

# BUILD At A Glance



## WHAT WE DO: BUILD HOPE, LIVES, AND FUTURES

SINCE 1969, BUILD has sought to engage and serve youth facing the greatest systemic challenges. We wrap our young people in integrated services that help them stay safe, build healthy habits, discover their own gifts, and achieve their fullest potential.

We organize our work around six areas:

**Intervention.** Conflict mediation, violence interruption, and persistent engagement of gang and justice-involved youth by mentors who have overcome similar obstacles.

**Prevention.** After-school programs to help younger children develop the leadership skills, healthy relationships, and positive habits to resist risky behavior.

**Education.** Scholarships, workplace training, and academic support to help youth succeed in high school, prepare for college, and persist through graduation.

**Enrichment.** An array of positive opportunities to cultivate interests, build creativity, and discover talents: music, art, sports, podcasting, entrepreneurship, gardening, tech, and more.

**Clinical and Community Wellness.** Clinical treatment for trauma and mental health: individual and group therapy, on-call community violence crisis response, case management, and mobile mental health outreach.

**Community Engagement.** Proactive outreach to neighborhoods—walking streets, building trust, practicing Restorative Justice, and connecting community to resources supporting mental and physical health.



## WHAT OUR SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: YOUTH ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

### BUILDing hope: INTERVENTION

**96%** of youth reported healthier conflict resolution skills

**94%** reported increased ability to handle emotions

**77%** reported a decrease in negative peer-to-peer interactions

**82%** of youth with prior court involvement did not recidivate  
(Illinois youth average: 32%)

Intervention staff helped

**26** youth detach from gangs

**58%** increased their attendance at school

### BUILDing lives: PREVENTION

**100%** of youth were promoted to the next grade

**100%** avoided gang involvement

**97%** avoided addictive substances

**93%** of youth who had been either suspended or expelled from schools reported a decrease in further disciplinary actions

### BUILDing futures: EDUCATION

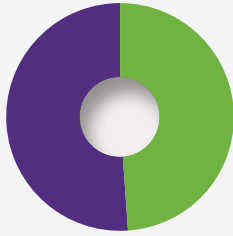
**94%** of BUILDing Futures youth were promoted to the next grade

**87%** of high school seniors graduated with a diploma  
(city-wide average: 82%)

**69%** of youth completed FAFSA enrollment to prepare for college applications and admission

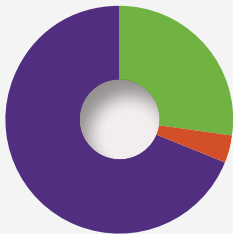
## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Gender



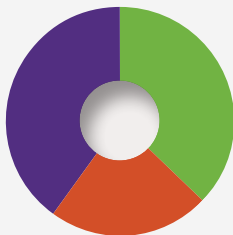
- 51% Young men
- 49% Young women

### Ethnicity



- 69% African American
- 27% Latino
- 4% Biracial/Other

### Age



- 40% 16 or younger
- 37% 17-19
- 23% 20 or older

## YOUTH REFERRED TO BUILD BY:

- School principals and teachers
- Social workers
- Neighbors, friends, and family
- Street intervention and Crisis Response Teams
- Other BUILD youth
- Law enforcement
- Courts and probation officers

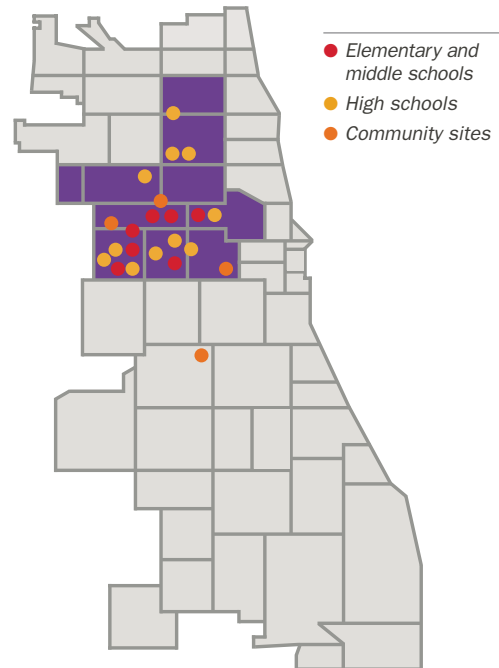
## WHERE WE WORK AND WHO WE SERVE

**1,087** youth steadily enrolled in programs

**5,328** youth and extended families served overall

### Chicago youth from:

- 33% Austin
- 19% Humboldt Park
- 18% East Garfield
- 18% Other
- 8% Logan Square  
Belmont Cragin  
Hermosa
- 4% Lawndale  
Auburn Gresham



## TREATING TRAUMA AND MENTAL HEALTH

Seventy-nine percent of BUILD youth have experienced community violence, 48% have witnessed a shooting; mental health care and social-emotional skills are part of all our work. BUILD therapists steadily see over 400 youth, and also pair with mentors for more intensive cases. Crisis Response and Mobile Mental Health counselors bring expertise directly into neighborhoods, supporting families in grief and educating others to recognize signs of trauma and mental illness. In our new youth and community center, therapy rooms are located alongside the youth lounges and game spaces, open and stigma-free. There is no health without mental health.

**\$187,765**

Annual cost per youth for incarceration in Illinois

**< \$3,000**

Annual cost per youth for intensive BUILD mentoring

HELP BUILD THE FUTURE  
FOR CHICAGO'S YOUTH.  
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**BUILD**  
HOPE · LIVES · FUTURES

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