OUR COMMITMENT TO CHICAGO
Highlights of our economic and social impact in the city and on the South Side
JUNE 2023
Our Commitment to Chicago

The University of Chicago is proud that we have called the city of Chicago home for more than 125 years. We are committed to helping meet the challenges that will shape our city in this century and beyond. Our faculty, students, and staff work with partners across the city every day to advance educational programs; promote health and provide excellent medical care; develop jobs and economic vitality; conduct community-engaged research; strengthen public safety; and help build the civic infrastructure our communities need to thrive. These long-term contributions to addressing pressing societal challenges help make UChicago a distinctive member of the Chicago community. Through this work, our university improves the lives of Chicagoans every day.

This document provides a snapshot of UChicago’s positive impact for the city and its social fabric—including contributions that will have a lasting effect for generations to come.

Jobs and Economic Benefits

As the largest private employer and purchaser of goods and services on the South Side, the University of Chicago and UChicago Medicine together ensure our presence supports inclusive economic opportunities for the city and its residents.

- The University of Chicago and the University of Chicago Medicine together employ more than 13,750 Chicago residents who earn a total of $1.35 billion annually. Approximately 25 percent of our employees live on the South Side.

- UChicago and UChicago Medicine set construction contracting goals that are among the highest in the city for the hire of minority-owned (MBE) and women-owned (WBE) businesses, with an MBE goal of 35 percent, a WBE goal of 6 percent, and a minority hiring goal of 30 percent. Our business partnerships with minority- and women-owned construction firms have resulted in $763.5 million in contracts over 10 years and led to reciprocal value for both the University, UChicago Medicine, and the firms.

- The University (not including UChicago Medicine) has spent more than $3.75 billion on goods and services from companies in the city of Chicago over the past 10 years, with $75.2 million of that total directed to M/WBE suppliers and $250.9 million directed to companies in our nine-neighborhood focus area on the South Side.

- The University supports more than 300 South Side businesses annually through technical assistance, capacity building programs, and workshops.

- The University has worked closely with such key stakeholders as local aldermen, businesses, and residents to develop a vision for the 53rd Street corridor in Hyde Park, contributing to unprecedented economic vitality—including 40 new restaurants and retailers, two new hotels, more than 500 new jobs and 1,000 new residential rental units.

- Since 2017, the Polsky Center has provided more than 120 minority-, women-, and veteran-owned small businesses on the South and West Sides of Chicago with nearly 46,500 hours of UChicago student consulting support to address specific business challenges, find new strategies for growth, and improve access to capital.
Educational Programs

The University of Chicago is committed to extending its education mission to ensure greater opportunity for Chicago residents.

• Through a range of targeted programs, UChicago helps prepare low-income and first-generation Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students to gain admission to, pay for, and thrive in college, as well as to excel in fulfilling careers. We offer free, year-round college and career readiness programs to more than 200 CPS students annually and advise thousands of Chicago students about their applications to colleges nationwide.

• Our numerous financial aid programs, such as Odyssey and UChicago Promise, support lower-income Chicago students, as well as children of police, firefighters, and educators from Chicago.

• UChicago guarantees free tuition for families with typical assets making $125,000 or less, and free tuition and room and board for families with typical assets making $60,000 or less. We have eliminated the student loan expectation from all financial aid we provide to undergraduates. This allows most students to graduate debt-free.

• The UChicago Charter School, a public charter school in the Chicago Public Schools district, serves grades prekindergarten through 12 and enrolls approximately 1,550 students throughout Chicago, 97.5% of whom live on the South Side.

• The UChicago Youth Internship Program partners with the One Summer Chicago program to provide 66 South Side high school students with paid summer employment, offering career and college preparation along with internships at the University in health sciences, computer sciences, and IT services.

• Over the past five years, more than 2,400 University students have dedicated nearly 76,000 hours of support to local schools and families through the Neighborhood Schools Program, working in classroom and administrative support roles, offering one-on-one tutoring, and supporting preschool students and teachers.

• Collectively the UChicago Arts Amplify K-12 Arts Education program works with 25,000 students and teachers from more than 235 Chicago area schools annually. Since 2013, in partnership with After School Matters, Arts + Public Life has worked with more than 800 teen participants and offered stipends to students totaling more than $349,000.
Medical Care and Health Promotion

The University of Chicago Medicine provides major health benefits to the community, particularly residents living on the South Side.

• UChicago Medicine treated more than 14,000 Medicaid inpatients in fiscal year 2021—the highest total of any private hospital in the State of Illinois. UChicago Medicine is the largest provider of Medicaid inpatient days and one of the highest volume outpatient Medicaid providers in Illinois.

• UChicago Medicine opened a Level 1 Adult Trauma Center in 2018, which serves a key need for the local community and is among the busiest in the city—treating 4,387 adult trauma patients in fiscal year 2022. Our adult and pediatric emergency departments also are among the busiest in Chicago and the south suburbs, treating 147,051 patients overall in fiscal year 2022.

• In addition to trauma care, UChicago Medicine provides many highly specialized clinical services that aren’t available elsewhere in the community—including comprehensive care for strokes and severe heart attacks, advanced cancer treatment, the South Side’s only burn center, and highly specialized care such as organ transplantation and high-risk obstetrics.

• In fiscal year 2022, UChicago Medicine invested $686.2 million to benefit the community—$586.7 million for the South Side through University of Chicago Medical Center and $99.5 million for south suburban communities through UChicago Medicine Ingalls Memorial. This investment included $628.7 million in uncompensated care to patients (charity care, Medicaid and Medicare losses, and unrecoverable patient debt).

• Through direct intervention and in partnership with community-based service providers, UChicago Medicine’s Violence Recovery Program provides trauma recovery support to victims of intentional violence and their families. In fiscal year 2022, the program served 2,136 total patients, 276 children and 982 families.

Public Safety

The University of Chicago provides safety and security services on the South Side that extend beyond the University’s campus.

• The University of Chicago Police Department (UCPD) is a professionally trained, CALEA-accredited police department with approximately 100 sworn officers who are on call to the community 24/7.

• UCPD serves in a supporting role to the Chicago Police Department within our extended patrol area, serving more than 55,000 City of Chicago residents from 37th Street to 64th Street and from Lake Shore Drive to Cottage Grove Avenue. UCPD’s mission and expanded patrol area were authorized by a city ordinance at the request of community leaders in response to community needs.

• In partnership with local community organizations, UCPD provides year-round academic support, mentoring, life-skill building, arts, and athletic engagement through the PAL program. More than 150 South Side youth have participated in the program since its launch in 2018.

• In addition to UCPD, UChicago provides trained security officers who serve as safety ambassadors in UCPD’s extended patrol area, patrolling on foot and in vehicles and acting as safety points of contact.
Civic Infrastructure

The University of Chicago provides broad capacity building support for community-based nonprofits, civic leaders, and small businesses.

- UChicago’s Community Programs Accelerator has helped strengthen the capacity of more than 200 organizations on Chicago’s South Side through 50,000 hours of skills-based support from University students, staff, and consultants. The Accelerator has also provided $1.35 million in direct funding to community-based organizations.
- The Civic Leadership Academy is a leadership development program for emerging high potential leaders in nonprofits and local government agencies across Chicago. Since the program’s inception in 2014, 270 fellows from all 77 neighborhoods of the city have participated.
- UChicago Arts has helped strengthen the capacity of more than 450 South Side artists and arts organizations through programs offering state-of-the art facilities, capacity building workshops, and support for creative entrepreneurs.
- The Civic Actor Studio has helped more than 125 civic leaders serving the South Side examine the various leadership roles they play, engage in civic dialogue, and practice the embodiment of civic leadership so that they have increased self-efficacy in their work.
- The free, two-year Certificate in Nonprofit Management Program — a joint initiative of the Office of Civic Engagement and the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice launched in 2019 — has conferred certificates to 23 early to mid-stage nonprofit professionals working on Chicago’s South Side to create, grow, and operate sustainable, effective community-based organizations.

Urban Research

The University of Chicago’s community-engaged research leads to tangible results in K-12 student success, violence reduction, and greater economic opportunity.

- For more than 100 years, the UChicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice has conducted research and formed civic partnerships resulting in improved and enduring policies, practices, and outcomes that meaningfully impact the lives of the most vulnerable people in Chicago.
- The Crown Family School’s Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention partners with Bright Star Community Outreach in Bronzeville to create evidence-based solutions to reduce violence and evaluate existing and new community-led violence-prevention programs.
- For more than 30 years, the UChicago Consortium on School Research has conducted essential research in partnership with Chicago Public Schools to inform policy that contributes to student success.
**Urban Research (continued)**

- Each year, the Crown Family School’s Network for College Success (NCS) partners with 10-20 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) high schools to support **over 250 educators** through research, real-time data, professional learning, and coaching. Since 2007, NCS has contributed to a **more than 30 percent increase in CPS’s high school graduation rate** and supported school partners in building transformational learning experiences that prepare all students for success beyond graduation.

- The UChicago Crime Lab partners with the public sector and non-profit organizations to **design, test, and scale innovative programs and policies that generate evidence on how to reduce gun violence and address the harms of the criminal justice system**.

- The UChicago Inclusive Economy Lab partners with policymakers, community-based organizations, and others to generate **rigorous evidence that leads to greater economic opportunity** for communities harmed by disinvestment and segregation.

- The UChicago Education Lab partners with school districts, including Chicago Public Schools, to design, test, and scale programs to ensure all students have the opportunity for future success. The insights we generate are designed to be applied in the classroom and to reach students at scale – translating into maximum impact.

**COVID-19 Community Response and Support**

The University of Chicago supported South Side residents, small businesses, and community-based nonprofits as they faced health and economic challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- As part of UChicago’s COVID-19 Community Support Initiative, the University partnered first with the Greater Chicago Food Depository, then South Side catering businesses, to prepare and distribute **more than 300,000 meals to South Side residents** facing food insecurity from March through August 2020.

- UChicago also awarded COVID-19 **emergency bridge grants totaling more than $840,000 to more than 200 South Side small businesses**, including 27 University commercial tenants, and totaling **$400,000 to 79 South Side nonprofits** as part of the Community Support Initiative.

- In another element of the Community Support Initiative, the University provided **$930,000 in rent abatement to small business tenants in the first twelve months of the pandemic** and also provided rent deferral for larger tenants that were unable to operate for periods of time due to COVID-19.

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Chicago Medicine health system administered **more than 150,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine**. Additionally, UChicago Medicine held a series of vaccination clinics in hard-hit communities of color on the South Side.

**Direct Payments to the City**

- The University and UChicago Medicine paid more than **$18 million in taxes and fees to the City of Chicago** in fiscal year 2022, including more than **$4 million for water and sewer services, more than $1.6 million in municipal parking taxes, and more than $7 million in real estate taxes** on property owned by the University but used for non-academic and non-health care purposes (e.g., for lease to retail businesses).
OUR IMPACT

The University contributes to the city of Chicago every day and is committed to having a positive impact. A conservative estimate of the University’s annual public benefit for the city is $3.5 billion, based on direct spending by the institution. When considering the University’s full economic impact, including local businesses that benefit from the presence of the UChicago community, our public benefit rises to $5 billion annually.

The University is a mission-based institution and makes investments and establishes partnerships in the city that are broad and socially impactful. We are committed to contributing to Chicago’s success through educational programming, health services, jobs and economic vitality, public safety, civic engagement, and community-engaged faculty research. For more information on the positive impact of the University of Chicago for our city, please contact Sarah Sheehan at sarahsheehan@uchicago.edu. Our media contact is Jeremy Manier at jmanier@uchicago.edu.