through their first year of college. With Chicago Beyond's investment, OneGoal will pilot enhanced delivery models and build innovation capabilities to improve their programming over time. The investment and research partnership will generate knowledge on the impact of OneGoal's programming on a broader range of students than they typically serve.
- **Youth Advocate Programs (YAP):** YAP provides youth and their families with intensive support and specializes in working with those who are at highest risk. Chicago Beyond's investment and research partnership will generate knowledge on the components of YAP's mentoring and wraparound advocacy program and on how to pilot adaptive application of those components to the most marginalized and highest risk students.
- **After School Matters:** After School Matters provides after-school and summer program opportunities to more than 15,000 Chicago high school teens each year. Chicago Beyond's investment will expand programming to serve 800 new young male participants from high-need communities over the next two summers. The investment and research partnership will generate knowledge on how to enroll, engage, and retain young men in summer and after school programming.

Chicago Beyond is supported by a consortium of private investors, each with a unique connection to Chicago. For more information about the programs Chicago Beyond is supporting, in addition to application details for the GO Innovate challenge, please visit [ChicagoBeyond.org](http://ChicagoBeyond.org).

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