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# BUILD BACK TO LAST

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2020  
annual report



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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## LETTER FROM CEO and board chair

We opened our annual letter last year noting that the COVID-19 pandemic was a defining moment for our nation. As the weeks turned into months of a public health crisis, we each experienced cascading challenges through racial injustice, economic hardship and political polarization. And yet, despite so many unknowns, the StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network rose to meet the moment, never wavering from our commitment that we can and must do better for kids and families.

This year is another critical point in our journey, as 2021 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Cradle to Career Network. Over the last 10 years, StriveTogether has worked to define and build [civic infrastructure](#) in communities across the country in service of more equitable outcomes. We have seen large-scale policy change, resource allocation and shifts in the ways systems support young people and families. As the world dramatically changed in 2020, network members used their established civic infrastructure to meet the emergent needs of their communities. We know change is possible because we have seen it.

We can't reflect over the last year without looking back to the last 10 and recognizing the many wins — and learning from a handful of fails — that brought us to this point. We were challenged at our first Cradle to Career Network Convening to prove change was possible, to establish “proof points” of outcomes improving at scale. Network members learned together as the first community became a Proof Point five years later. With 16 Proof Point communities today, it is clear something is working.

Over the last year, Cradle to Career Network members worked to address systemic and immediate needs in their communities. We know that together, we can realize an equitable recovery from COVID-19 in communities from Monterey, Calif., to Rochester, N.Y. Today, the Network is stronger than ever.

In this annual report, you'll see examples from partnerships that developed solutions with youth and families. In Oklahoma, ImpactTulsa used their strong data infrastructure to shift policy, practices and resources to bridge the digital divide. In California, Bright Futures used data to respond to COVID-19 and create lasting systems change. In New York, ROC the Future shifted power and practices in the removal of armed police officers from schools and in the declaration of racism as

a public health crisis. In these communities and others across the country, civic infrastructure built by the Network enabled swift and collaborative response to emerging challenges.

StriveTogether also pivoted quickly as we learned more about what communities faced. With a focus on trust-based grantmaking, we provided \$20 million in grants to partnerships and plan to award another \$12 million in 2021. Inspired by the Equitable Recovery Pledge developed by UP Partnership in San Antonio, Texas, we drafted a pledge with over 20 national organizations to commit to principles that will drive an equitable recovery.

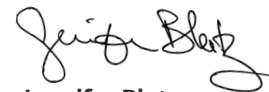
As an organization, walking the talk on our commitment to equity is paramount. We developed a set of anti-racist commitments to impact the practice, power, resource and policy structures within our own operations. Staff created affinity spaces to deepen their own racial equity journeys through healing and learning. We know there is still so much more to do, and we face that with perseverance, openness and acceptance.

Looking back brought us much hope and excitement as we look forward to the future. The last 10 years prove that communities can change, disrupt and transform systems to deliver equitable results for every young person and family.

We're in a position to scale what's working in nearly 70 communities across the country to achieve population-level results. We could not do this without the support of strategic investors and partners like you.

We encourage you to share our results and learning with your networks, visit our website to learn more and explore how we can work even more closely together to accelerate an equitable recovery.

Sincerely,



**Jennifer Blatz**

President & CEO, StriveTogether



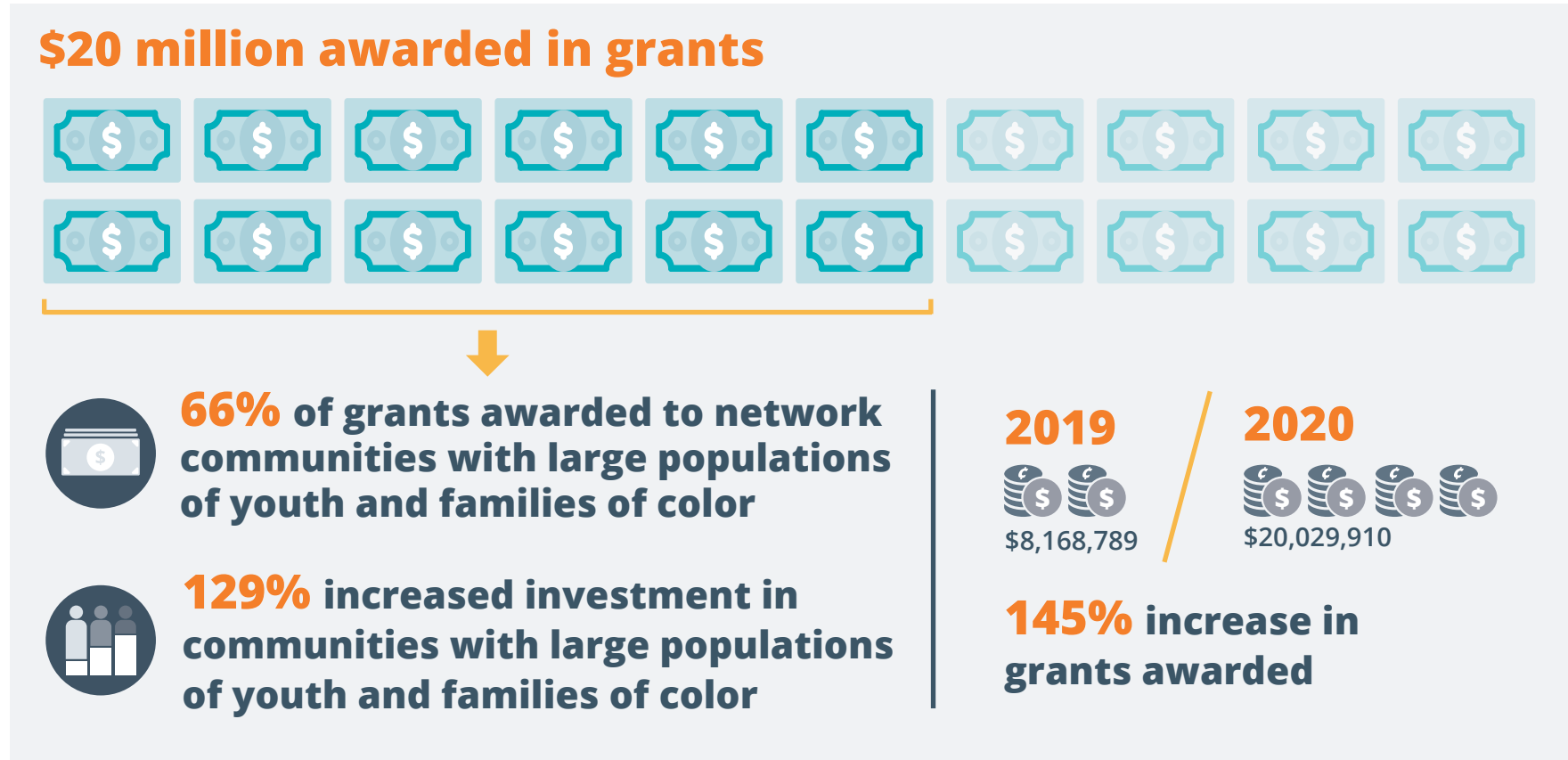
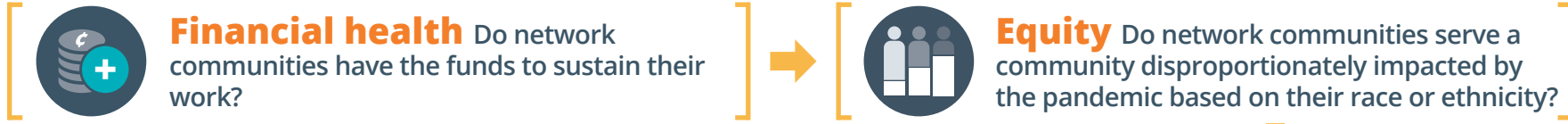
**Danae Davis**

Board Chair, StriveTogether

# INVESTING IN AN equitable recovery

StriveTogether accelerated multi-year grant payments and provided new grants to support COVID-19 recovery and sustain the work of systems transformation across the Cradle to Career Network in 2020. The [\\$20 million investment](#)

prioritized 51 network communities with the greatest financial need and those serving significant populations of children and families of color.



IMPACT

# network at a glance

## A NATIONWIDE MOVEMENT



**66** cradle-to-career partnerships



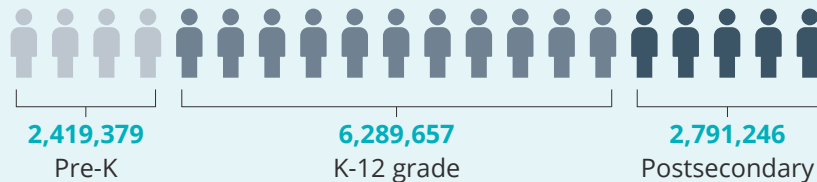
**29** states + Washington, D.C.



**7** median staff size

### TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

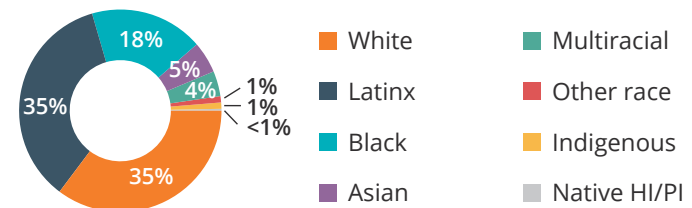
**11+ million** youth



### YOUTH DEMOGRAPHICS

**7+ million** youth of color<sup>1</sup>

This distribution shows the race of youth from age groups for which network members submitted disaggregated race data.

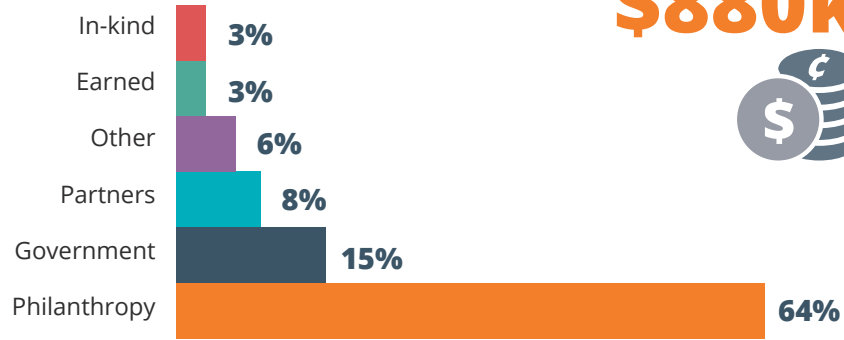


Data source: 2020 Civic Infrastructure Assessment. All data from the assessment is self-reported, and not all network members submitted data for every data point. Therefore, the number of observations for each measure may vary.

<sup>1</sup>Some network members did not submit disaggregated race data, leading to an undercount of youth of color. We thus estimated this number by multiplying the total youth served (for all network members) by the percent of youth served who are youth of color, according to the racial demographics of network members for whom we do have disaggregated data.

## NETWORK SUSTAINABILITY

### revenue mix



median budget

**\$880k**



### leadership and staff demographics

- White
- People of color
- Unknown

#### leadership table



#### executive directors



#### staff



## GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF YOUTH SERVED

metro



rural



metro and rural



## ANCHOR ORGANIZATIONS

Anchor entities are the fiscal agents for network members.

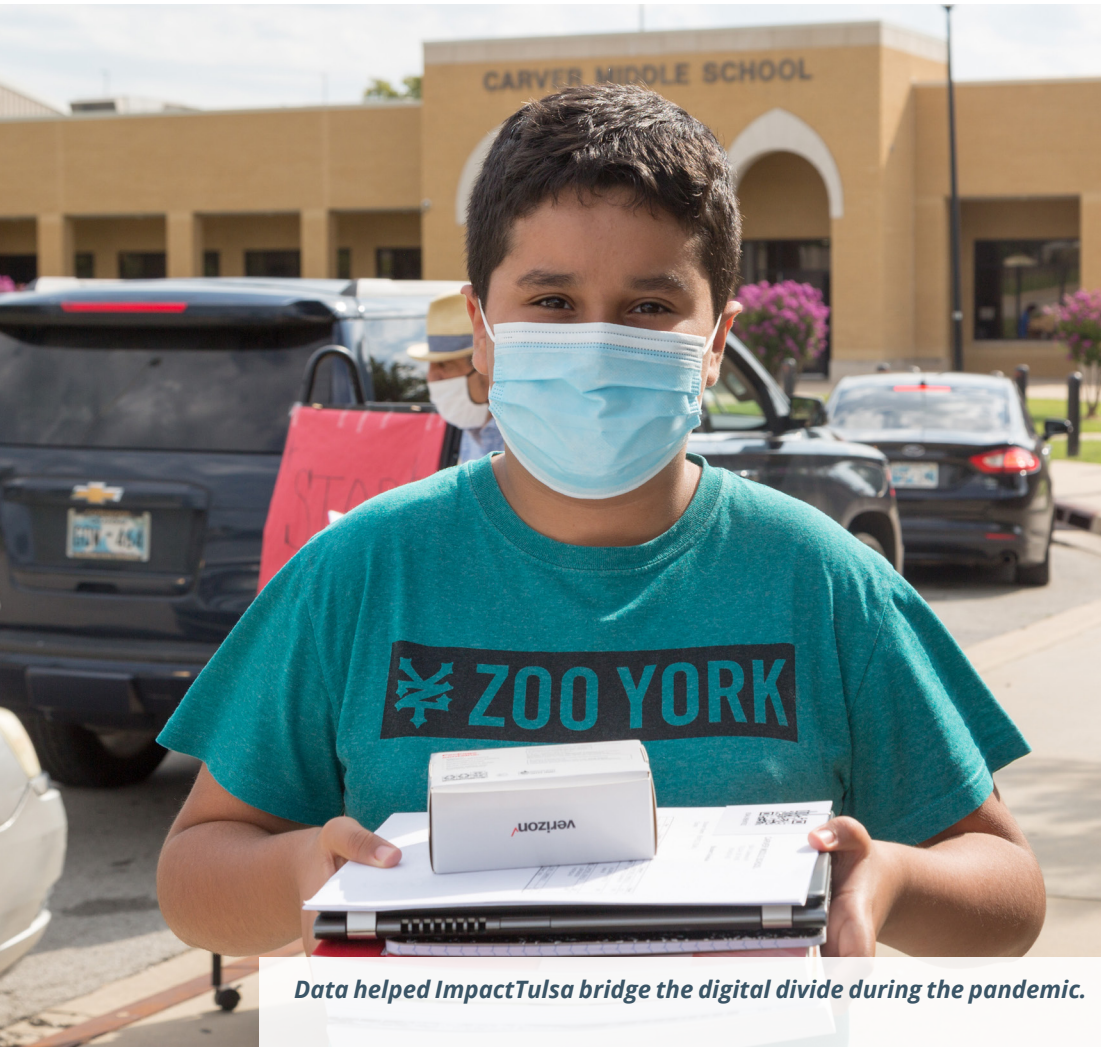




IMPACTTULSA

## bridging the digital divide

**When schools across the country closed in response to COVID-19 last year, a digital divide widened for students without internet access and devices for online learning.**



*Data helped ImpactTulsa bridge the digital divide during the pandemic.*

The pandemic disrupted learning for more than 20,000 students in Tulsa, Okla., who did not have fast, reliable internet at home. Cradle to Career Network member ImpactTulsa is addressing the digital divide using the power of data and cross-sector collaboration. With a dedicated focus on equity, they convened community members, aligned resources and helped ensure no family is overlooked.

The community started this work with a strong foundation in data. Developed with Tulsa Public Schools and ECONorthwest, ImpactTulsa's Child Equity Index helps partners and the community better understand the landscape of opportunity throughout the city. This mapping tool looks at neighborhood factors that impact student success outside of the classroom.

"The data has been really powerful in storytelling, but also giving organizations their role in driving toward student success and putting children at the center, no matter what industry or field we're working in," said Carlisha Williams Bradley, executive director of ImpactTulsa.

With the Child Equity Index data and internet access data from the Tulsa Planning Office, ImpactTulsa could quickly determine where to target resources to address the digital divide. The cross-sector team created internet access maps by census tracts, revealing significant disparities in connectivity in communities experiencing poverty and communities of color. In April 2020, ImpactTulsa partnered with the City of Tulsa, Tulsa Public Schools, Jenks Public Schools and Union Public Schools to form the Internet Access Task Force.

The task force brought together organizational leaders, experts, and business and community members to co-develop solutions. The group identified existing community-based efforts and areas where new initiatives could be put in place.





*The shift to remote learning created a digital divide affecting more than 20,000 students in Tulsa.*

**“You can convene stakeholders, at times with different ideologies, and root it in a conversation around the data and lived experiences to drive a common agenda and see meaningful change.”**

– Carlisha Williams Bradley, executive director of ImpactTulsa

## **BUILDING DATA CAPACITY ACROSS THE NETWORK**

The shift to remote learning revealed the uneven distribution of digital access across the U.S., a phenomenon called the digital divide. StriveTogether created a guide to help Cradle to Career Network members find data to understand the digital landscape in their communities. Accessing the data is a key starting point to addressing digital needs through targeted strategies that direct resources to where they're needed most. [View the guide here >>](#)

**“It’s critical to be data driven, but also to know that quantitative numbers are someone’s real-life stories. And it’s not enough to stop there — we have to dig deeper. They’re equally important to make the work happen.”**

– Carlisha Williams Bradley, executive director of ImpactTulsa

Bradley says that community member leadership was critical in challenging assumptions and creating effective strategies. The numbers must be paired with lived experiences, she says.

“It’s critical to be data driven, but also to know that quantitative numbers are someone’s real-life stories. And it’s not enough to stop there — we have to dig deeper. They’re equally important to make the work happen,” she said.

With insights from community members, internet access maps and data from the Child Equity Index, the Internet Access Task Force had comprehensive

information to inform quick action. The group co-developed a shared strategy agenda designed to spread solutions across the city.

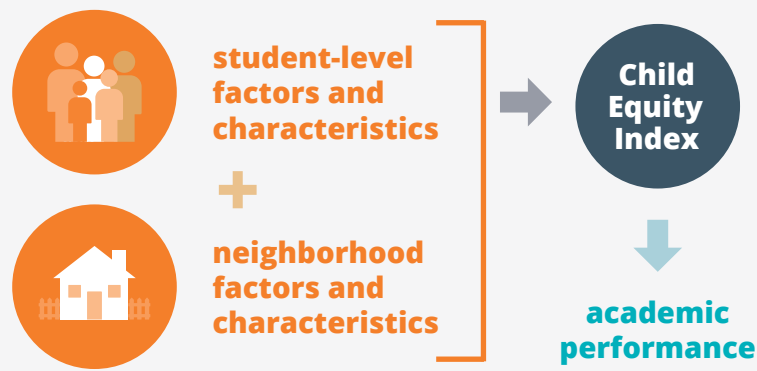
The task force worked with Cox Communications, a telecommunication service provider, to change policies, including lowering internet rates for eligible families. These efforts, combined with the CARES Act Funding allocated by the state of Oklahoma, allowed up to 20,000 families to receive partially or fully funded internet subscriptions. And based on experiences shared by families, these subscriptions came with support, including hotlines to walk families through the enrollment process and internet access navigators who spoke multiple languages to assist families and students with technical issues.

“It’s not enough just to say, ‘Here’s the free subscription,’” Bradley said. “We’re going to make sure that this is something that’s easily accessible and families are automatically qualified for.”

The Internet Access Task Force’s work led to \$5.6 million in CARES Act funding allocated to address the gaps they identified. This funding allowed for progress in a key area of systems transformation: shifting resources. These resources increased internet connectivity for public housing residents, with high-speed, reliable internet for residents of Tulsa Housing Authority communities. The task force also created, translated and distributed information on internet access options.

Effective data use is deepening across the Cradle to Career Network. ImpactTulsa is involved in efforts to examine individual and collective data practices for systems transformation across the Network. The Racial Equity Action Team created a framework that emphasizes the importance of

### CHILD EQUITY INDEX: DATA ORIGINS AND MODEL DESIGN





collecting and tracking data at the institutional, structural and systemic levels to ensure that gaps are closing and systems are transforming for children, youth and communities of color.

“ImpactTulsa is working alongside other network communities to share best practices and models to make our data practices more impactful and less harmful to communities that are uniquely burdened by systemic inequity and persistent disparity,” said Delia Kimbrel, Ph.D., senior director of research and policy at ImpactTulsa.




Now, ImpactTulsa is expanding the Child Equity Index to cover the entire county, so the data can be used to create change for all school districts served by ImpactTulsa. The team is also beginning to use data to deepen policy change work, another central element of systems transformation.

Bradley says that the success of the Internet Access Task Force shows the power of bringing together the components of systems transformation. “You can convene stakeholders, at times with different ideologies, and root it in a conversation around the data and lived experiences to drive a common agenda and see meaningful change.”



*ImpactTulsa helped secure \$5.6 million in CARES Act funding, including funds to increase internet access for public housing residents.*


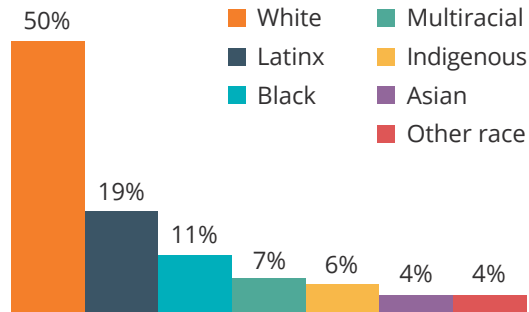
## QUICK FACTS: IMPACTTULSA

-  **anchor type**  
foundation
-  **budget**  
\$2.1 million
-  **established**  
2014

**201,127**  
youth served

---

**50%**  
youth of color

**13-person**  
team

---

**46%** of staff are  
people of color

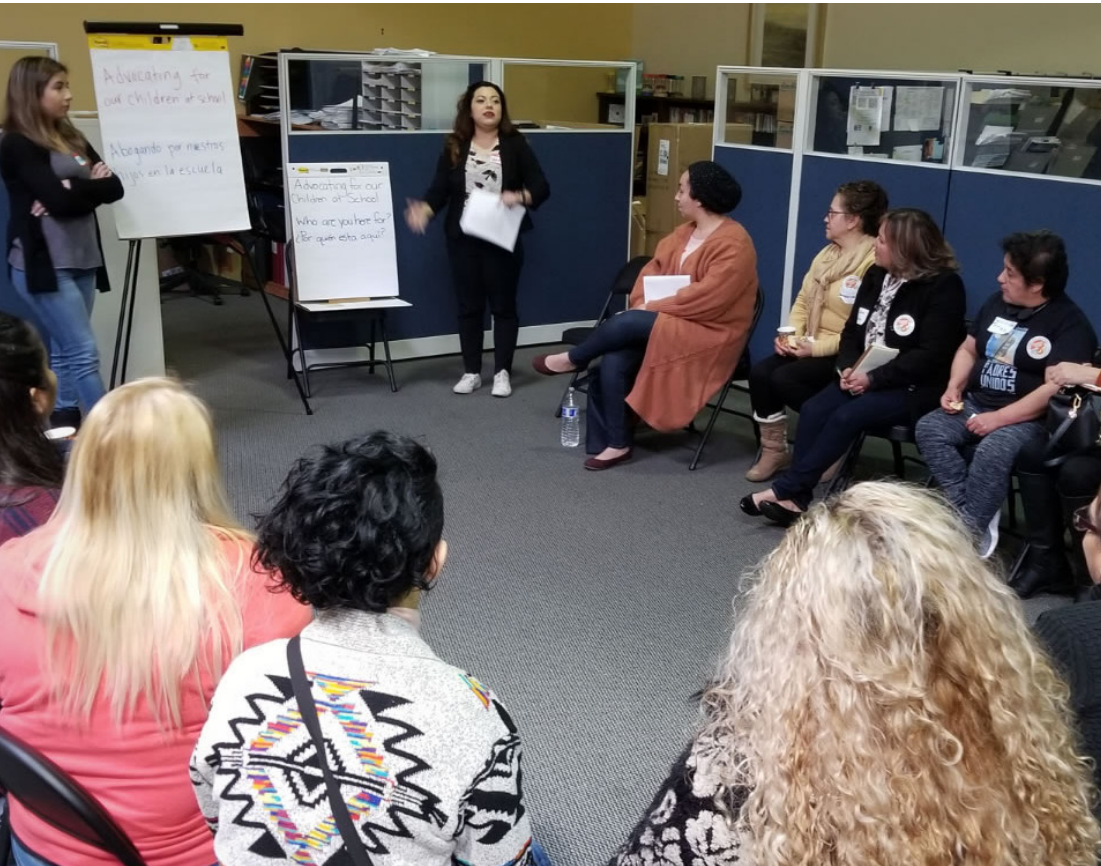


Self-reported data from the 2020 Civic Infrastructure Assessment.

## BRIGHT FUTURES

## making the case for change

**Is it fair? Can it be changed? How two questions helped build support for systems-level change.**



*Bright Futures partners with local organizations and community members to shift policies, practices and resources to promote more equitable outcomes.*

Using data to show the racial inequities that limit opportunity for children and families of color across their community, partners of Bright Futures for Monterey County are helping to transform the local education system for the better.

Monterey County hugs the coast of central California and is known for its beautiful beaches and golf courses. The county's fruitful Salinas Valley is also known for its compelling history of immigrant farmworker injustice and hard-won rights. As you travel inland, you find the families who grow much of the produce consumed in the United States. Locals refer to the "lettuce curtain" when they describe the stark geographic and economic disparities between white and Latinx community members.

Martha Martinez was the superintendent of the largest elementary school district in the county when she was first approached by Bright Futures to help support improvements in educational outcomes. She believed in their cradle-to-career vision and has been a steering partner for several years.

"I've seen the evolution of the work. It's really about creating that picture of fairness, using data, and diving deeply into the data to move from generalities down into specific details. It gives us hope that change can occur," said Martinez, retired superintendent of the Salinas City School District where 95% of the students are non-white and the majority are Latinx (92%). "Knowing that everyone involved is committed gives us the courage to lead changes that need to happen."

Change is underway as partners of Bright Futures apply insights from community members and data to try to influence shifts in policies, practices and resources at schools, higher education institutions and community-based programs.

Bright Futures Executive Director Cynthia Holmsky explained, “We are making the reduction of systemic racism the primary focus of our cradle-to-career partnership and this commitment is shared across all of our partners. This has required candor and courage. It is important to affirm system leaders as equity-committed individuals while at the same time admitting together that the system they are directing consists of racially biased elements, because it produces racially inequitable outcomes. Dismantling systemic racism requires collective humility as the starting point.”

Working with StriveTogether, Bright Futures identified indicators of systemic racism that they will track and improve to drive large-scale systems change. Collectively they are working with community members and local partners to:

- transform early child care systems with the needs of multilingual, working families in mind,
- redesign teacher career pathways at higher education institutions and
- make college more accessible.

Through partner organizations like Bright Beginnings, they’ve seen increases in home visits and improved the quality and coordination of child care. Higher education partners are working to increase graduation rates, particularly for students of color, and partners have developed tools to help advance career pathways policies, practices and outcomes. For example, prior to California policy offering two years of community college for free, partners in Bright

Futures, led by Hartnell College, rallied philanthropists and city and county government to provide two years of tuition-free community college (in addition to one year then provided by the State) along with laptops and books for students. This resulted in an immediate increase in college enrollment of 14% and a 37% increase in students enrolling full time.

While the partnership intentionally extended its focus on systemic racial equity in 2019, events in 2020 added momentum and a greater clarity to existing commitments.

“The social justice uprising helped to reveal more of the unfairness while the pandemic helped reveal how fast education systems can change,” Holmsky said. “The convergence of these two major shifts have put expectations of systemic change in the forefront of community dialogue. Many more people see the need for equity, are seeking change, and now want to learn how to change a system. Our partnership is striving to provide practical thought-leadership and technical support to empower these change makers.”

Key to helping people understand systemic racism is using data to paint the picture. Michael Applegate, the data and research manager at Bright Futures,

## SEVEN SYSTEMS INDICATORS

1. School funding
2. School discipline
3. Digital divide
4. Same-race teacher
5. Bilingual teacher
6. Teacher credentials
7. Teacher retention/experience

## COLLEGE ENROLLMENT INCREASES



College  
enrollment

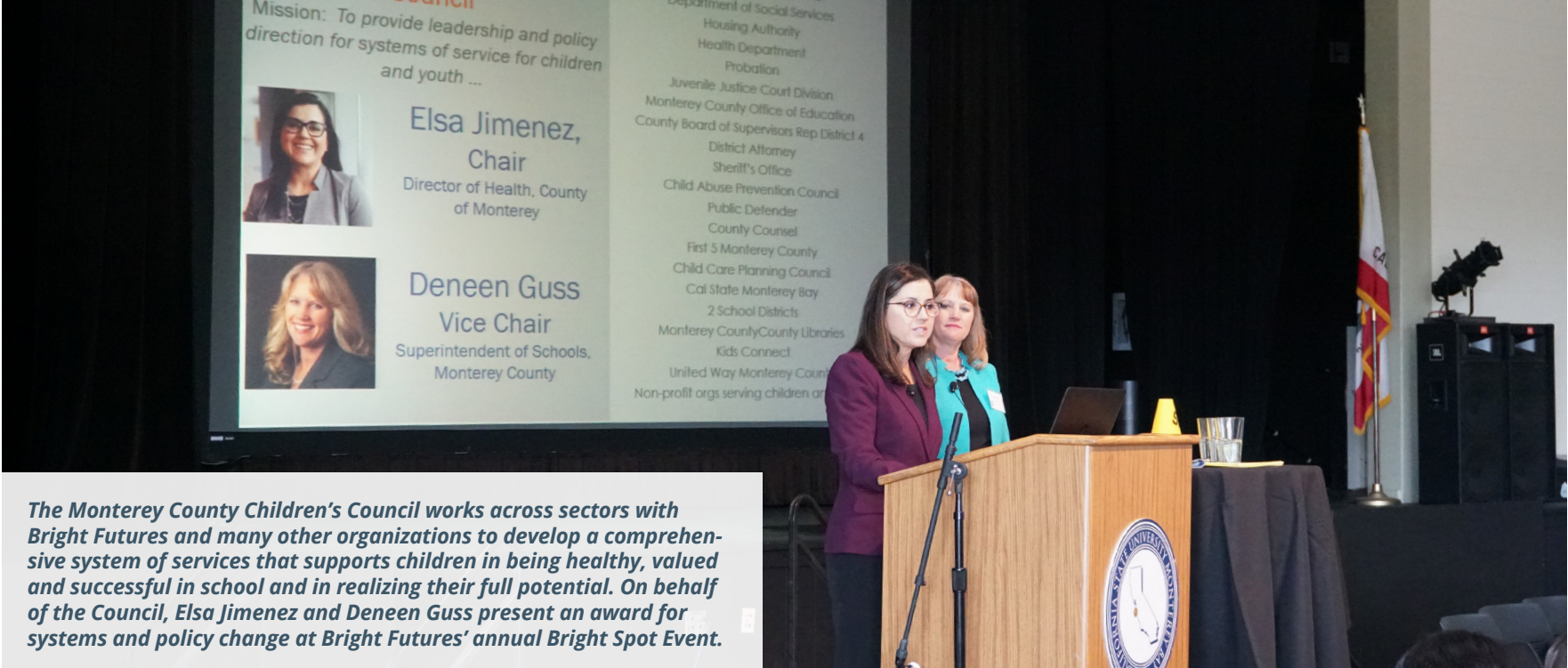
14%



Full-time college  
enrollment

37%





*The Monterey County Children's Council works across sectors with Bright Futures and many other organizations to develop a comprehensive system of services that supports children in being healthy, valued and successful in school and in realizing their full potential. On behalf of the Council, Elsa Jimenez and Deneen Guss present an award for systems and policy change at Bright Futures' annual Bright Spot Event.*

### SAME-RACE TEACHER DISPARITIES



**Students: 12% white**



**Teachers: 61% white**

If you have a teacher of your race, you're more likely to receive fairer grades and discipline as well as an increased likelihood of graduating and going to college. Bright Futures used local data to illustrate the disparity in student and teacher representation in school districts. This is one of the data points that led to a greater focus on teacher pathways.

applies his career-long commitment to racial and ethnic equity, with his skill sets in data and research, to support community efforts addressing systemic racism. Applegate has participated on StriveTogether's Racial Equity Planning and Implementation Teams since 2019. Being part of both teams helped him strategize with and learn from colleagues about using data to advance systemic equity.

"Our partnership had been working on disaggregating data, closing equity gaps and changing systems to some degree since our inception," Applegate said. "We disaggregated 21 measures by race, ethnicity, gender, language, disability as well as socioeconomic, foster and housing status. Across nearly every indicator, the largest equity gap was race and ethnicity. And this was true when we looked at race and ethnicity in combination with other identities. Racial equity gaps were still the largest even among kids of the same socioeconomic status.

"In some ways the much deeper work to address systemic racism began when I had the opportunity to be part of the StriveTogether racial and ethnic equity teams. We began to push our systemic equity work into uncharted territory and each partnership began to apply the shared learnings in our communities."

## “The social justice uprising helped to reveal more of the unfairness while the pandemic helped reveal how fast education systems can change.”

– Cynthia Holmsky, executive director of Bright Futures

Locally, Applegate leads a racial equity task force that dug deeper to examine racial disparities and the connection to systems that span multiple outcome areas.

The task force shared the data and a plan to gain a better understanding of systemic differences in opportunity gaps with Bright Futures’ leadership table. They worked with leaders from the education system and community organizations like First 5 and the United Way to decide upon seven systemic measures of racial inequities.

The team changed how opportunities are framed and measured. They shifted the paradigm from almost entirely measuring child or youth outcomes, which is prone to deficit-based thinking, to emphasizing measuring systems and whether they support all children equally.

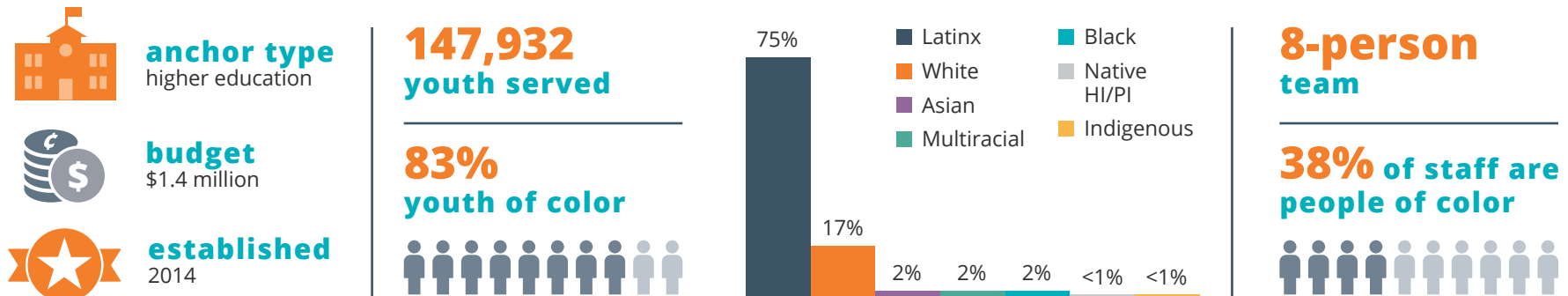
“As one example, a team of us are working to shift from kindergarten readiness

to school system readiness, taking the onus of change off of 5-year-olds and putting it on our local system — the schools, the districts, the community, the county and beyond,” explained Applegate.

This shift changes what gets measured to include indicators around early child care experiences, teacher qualifications, teacher bilingualism and administration’s attention to systemic racism.

Holmsky, who spent more than 20 years in business and nonprofit sectors specializing in change management, said, “It’s been a significant shift we are crafting together. The foundation of the shift is our shared belief that all children can learn and succeed. Building on that, the changemaking work centers on the redesign of organizations, policies and systems, and that work is grounded in values and measures of equalized opportunities, followed by ongoing processes designed to meet children’s needs by putting them first.”

### QUICK FACTS: BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

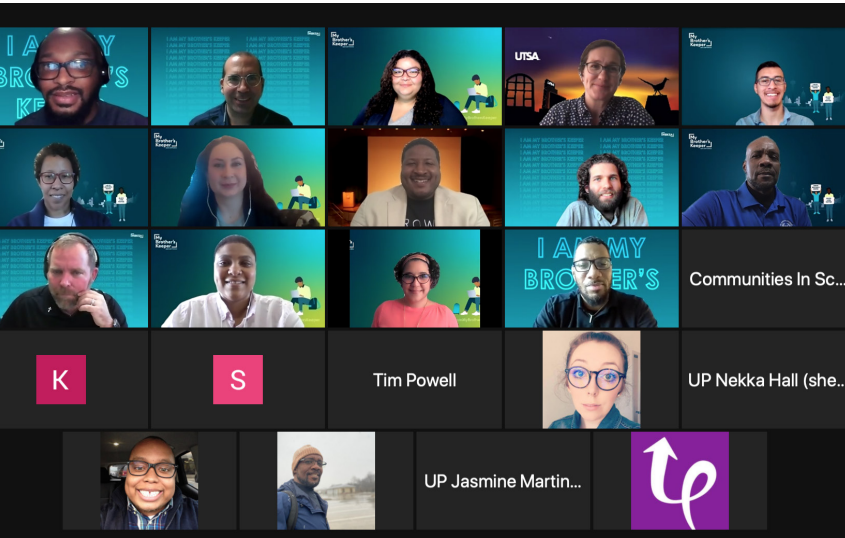


Self-reported data from the 2020 Civic Infrastructure Assessment.



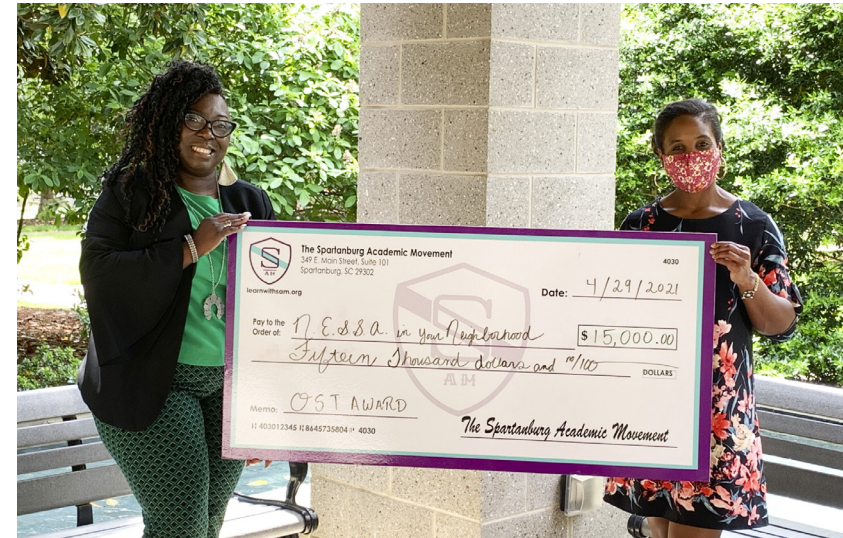
NETWORK MEMBERS

# responding to the pandemic and racial injustice



<  
In San Antonio, Texas, UP Partnership provided facilitators for the My Brother's Keeper Youth Summit.

>  
In Spartanburg, S.C., the Spartanburg Academic Movement provided nearly \$200,000 in grants to support youth learning loss recovery programs.



<  
In Bridgeport, Conn., Bridgeport Prosper secured community foundation grants to provide internet, tutoring and more to families in the city's largest public housing complex.

>  
At Bright Futures' Monterey County, Calif., annual Bright Spot Event, local education leaders (left to right) Martha Martinez, Deneen Guss and Jose Luis Alvarado gather to celebrate schools and districts in the community that are achieving exceptional equity results.



**"If we're going to be changing systems and moving the needle, we're going to be ruffling some feathers and need to be prepared to do that."** – Jennifer Barhona, executive director, Norwalk ACTS, Conn.



^  
StriveTogether continued to support network members, convening virtually for coaching and peer-to-peer learning during the pandemic. Here's a group of co-development fellows celebrating their graduation.





**“The pandemic will end, but the repercussions are here to stay. We can stay busy focused on programs, but at the end of the day, this is about something foundational, systems-level solutions.”** – Sonya Anderson, executive director, Thrive Chicago, Chicago, Ill.



^ In Kenosha, Wis., Building Our Future invited youth to its leadership table.

< Northfield Promise in Northfield, Minn., partnered with KABOOM! to create a playspace near the highest density low-income housing areas.

> In Salt Lake City, Utah, Promise Partnership of Salt Lake engaged parents to help influence, change and develop state policies that impact youth.

**OUR TOMORROW**

**Youth leaders never skipped**

a beat in advocating for themselves and their friends during this crisis.

- Lola Sanchez  
former Our Tomorrow Youth Leader

^ UP Partnership in San Antonio, Texas, started a blog to allow young people to share about issues that they're concerned about.

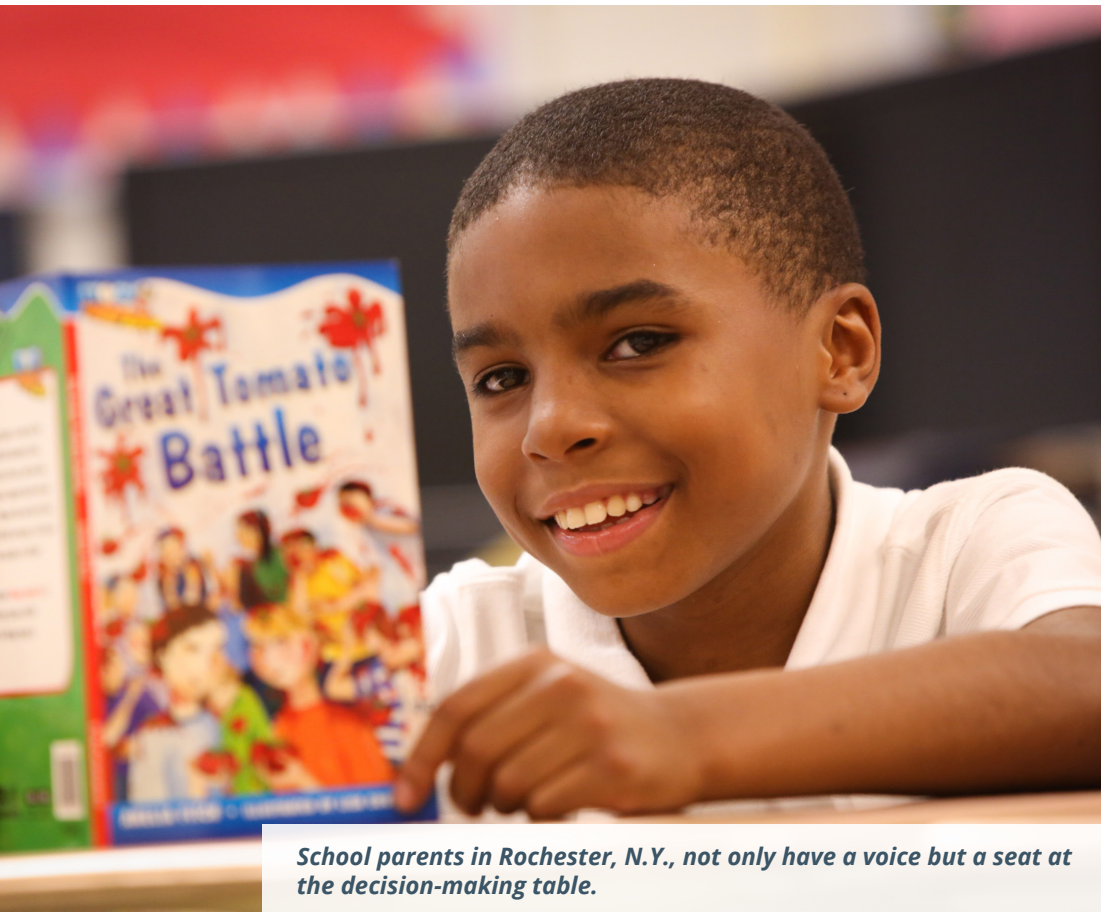




## ROC THE FUTURE

**shifting power to parents**

**In Rochester, N.Y., just a handful of miles from the U.S-Canadian border, a quiet revolution is taking place. *Shifting power and practices. Inclusive and equitable decision making. Centering youth and family.* These ideas and phrases are often shared, but what does it actually look like in practice?**



***School parents in Rochester, N.Y., not only have a voice but a seat at the decision-making table.***

ROC the Future is showing what is possible through their work. They institutionalized the Parent Engagement Collaborative Action Network (PECAN). PECAN is the table where parents come together to inform systems level change for improvements in cradle-to-career outcomes. Here, parent advocates are able to identify priorities and co-design solutions.

These parents serve as consultants and are compensated for their participation. “We have to shift our mindset to what parent engagement looks like, what youth engagement looks like, to really share and cede power,” said Jennifer Blatz, president and CEO of StriveTogether.

ROC the Future convened over 80 parents, providers and organizations online last April to discuss what resources and supports were needed in order to adjust to the global pandemic. From reviewing survey data to capturing information on the digital divide and learning loss, they are able to craft solutions in their community. The environment — from the processes and language — centers youth and families.

Jackie Campbell, director at ROC the Future, said, “When we bring parents to a table, we have to make sure that the table is also receptive to parents.”

That often means changing the way business is done. Engagement with the community isn’t just transactional. It is co-developed so that youth and families are part of building and creating the solution. Power is ceded to those most impacted by the solutions.

“The parents are actually leading our discussion around [resources], and also engaging their networks,” said Campbell. “We’re trying to lift — not just the



parent voice, but parent decision making and the co-development of solutions.”

One example of what this looked like in practice had to do with police presence and metal detectors in schools. While the school district wanted to prioritize safety, the public was concerned about the environment of over-policing. A 2019 “Breaking the School-to-Prison Pipeline” study, led by The Children’s Agenda for the School Climate Task Force in which ROC the Future participates, showed that overpolicing drove up suspension rates up and negatively impacted the students’ education. The report called for ending the City’s contract for armed police in schools and implementing more restorative practices, which the report showed reduced suspensions by 40% over five years.

Toyin Anderson, a parent advocate and leader on PECAN and board member of The Children’s Agenda, was deeply concerned about the children being welcomed with metal detectors at school. She said, “Those are things you see in jails and prisons — why are we perpetrating that with young children?”

Saadiq Muhammad, a single father of two students who once witnessed a 7-year-old led out of school in handcuffs by police, led parent testimony against the city contract for police in schools with the school board and city council. Eighty-six parents and community members attended a training session on the issue led by The Children’s Agenda before the city council’s

vote, 51 constituents emailed the mayor and city council requesting they end the contract, and 30 community organizations signed onto The Children’s Agenda’s letter urging an end to the contract. After the win, the coalition turned its attention to continuing the shift away from punitive discipline to restorative practices.

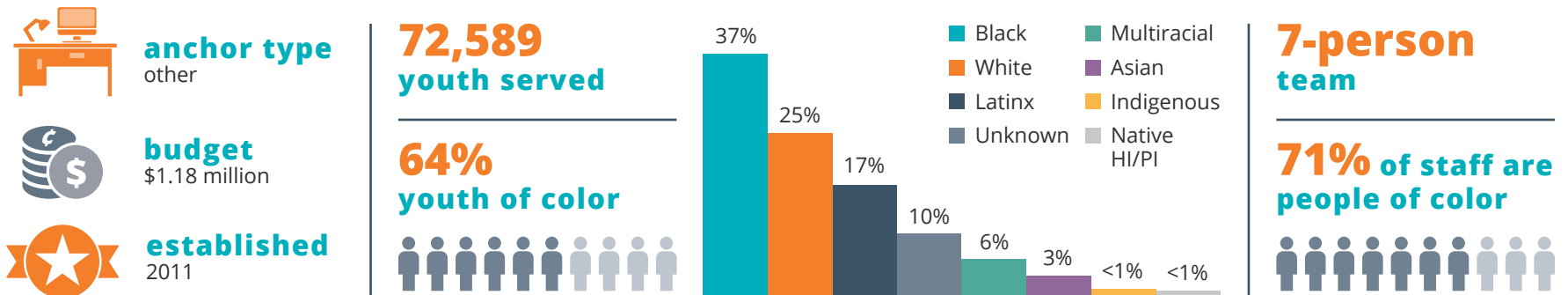
“It was a major victory for our community to disassociate the criminal justice system with our education system,” said Campbell.

For ROC the Future, systems transformation requires cross-sector leadership. It is not just thinking about who is at the table, but “who actually needs to be,” Campbell said. “And then developing ways to reach out to those members of your community and bringing them to the decision-making table...definitely continue to bring the community closer to the solution.”

This approach is being adopted across the Cradle to Career Network, transforming communities across the country. Data about successes like those in Rochester is used to inform and transform how other communities can approach the work in an equitable and sustainable manner.

As Anderson explained, “I understand how important my voice is as a parent at the table and know that nothing can be done or should be done without parents being a part of the process.”

## QUICK FACTS: ROC THE FUTURE





Self-reported data from the 2020 Civic Infrastructure Assessment.

## FINANCIALS

## operating highlights

StriveTogether shifted resources to provide more financial assistance directly to network communities in 2020, resulting in grants making up 70% of total operating expenses.

 OPERATING REVENUE	2020	2019
Grant revenue	\$30,314,341	\$15,156,728
Contract service fees	\$392,367	\$296,989
Membership fees	\$173,126	\$168,751
Other revenue	\$102,412	\$604,341
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$30,982,246</b>	<b>\$16,226,809</b>

 OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2020	2019
Grant to other organization	\$20,029,910	\$8,168,789
Personnel	\$5,199,803	\$4,597,158
Consulting and professional	\$1,292,311	\$940,100
Communications	\$607,785	\$248,017
Depreciation and amortization	\$373,060	\$339,421
Information technology	\$368,268	\$605,374
Occupancy	\$223,130	\$239,927
Network stipends and support	\$192,533	\$163,329
Other	\$153,703	\$69,542
Conferences, conventions and meetings	\$148,862	\$1,263,866
Travel	\$54,238	\$440,129
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$28,643,603</b>	<b>\$17,075,652</b>

 **GRANTS TO SUPPORT NETWORK COMMUNITIES INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY AS A % OF THE OVERALL BUDGET**

2019: \$8,168,789 / **48%**  2020: \$20,029,910 / **70%**

**“This investment will truly help us to gain significant momentum, progress and impact. We look forward to working with StriveTogether to create equitable change across systems to affirm and support BIPOCs and dismantle systems that disproportionately arrest students of color and graduate them at lower rates.”** – Althea Marshall Brooks, Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership, Waterbury, Conn.

## IMPACTING TOMORROW

## investors and partners

## INVESTORS

Together, StriveTogether and the Cradle to Career Network are making an impact on the lives of millions of young people across the country by transforming the web of systems that limit opportunity. Our work is made possible by the generosity and support of the following investors.

Annie E. Casey Foundation	Harlem Children's Zone
Ballmer Group	Nielsen Foundation
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Pritzker Children's Initiative
Blue Meridian Partners	Tableau Foundation
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative	The Island Foundation
Communities In Schools	Walmart Foundation
Ford Foundation	

**“Steve and I have been fans of StriveTogether since we walked into your offices five years ago. It’s about the best approach we’ve seen for communities to dismantle the barriers to equity and economic mobility.”**

– Connie Ballmer, co-founder of Ballmer Group

## PARTNERS

At StriveTogether, we believe we can accomplish more by working together. We are grateful to have the following partners.

Annie E. Casey Foundation	FUSE Corps
Bloomberg Associates	Harlem Children's Zone
Brookings Institution	Independent Sector
Campaign for Black Male Achievement	Institute for Healthcare Improvement
The Center for the Study of Social Policy	KABOOM!
Cities United	Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity
Coalition for Community Schools	Low Income Investment Fund
Communities In Schools	MENTOR
Community Solutions	My Brother's Keeper Alliance
The Educare Learning Network	National Collaborative of Infants and Toddlers
The Education Trust	National Institute for Children's Health Quality
Enterprise Community Partners	
Equal Measure	

National League of Cities	Tableau Foundation
Natural Resources Defense Council	Teach Plus
PolicyLink	Third Sector
Results for America	William Julius Wilson Institute
Save the Children	
Start Early	
Strong, Prosperous, And Resilient Communities Challenge	

*Many partners joined StriveTogether in pursuit of an equitable recovery. [Learn more here.](#)*

**“Change can happen, and it can happen at a pace that you might not imagine it yet.”**

– Jim Shelton, chief investment and impact officer of Blue Meridian Partners

## LEADERSHIP

## board of directors

Board members provide strategic oversight and strong leadership to guide StriveTogether in supporting the success of every child, cradle to career. Click on a board member's photo to learn more about them and their work.



**DANAE D. DAVIS**  
Milwaukee Succeeds

*"The dual experience of racial injustice and health inequities during our recent pandemic clearly demonstrates the tremendous value of our StriveTogether network of community partners."*



**JAMES BELL**  
W. Haywood Burns Institute

*"We need a hub that brings together the urgency of now and the innovations and vision for an equitable future. StriveTogether is that place."*



**TOM FRY**  
Philanthropic Advisor

*"I'm so inspired by the people and their resolve to develop a road map for a brighter, more equitable future."*



**SUE LEHMANN**  
Student Success Network

*"It is the new way, the equitable way of doing business ... listening to those closest to the experience to understand challenges and needs and co-create solutions."*



**ROBERTO RODRÍGUEZ**  
Teach Plus

*"The power of collective action — and the collective voices of our youth, parents, educators and advocates — to launch a movement that will bend the arc of policies and systems toward opportunity for every learner."*



**CONNIE BALLMER**  
Ballmer Group

*"StriveTogether offers the best approach and strongest network for communities to solve the hardest cradle-to-career problems and be our country's agents of change."*



**DR. RUSSELL BOOKER**  
Spartanburg Academic Movement

*"StriveTogether provided my community a clear path forward toward our vision of upward economic mobility for our children."*



**LISA HAMILTON**  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

*"StriveTogether brings a wide range of community stakeholders together to help improve the lives of children by removing the systemic barriers that prevent them from achieving their full potential."*



**TONY PIPA**  
Brookings Institution

*"The work of StriveTogether is democracy in action — bringing people with different perspectives and from different places in their community to work together to ensure that the promise of opportunity is available to all children."*



**JENNIFER BLATZ**  
StriveTogether

*"I've seen children placed on the path toward mobility in hundreds of communities across the United States and believe that a place-based approach will lead to shared economic prosperity, racial equity and the preservation of democracy."*

IMPACTING TOMORROW

## join us

### ANNUAL CONVENING

Join StriveTogether and changemakers from across the country at the Cradle to Career Network Convening. The convening brings together leaders and community advocates to learn from each other and cultivate a stronger future for youth and families. Click below for more details.



**StriveTogether**<sup>®</sup>  
**2021 Cradle to Career  
 Network Convening**  
 Oct. 6-8, 2021 | San Antonio, Texas

**roots to rise**  
 grounded in community, together we thrive

### TOGETHER FOR CHANGE PODCAST

Season two coming soon! In the meantime, subscribe for future episodes by clicking below.



**StriveTogether**<sup>®</sup>  
 Every child. Cradle to career.

**together  
 for change**

## invest in an equitable future

Together, we can create a better tomorrow. We invite you to join us in this vital work. When you give to StriveTogether, you support a national movement to help every child succeed from cradle to career.

[DONATE NOW](#)



WE CAN ALL

# be part of the solution

Watch our video to learn more about our work and ask yourself, what's your role going to be?



**StriveTogether®**  
Every child. Cradle to career.

StriveTogether is a national movement with a clear purpose: help every child succeed in school and in life from cradle to career, regardless of race, ethnicity, zip code or circumstance. In partnership with nearly 70 communities across the country, StriveTogether provides resources, best practices and processes to give every child every chance for success. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches more than 11 million students, including more than 7 million children of color, and has partners in 29 states and Washington, D.C.

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