

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

NURTURING COMMUNITIES



Child Well-Being Outlook Report 2023: Insights for Impact

Our community can reach its potential only if all our children can reach theirs



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Introduction

We, at United Way of Greater Atlanta, have a long-standing history of improving the well-being and quality of life for individuals and communities in the Greater Atlanta region. Collaborating with donors, volunteers, businesses, and community partners, we have tackled crucial social issues and brought about lasting improvements to the region.

In 2017 we launched our Child Well-Being Movement, in recognition of the fact that communities thrive only when all their children are thriving. The goal of the movement was to bring together people and resources from different sectors to create lasting improvements in the well-being of children, families, and their communities.

We developed the Child Well-Being Index as a diagnostic tool to tell us where each neighborhood stands in their progress toward saying that, "all the children are well", and to guide how we direct resources to most effectively improve child well-being and transform lives for the better.

The 2018 Child Well-Being data showed us that nearly 500,000 of Greater Atlanta's 1.2 million children and youth live in areas of high need, where measures of child well-being are significantly lower than their neighbors'.



Our Child Well-Being Agenda is built on a clear vision of what communities look like when all the children are well. Every child, regardless of race, identity or circumstances, should have equitable opportunities to reach their potential.

Where we have been

2017

We launched our Child Well-Being Movement and the first Child Well-Being Index was developed using 14 measures.

2018

Data was evaluated and an increase in the Child Well-Being score told us that improvements had been made across the 13-county region. Using the Index, we crafted our 10-year strategic plan and developed four investment strategies we believe will have the greatest impact on enhancing child well-being, resulting in annual investments to 200+ grantees.

2020

Using our re-envisioned investment strategy, a funding roadmap was quickly developed to provide emergency assistance to those that needed it most. Through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, which provided assistance such as food, rental assistance, and learning supports to areas in the highest need.

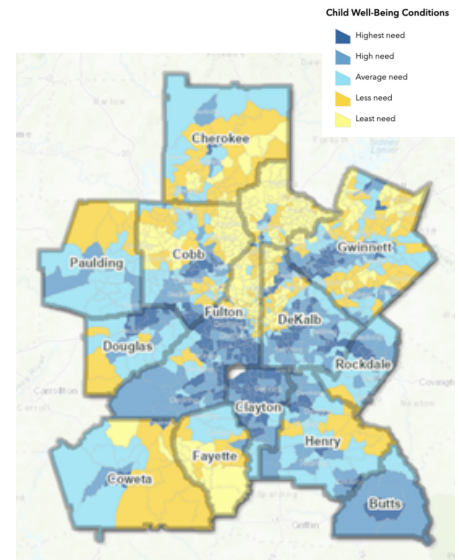
2023

Overall regional score had remained stable compared to 2018, largely due to public and private entities administering significant amounts of funding and resources that temporarily offset damage from the pandemic. Since we collected new data, these programs have largely ended.

Where we are now

United Way of Greater Atlanta’s new Child Well-Being data enables unique insight into the issues. We know that 77,000 children in 79 communities are at risk of not reaching their potential due to barriers inherent in where they live. Well over 1/3 of our 1,260 neighborhoods (census tracts) across Greater Atlanta are places where the resources and support required to ensure that children are born at healthy birth weights, become strong learners on a path to success in college and career are in short supply.

In 79 of these neighborhoods, the conditions that factor into children’s prospects for the future – like financially stable households, health insurance, and access to broadband and healthy foods - are measurably deteriorating. These neighborhoods are now United Way’s top priority.



Key insights

Nearly 14,000 youth are not connected to school or work.

The data indicates a growing number of Greater Atlanta teens are neither enrolled in school nor employed. Additionally, there has been a significant decline in post-secondary enrollment after graduation. It is concerning to note that a significant proportion of these young individuals originate from communities of color.

Academic Recovery is a significant need post-COVID.

In these 79 neighborhoods, the proficiency rates for third-grade reading have declined by 5% and eighth-grade math proficiency by 6%. According to our analysis of some neighborhoods already on a downward trend, learning losses are as high as 12%. Without affordable resources to catch up on learning, children may struggle to meet these milestones and develop the necessary skills for secondary education or future careers.

Where a child lives is connected to success factors.

The 79 neighborhoods that United Way identified as top priority are home to 308,000 residents, including 77,000 children. Residents of these areas have higher financial instability by 55%, lower graduation rates by 4%, and lack health insurance coverage by two times. It’s important to note that most of these youth are BIPOC.

United Way of Greater Atlanta brings people and resources together to address the issues.

Where we are headed

Our commitment to improving child well-being in Greater Atlanta has never been more crucial. United Way of Greater Atlanta's dedication to being bigger and bolder in our efforts, embracing innovation and technology to significantly impact the lives of the people we serve, is our pledge for the foreseeable future. We recognize the immense importance of this focus, as we firmly believe that communities can thrive only when all their children are thriving.

We recognize the urgency of addressing these disparities and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to flourish, irrespective of their neighborhood. By uniting donors, volunteers, businesses, and community partners, we are on a journey to create lasting improvements in the well-being of children, families, and their communities.

Vision 2027: An Equitable Atlanta, a Resilient United Way

United Way's five-year approach is to drive equitable and sustainable improvements that lead to strengthening the well-being of our children and community.

Our vision is to have a thriving and inclusive Greater Atlanta where everyone regardless of race, identity, or circumstances can access opportunities for an equitable future for their health, education, sustaining wage, and career.



Through the Child Well-Being Index, we have gained invaluable insights into the state of child well-being in Greater Atlanta, revealing that nearly half a million children in our region live in areas of high need.

Your support, your involvement, and your commitment are the catalysts that will make this vision a reality. Together, we can change the future for our children and the Greater Atlanta community as a whole.

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The Child Well-Being Movement

At United Way of Greater Atlanta, we have a long-standing history of improving the well-being and quality of life for individuals and communities in the Greater Atlanta region. Collaborating with donors, volunteers, businesses, and community partners, we have tackled crucial social issues and brought about lasting improvements to the region.

Our Child Well-Being Movement was established in recognition of the fact that communities thrive only when all their children are thriving. The goal of the movement is to bring together people and resources from different sectors to create lasting improvements in the well-being of children, families, and their communities. In 2016, we created the Child Well-Being Index to establish a set of measures on how children are faring in their community. These measures help paint a picture of children's well-being as well as that of families and surrounding communities who support them.



Our Child Well-Being Agenda is built on a clear vision of what communities look like when all the children are well.

- Babies are born healthy
- Children grow up in secure homes and safe neighborhoods and have healthy food and access to medical care
- Kids read proficiently by third grade
- Teens graduate from high school prepared for college, careers and life
- Families are financially stable
- Adults are educated, employed and housed

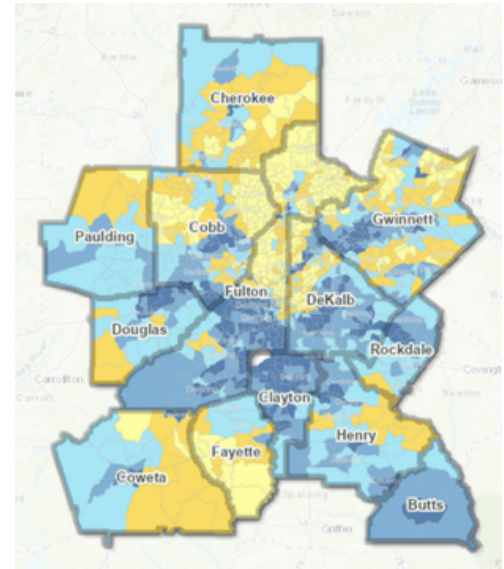
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The Child Well-Being Index

We utilize the Index as both a diagnostic tool to tell us where each neighborhood stands in progressing child well-being and a compass to direct resources in ways that most powerfully improve and transform lives for the better.

The Index plays a crucial role in helping United Way of Greater Atlanta address racial equity. By using the Index, United Way can identify and understand the disparities and inequities that exist in outcomes. This data-driven approach enables United Way to prioritize and allocate resources strategically to ensure that efforts are effectively benefiting all communities, including those that have historically faced systemic barriers and inequities. The data provided by the Index serves as evidence to support advocacy efforts and makes a compelling case for place-based interventions and resource allocation to close the gaps.



Child Well-Being Conditions

- Highest need
- High need
- Average need
- Less need
- Least need



The Child Well-Being Index focuses our collective energy on the communities that are most underserved in metro Atlanta. At Learn4Life, we look at the underlying data of the index for “Bright Spots” - strategies that are having uncommon success for kids. This asset-based approach is key to creating positive change for our students.”

- Ken Zeff, Executive Director, Learn 4 Life

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Our Learnings Shaped the Index

In an effort to improve the Index, we have undergone transformations that have allowed us to focus on the insights derived from data rather than solely fixating on absolute scores.

While scores remain important, we now recognize that the true power lies in the stories behind the numbers. We are developing valuable insights that will shape our decision-making and drive meaningful change. By doing so, we can gain a deeper understanding of the factors affecting child well-being so we may better address the underlying issues.

We also embraced the concept of Trabian Shorter's Asset-Framing®, acknowledging that individuals within these communities possess aspirations and untapped potential. We recognize that their growth and development are hindered not by any inherent deficiencies, but rather by a lack of resources, support systems, and various barriers present in their environments. By shifting our focus from deficits to assets, we are better positioned to uplift and empower these individuals, helping them overcome obstacles and realize their full potential.

Ultimately, our engagement with communities will be very different. We have adopted a strategy that involves walking alongside the community itself. By forging strong partnerships with community members, we increase the chance that our initiatives align with the lived experiences and aspirations of those we aim to serve.



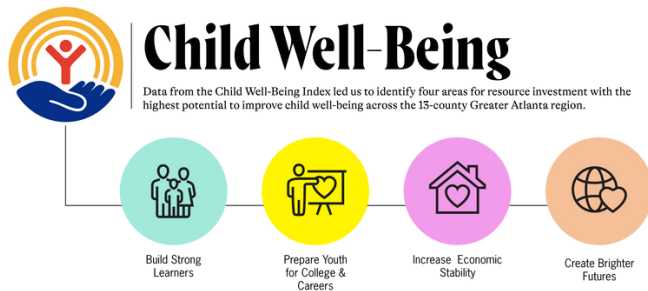
The Fulton County Board of Health is using the Child Well-Being Index to identify communities to target for a Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) grant. They will target communities with the greatest need defined by several measures. We've been funded for three years and plan to reapply for the next five years.”

- **Kristin C. Dixon, MPH, Director, Health Promotion Division, Fulton County Board of Health**

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The Index Influences Our Investments



From the Child Well-Being Index, we have discerned that for children to reach their full potential, they require support and resources from their families and their community. The data shows us the environment where a child grows up significantly influences their long-term health, earnings, and life expectancy. Access our Child Well-Being Outlook 2023 FAQs for more information.

The Index is also a valuable tool for assessing community health, identifying disparities, and demonstrating the connection between race and location. Using the Index, in 2018 we crafted our 10-year strategic plan and developed four investment strategies we believe will have the greatest impact on enhancing child well-being. They are:

Strong Learners - addressing the full range of issues standing in the way of each child's success in meeting the important reading readiness milestone.

College and Career Ready - helping young adults to achieve their dreams by building more pathways to possible careers and futures.

Economic Stability - helping families and individuals create financial stability through job training, stable housing, financial education, and lower health costs.

Brighter Future - helping to improve community conditions and remove barriers to equitable growth so that everyone — regardless of race or zip code — can thrive.

Hundreds of organizations utilize the Child Well-Being Index to obtain a comprehensive snapshot of children's well-being, encompassing different areas of their lives. This holistic approach enables organizations to gain a thorough understanding of children's overall welfare and pinpoint areas that require attention. It plays a crucial role in shaping policies, advocating for change, informing decision-making processes, allocating resources effectively, and identifying areas where additional support or resources are needed.

“The index has been instrumental in our grant writing. We use the data to demonstrate the need in our county and have been very successful.” - **Lonnie Smith, Clayton County Public Schools**

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All children, regardless of race, identity, or circumstances, should have equitable opportunities to reach their potential.

What we are seeing: Our children are at risk of falling off the track to solid futures.

To help mitigate the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, United Way of Greater Atlanta partnered with the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta to disburse COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds. Using our re-envisioned investment strategy, a funding roadmap was quickly developed to provide emergency assistance such as food, rental assistance, and learning supports to areas in the highest need. As a result of this effort, we funded 598 organizations that provided temporary support to families and helped them avoid lasting and harmful setbacks.

The impact of COVID-19 on child well-being cannot be seen in the 2023 overall score for the region, as the scores for the region as a whole remained relatively stable vs. the 2018 score. What we're seeing is that the damage from the pandemic was temporarily offset by the significant influx of funding and resources administered by public and private entities during the pandemic, including rental assistance, eviction moratoriums, food assistance, and stimulus checks to families. The strategies implemented during COVID-19 are a positive example of how collaboration among government, philanthropic, public, and private sectors can interrupt negative trends and catalyze future progress.

These supports have largely decreased since the collection of our new data; however, in multiple metro neighborhoods, child well-being is measurably declining, preventing us from seeing the full promise of the children who live there. There are nearly 500K children in 500-plus neighborhoods that are in high and highest need and will continue to be the focus of our investments. **Most concerning among these high and highest-need neighborhoods are the 79 neighborhoods that are also in states of declining conditions.**

Your neighborhood is likely within a few miles of children, youth, and families who need our support.

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These 79 neighborhoods are United Way of Greater Atlanta's highest priority—and they show up throughout Greater Atlanta.

To ensure children and communities have what they need to thrive, we are focused on funding initiatives that improve access to quality education, housing, healthcare, and nutrition throughout the region we serve. And more specifically, we have served our priority areas in the following ways:

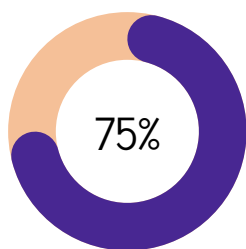
- A total of \$19.3 million was invested in our Highest Need neighborhoods, benefiting 144,000 individuals. Additionally, we allocated \$9.9 million to neighborhoods identified as High Need, reaching 96,000 people.
- 130,000 inquiries to 211, our non-emergency community referral service, were from individuals in our Highest Need neighborhoods, while neighborhoods categorized as High Need received 67,000 inquiries.
- The most common issues reported across both levels of need were utilities support, housing shelter, food, and individual and family support services.

What we can't accept: where a child lives places limitations on their potential for success.

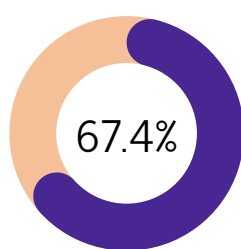
In several areas within our 13-county region, children face challenges due to lacking resources and support needed for their growth. For some areas, this represents continued persistent systemic issues and insufficient resources. In contrast, for others, especially in suburban areas, this represents new and concerning declines in child well-being. Whether continued or new, the similarity is inadequate support is available to reverse a continued decline in most areas.

Community access to education, healthcare, and opportunities impacts a child's ability to reach their full potential. The 79 neighborhoods that United Way identified as top priority are home to 308,000 residents, including 77,000 children.

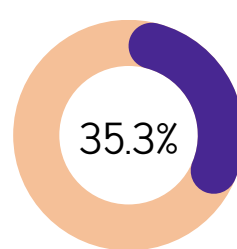
In these 79 neighborhoods:



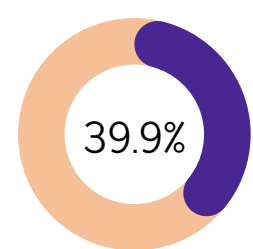
average % of 3rd graders not reading proficiently*



average % of eight-graders not math proficient*



average % of families that are financially unstable*



average % of households that struggle to afford housing*

*Calculated by averaging the percentages of the 79 neighborhoods.

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Whether you're Black or White, Asian, or Latino, Native or newcomer, every person should have a safe place to call home and build memories with their family.

What we are doing about it: we invest in organizations who can help.

SPOTLIGHT: Brighter Future investment priority

Notable accomplishments include:

13,539 individuals were supported through investments that focused on community-led solutions addressing challenges such as housing instability and student mobility, which is when a student transitions schools during the school year.

We launched the Greater Atlanta Equity Alliance, which is focused on mobilizing resources and building a coalition of stakeholders focused on improving the education, housing, and economic stability outcomes in their neighborhoods.

In South Fulton, residents were brought together to develop a community scorecard and an action plan to address housing instability and the lack of access to behavioral health services.

Over 20,000 residents received COVID-19 testing and vaccination support and resources through a faith-based coalition.

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What we are doing about it: we invest in organizations who can help.

SPOTLIGHT: United for Racial Equity and Healing Fund

Nearly 500,000 children in Greater Atlanta live in communities where the majority of residents are people of color and lack the basic opportunities and resources to thrive. The United for Racial Equity and Healing Fund (UfREHF) tackles the systemic issues underlying the correlation between race and zip codes, place and equity.

The organizations in the UfREHF have missions that vary from civic organizing on housing equity, restorative practices for Black women, or organizing regional leaders to look for innovative ways to address economic gaps. We are committed to learning alongside our partners to better understand the role “healing” plays in creating a brighter future for children, families, and communities and inspiring collective action.

Since October 2020:



6

grant cycles



23

grantees



\$2.8M

committed

BY THE NUMBERS: Economic Stability

Through our Economic Stability investment priority, our grantees projected the following for 2022-23:



100,000+

individuals were projected to receive access to childcare/afterschool care, job skills, financial training, and housing and basic needs, in order to reach economic stability.

In 2022, our grantees reported impressive outcomes. Within our Closing the Skills Gap and Secure Housing pathways, the outcomes were particularly positive. Ninety-two percent of the organizations receiving grants reported improving the lives of the people they served. Additionally, grantees reported facilitating the placement of 904 participants into employment, helping them secure stable jobs and economic opportunities.

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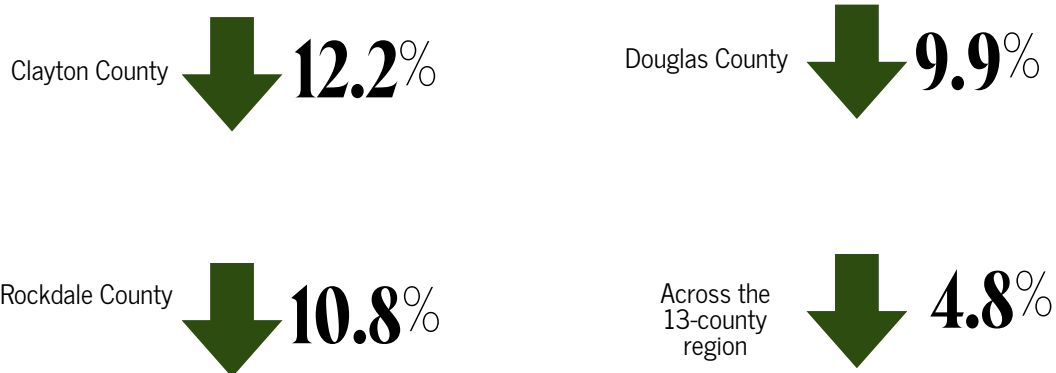


Academic Recovery still a significant need post-COVID

In fact, Learning Loss rises to the top of the COVID-19 impacts on kids in Greater Atlanta.

Significant declines in student's academic achievement occurred across the region during the pandemic due to school disruptions, inconsistent access to broadband connectivity and online learning resources for both teachers and students. The new data shows children living in neighborhoods of color were harder hit in general than regional averages. Collaborative efforts are essential to identify and implement targeted Academic Recovery strategies that support students' language and literacy skills.

Decreases in 3-grade reading proficiency* across the region



*Proficiency level is defined as the percent of Students at Proficient Learner or Above, same definition as the State of Georgia.

Specifically:

- Clayton County (71% African American Population) 27.1% of 3rd-grade students were proficient in reading in 2019 and this number dropped to 14.9% in 2022, signifying a decline of 12.2%.
- Rockdale County (56% African American Population) went from 36.0% proficiency in 2019 to 25.2% in 2022, resulting in a negative point change of 10.8%.
- Douglas County (57% Minority Population) went from 41.0% to 31.1%, indicating a point change of 9.9%.
- Within the region, 43.8% of 3rd-grade students were proficient or higher in reading in 2019 and the percentage declined to 39.0%, resulting in a significant negative point change of 4.8%.

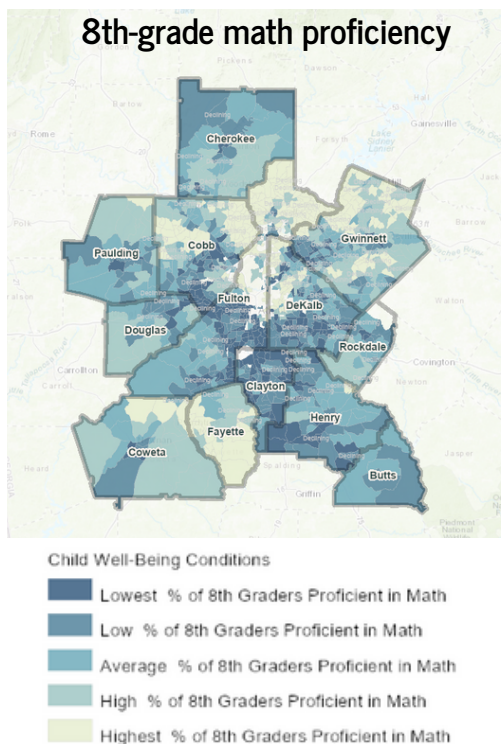
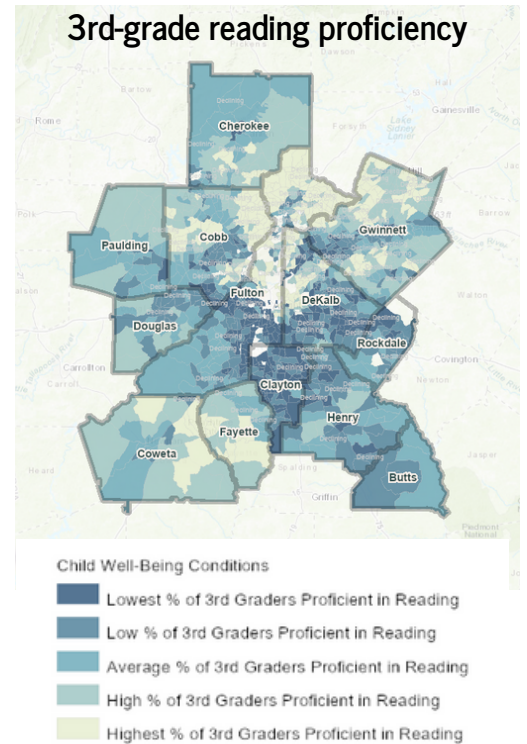
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Exploring the maps of Academic Recovery

The maps depicting 3rd-grade reading and 8th-grade math proficiency reveal the significant impact of the COVID-19 crisis on student learning and underscore the urgent need for Academic Recovery throughout the Greater Atlanta region. Prioritizing the safety of students and families has inevitably influenced educational outcomes. Consequently, our focus must remain on Academic Recovery efforts across the region to help students regain the ground they lost during a year of disrupted in-class learning.

Our analysis reveals clusters of dark blue areas in DeKalb, Clayton, Fulton, and Rockdale counties, highlighting their specific needs concerning 3rd-grade reading proficiency. Conversely, the northern part of the region and certain sections of Fayette and Coweta Counties show higher levels of proficiency in 3rd-grade reading, as indicated on the map.



When examining the 8th-grade math proficiency map, we observe clusters of blue areas in Clayton and the southern sections of DeKalb and Fulton Counties. In contrast, the lighter areas in the northern sections of Gwinnett, Fulton, Cobb, and southern Fayette demonstrate higher levels of 8th-grade math proficiency.

These findings are particularly concerning because these milestones serve as crucial indicators of future academic success. Despite the region and many counties experiencing performance declines during the pandemic, educators are using this data as a baseline for future comparisons.

When children lack affordable resources to catch up on learning, meeting these milestones becomes challenging, hindering the development of necessary skills for secondary education and future careers. The data emphasizes the importance of identifying neighborhoods that require targeted educational support and resources. Addressing these needs will reduce barriers to access and promote the equitable distribution of educational opportunities.

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Learning is a transformative experience that enriches lives and opens doors to opportunities for a better future; all children should have access to the resources and support they need to learn.

What we are doing about it: we invest in organizations who can help.

SPOTLIGHT: Learning Loss Grants

It is essential that young people have high-quality programs focused on developmental supports, such as tutoring and quality out-of-school learning, to recover academically and address the educational inequities created and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. United Way of Greater Atlanta and the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (Georgia DFCS) partnered to strategically focus on reducing learning loss. Disparities in academic achievement have been compounded in low-income regions and in communities of color. To overcome delays in academic and social-emotional development induced by the pandemic, it was more critical than ever to focus on the whole-child approach which provides support for the academic, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of youth. Through two funding cohorts, the program has awarded grants to 83 organizations in the metro Atlanta region serving 5,798 youth. This program is working to reduce learning loss through building reading skills, improving math proficiency, supporting school transition, strengthening family engagement, and supporting learning acceleration.



83
grants



5,798
youth

SPOTLIGHT: The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN)

The United Way of Greater Atlanta collaborated with Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) to carry out a comprehensive analysis of summer learning initiatives in the broader Atlanta area. In 2018, GSAN unveiled a report detailing the findings, and in 2019, they followed up with essential data updates derived from that assessment. Fast forward to 2023, a new community report has been published: the Greater Atlanta Summer Learning Landscape Report. This report offers an up-to-date overview of the state of summer learning in the region, serving as a valuable resource for informed decision-making within the field.

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SPOTLIGHT: Literacy and Justice for All

Funded by the United Way of Greater Atlanta with support from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, Literacy and Justice for All (LJFA) is a citywide initiative guided by experts at the Rollins Center for Language and Literacy at the Atlanta Speech School. The initiative aims to build a comprehensive, cross-sector grant partnership that is designed to effectively reach children in our communities. Each experience matters during the early years of development. Every child whose life we change will go on to change the lives of countless other children, families, and communities. And when we work together—pooling our resources, time, and energy — our community impact grows exponentially to create an equitable future for all.

Literacy and Justice for All partners are working to ensure child-facing adults have the knowledge, skills, and power to implement:

Healthy brain development in prenatal care



Language and literacy best practices in birth through age 5



The science of reading instruction in kindergarten through 3rd grade

Marietta City Schools's 2023 Milestone scores saw third grade reading score growth **five times larger than both state and metro Atlanta scores.**

Initially activated in Marietta City Schools and now in Atlanta, the work is designed to serve as a role model for towns and communities throughout the region. Marietta City Schools has been able to leverage \$7 million in school district funds to invest in teacher training. Additional key partners include Learn4Life, Atlanta Public Schools, Wellstar-Kennestone & Grady Hospitals, and KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools. Anyone can implement the practices through Cox Campus courses and resources – created for child-facing adults of children from prenatal care providers through third-grade reading teachers.

SPOTLIGHT: Learning Spaces

Since 2016, Learning Spaces has been available for caregivers, childcare providers, and children from birth to five years old. Each week, these two-hour classes take place across four counties at libraries and other community centers. Over 2022-23, 1,000+ children have been impacted and 4,000+ experiences have been provided for children and families.

SPOTLIGHT: AARP Experience Corps

This volunteer program aids students in becoming better readers and helps older adults to thrive and communities to grow stronger. The program launched in DeKalb School System in 2019. Over the 2022-23 school year, 48 volunteers helped 63 students.

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BY THE NUMBERS: Strong Learners

Through our Strong Learners investment priority, our grantees projected the following for 2022-23:



93,031

will receive quality early learning experiences at home, at quality providers, and in the community, allowing them to enter the next grade level ready to learn.



1,478

families will receive support that fosters their natural leadership as their children's first teacher, brain builder, advocate and coach.



2,811

children will build their reading skills through literacy-focused programs, allowing them to advance to the next grade level.

In 2022, our grantees in the Secure Housing & Basic Needs and Build Reading Skills pathways reported improvements in the lives of sixty-seven percent of the people they served, benefiting a total of 18,280 students and families. Grantees reported that 3,161 individuals now feel ready for school, indicating improved readiness and preparedness for academic success. Additionally, 2,777 individuals reported an increase in self-worth, highlighting the positive effect of the programs on their confidence and sense of value.

Moreover, these same grantees reported that 265 individuals increased their knowledge about supporting school-aged children in foster care, demonstrating enhanced awareness, and understanding of the unique needs of this vulnerable population.

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Nearly 14,000 youth, ages 16 to 19, are not on track to college or career success.

A growing number of young people are lacking connection to promising pathways to opportunity – they are neither enrolled in school nor working which places them outside of both educational and work pipelines, reducing the likelihood they will become financially secure as adults. These youth are spread across the region and constitute a growing gap between metro Atlanta’s workforce needs and the availability of future potential employees who have the training and skills needed for a career. Additionally, there is a marked decline in post-secondary enrollment after graduation.

A large percentage of these opportunity youth live in one of the 79 high-need, declining child well-being neighborhoods where resources and supports are diminishing. This statistic is alarming because of the potential impact on the future employment opportunities of each individual youth and the estimated economic burden they will create if interventions are implemented. Through reconnection, these youth move from becoming a potential tax burden of \$200,000 each during their lifetime, to the potential to achieve economic stability and contribute to the economic growth and success of Atlanta.

Having the opportunity to experience work as a youth provides a sense of achievement, independence, accountability, and responsibility – all are essential to the future success of young people who are preparing for college and their careers.



See for yourself how the CareerReady ATL program changed the course of one apprentice’s life.

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What we are doing about it: we invest in partnerships and programs

SPOTLIGHT: CareerReady ATL

In 2022, United Way launched a youth workforce initiative, CareerReadyATL. We are working with multiple partners to develop high-quality youth apprenticeships that prepare young people for college and career success by providing them with the training, experience, and wraparound support needed to physically, psychologically, and financially transition to adulthood.

Results to date:

4

Program Partners have been awarded grant funding to develop apprenticeship pathways

51

Young people enrolled in a career pathway and/or apprenticeship program

41

Young people completed career pathway and/or apprenticeship program

6

Industries Hosting Apprentices – Logistics, Healthcare, Advance Manufacturing, CDL, Film & Media and Construction

12

Counties represented –Butts County, Cherokee County, Clayton County, Cobb County, Coweta County, DeKalb County, Douglas County, Fayette County, Fulton County, Gwinnett County, Henry County, Rockdale County,

Note: Prior to the launch of CareerReadyATL, United Way supported Elevance Health's Registered Apprenticeship program for Information and Technology (IT) which is a five-year program that started in 2018.

Current CareerReady ATL partners



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BY THE NUMBERS: College and Career Ready

Through our College and Career Ready investment priority, our grantees projected the following for 2022-23:



26,949

youth will receive high-quality after-school and summer experiences that contribute to improved academic outcomes.



1,026

youth will explore careers, built soft skills that employers prefer, and experience work while still in school - all with the goal of opening doors to high-growth careers.



2,398

youth and their families will be supported in building financial literacy skills, developing savings plans, and navigating the complexities of college funding.

SPOTLIGHT: College Bound

Founded in 2019, College Bound helps students and families navigate the complicated forms to access financial aid – the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and other college support. Over the past two years:

- 1,200 students participated in 2023
- 723 students participated in 2022



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Every child deserves to have a quality education, live in a safe neighborhood, and have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

What can we do?

We cannot stand by when there are hundreds of thousands of children whose potential contributions to our community are at risk of never being realized. Each of us has it within our power to do something.

Please join us in turning these insights into action and working toward a future where every child, family and community can thrive.

Let's collaborate to provide youth with the equal opportunities they need to succeed. Our collective resources and support can be guided by the new Child Well-Being Index data and directed toward initiatives and programs such as CareerReadyATL, Learning Loss Grants, and other programs that build the capacity of communities and their residents.

We can use our influence and voice to bring attention to developing policies and practices that address systemic inequalities and enhance access to education and employment prospects for families living in under-resourced neighborhoods.

Get informed and get involved

Join us in our effort to create a metropolitan area where children are born healthy, raised in secure homes and safe neighborhoods, have access to nutritious food and quality healthcare, and can read fluently by third grade and graduate high school ready for a successful future.

Together we can create a future for metro Atlanta where families are financially stable and adults in every community have access to education, employment, and housing opportunities.

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Appendix



CHILD WELL-BEING

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APPENDIX

- [Proficiency Percentages \(Year for region and counties\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Impact and Response Report](#)
- [2018 Stakeholder Report](#)
- [Child Well-Being FAQs](#)
- [Federal Recovery Funding in the Greater Atlanta](#)
- [Child Well-Being Methodology](#)
- [Case Study – Fulton County Board of Health](#)
- [Children's Funding Project Data](#)
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- [Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network \(GSAN\) reports](#)
- [Greater Atlanta Summer Learning Landscape Snapshot of Summer 2022](#)
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