



**20  
23** | **ANNUAL  
REPORT**

*Neighborhood to national:*  
**Paving the way to economic mobility**



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# Letter from President & CEO and Board Chair

Every young person should have the opportunity to thrive, regardless of race, ethnicity, zip code or circumstance. This year, StriveTogether embarks on a journey toward a bold new vision: to put 4 million more young people on a path to economic mobility by 2030.

We know it's possible because Cradle to Career Network members are already transforming systems, expanding opportunities and getting better, more equitable results. Together, we're making local success stories a national reality. With data, collaboration and community wisdom leading the way, we explore what's working and learn from our wins. We're expanding and aligning this work across regions, states and the country.

From neighborhood to national, the movement is growing. Thank you for being a part of it and helping us build a future where every child has every chance to succeed.

In partnership,



**Jennifer Blatz**  
President & CEO,  
StriveTogether



**Russell W. Booker, Ph.D.**  
Board Chair, StriveTogether

**StriveTogether<sup>®</sup>**

2023

# Network by the numbers

## Civic Infrastructure Assessment data

The following data is shared by the Cradle to Career Network during the annual Civic Infrastructure Assessment, which measures progress along the StriveTogether Theory of Action™. Network members use data to inform decisions, refine strategies, target resources and track progress.

*The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to present challenges in data collection and analysis, including missing data and lags in reporting.*

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## What is the Cradle to Career Network?



67 of 72 network members completed the 2023 Civic Infrastructure Assessment. Four members are new to the Network.

Network members progress across the below gateways through the StriveTogether Theory of Action™, a roadmap for changing systems to get better outcomes for young people.

In 2023, 22 network members progressed to the next gateway, which means they are scaling and spreading shifts to policies, practices, resources and power structures to advance better, more equitable outcomes.

Total	Gateway	
13	Emerging	+9 network members
33	Sustaining	+1 network members
16	Systems Change	+5 network members
10	Systems Transformation	+7 network members

# 5 million

YOUTH EXPERIENCING POVERTY (38%)

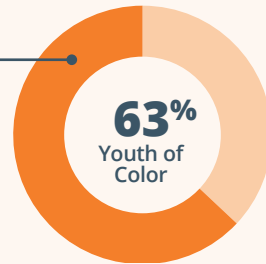
StriveTogether counts youth as “experiencing poverty” if their families live at twice the federal poverty threshold or below.

## Youth\* of Color Represented by the Network

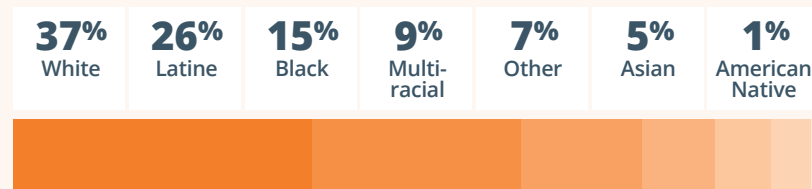
**8.3 million**

**13.2 million total youth**

\*Birth to age 24

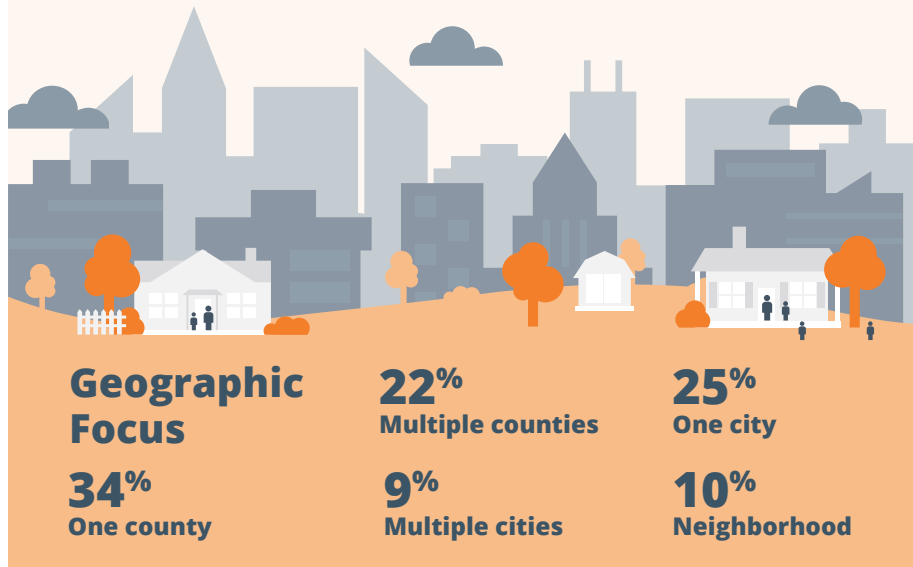


## Youth Represented by the Network by Race/Ethnicity



<1% Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, prefer not to respond, no data

Source: American Community Survey 2021 5-Year Estimates.



02

## What resources are needed to do this work?

### Median Budget by Gateway

**Emerging \$1,900,000**

**Sustaining \$1,055,875**

**Systems Change \$2,649,500**

**Systems Transformation \$4,505,500**

**Network overall \$1,395,036**

### Median Staff Size by Gateway

After executive directors, the most common role type for network member staffs is data and research, followed by communications.

**Emerging**



**Sustaining**



**Systems Change**



**Systems Transformation**



**Network overall**





## Staff Representation to Youth Population

Network members in areas where youth of color make up the majority are more likely to have staff and leaders of color.

Staff of color

**57%**

Executive directors of color

**50%**

Network member geographies with majority youth of color

**34%**

**27%**

Network member geographies where youth of color are not the majority

Self-reported race/ethnicity data of staff and executive directors, 2023 Civic Infrastructure Assessment

Insufficient data for leadership tables

## Network Staff by Race

**45%**

White

**23%**

Black

**19%**

Latine

**4%**

Asian

**5%**

Multiracial

**0.3%**

Other

<1% Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, Native American or Alaskan Native, prefer not to respond, no data

## StriveTogether Staff by Race

**59%**

White

**20%**

Black

**11%**

Latine

**7%**

Asian

**2%**

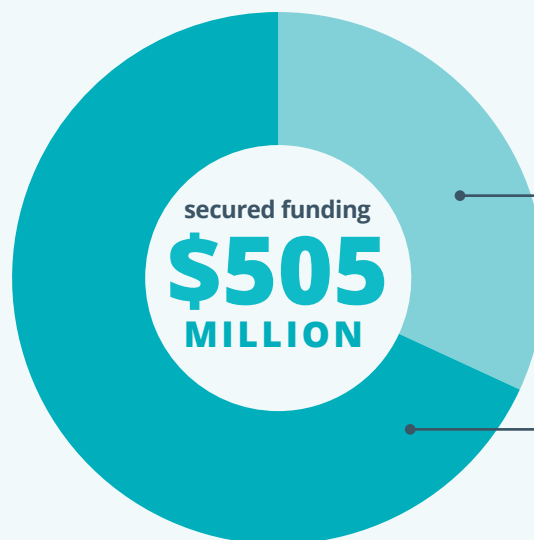
Multiracial

<1% Indigenous, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, other race, prefer not to respond, no data



## Collective Network Total Revenue

Network members secured an estimated \$505 million in total revenue in the past year to advance their work to get better, more equitable outcomes in their communities.



**\$161** MILLION  
of public funds

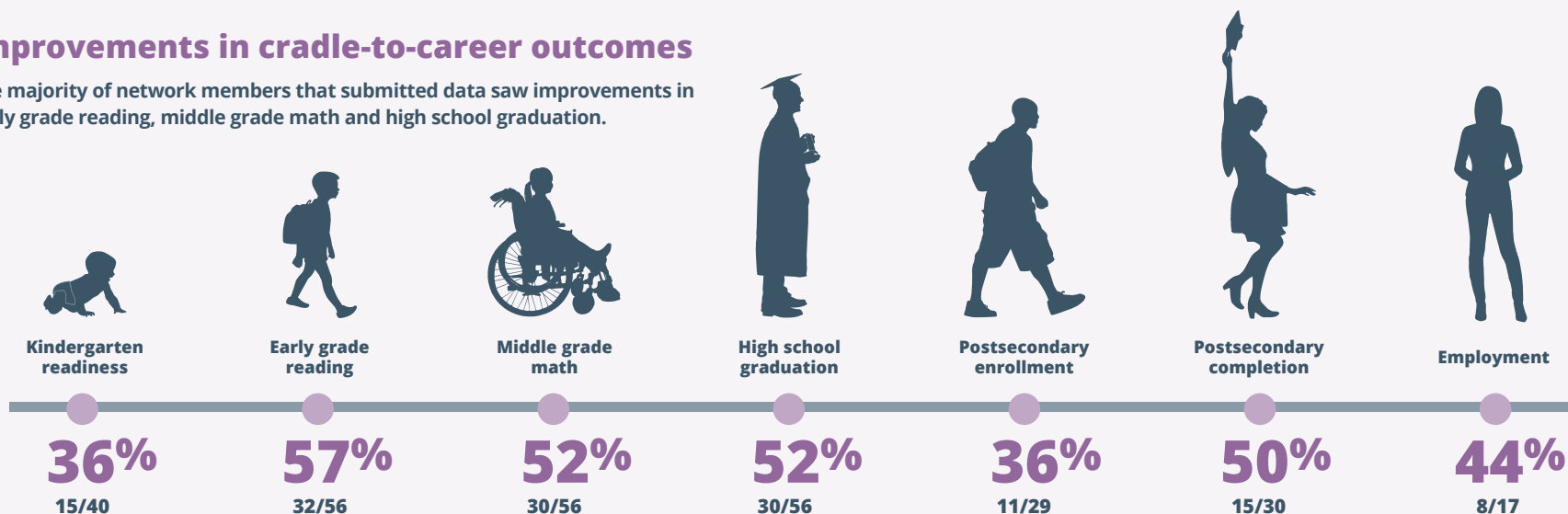
**\$344** MILLION  
of private funds

## How does civic infrastructure improve outcomes?

Percentage of network members seeing improvement by outcome, of network members that shared data for each outcome

### Improvements in cradle-to-career outcomes

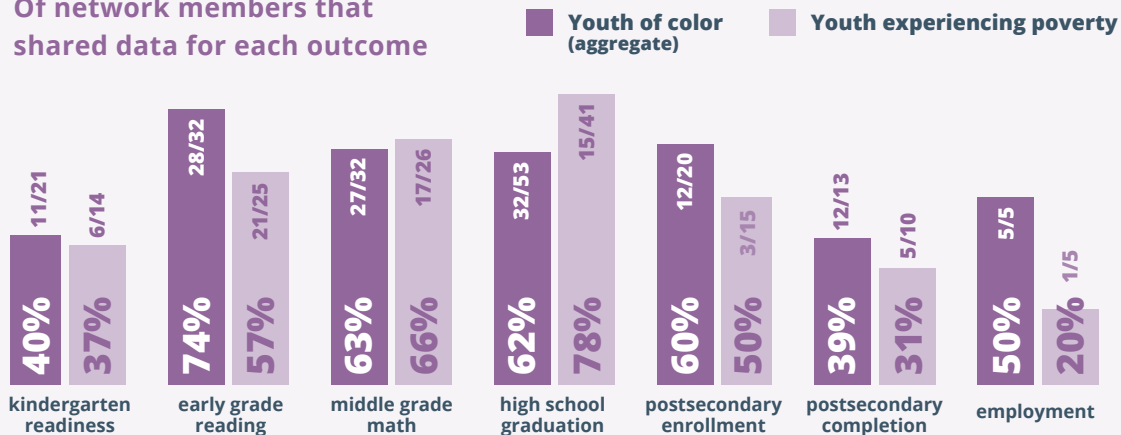
The majority of network members that submitted data saw improvements in early grade reading, middle grade math and high school graduation.



This data compares outcomes during the two most recent years of reporting for each network member that submitted data.

### Network members seeing outcome improvements for youth of color and youth experiencing poverty

Of network members that shared data for each outcome



### Additionally, more than 60% of network members identified policy wins:

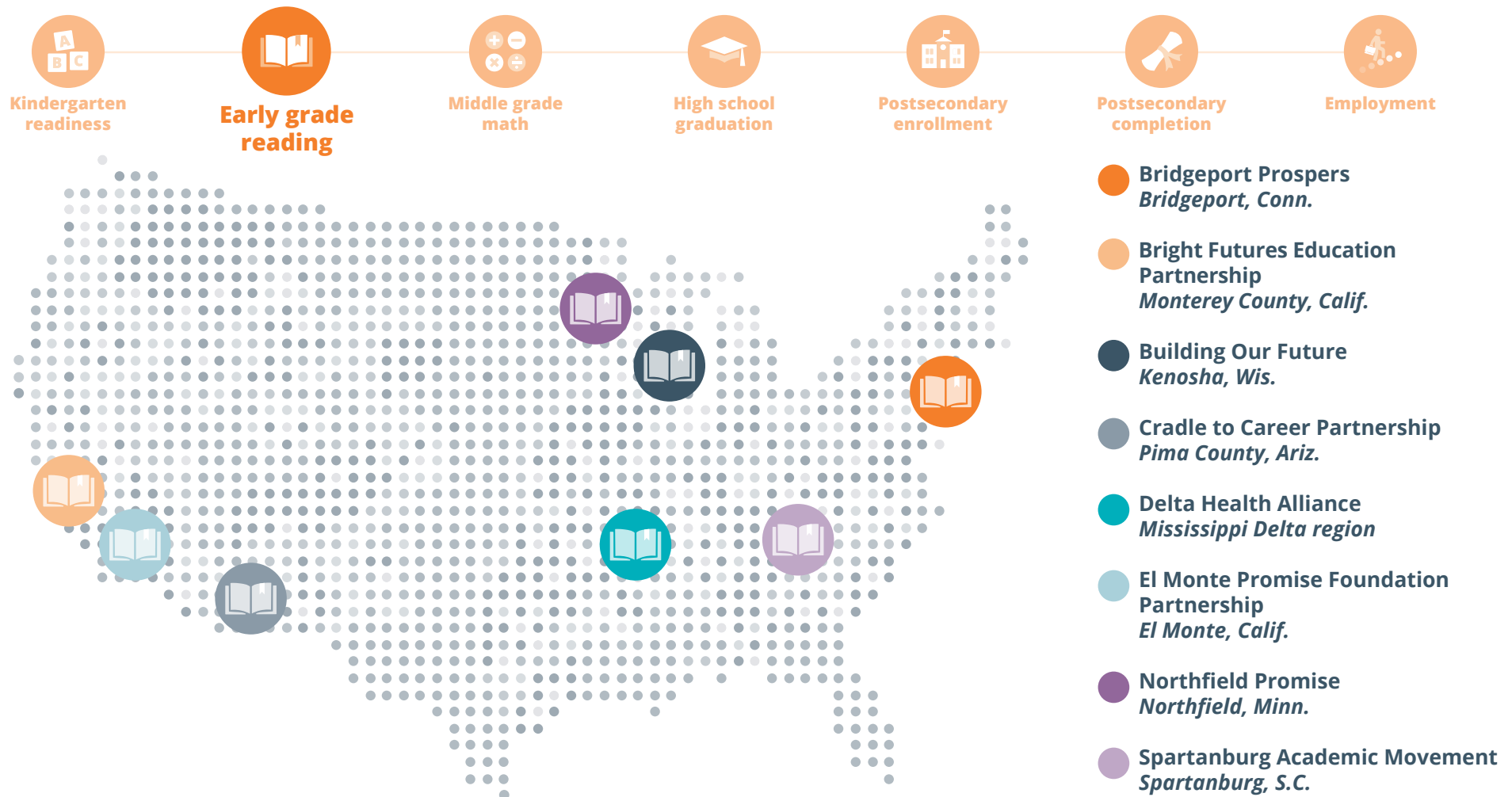
41 network members played a part in policy wins

\$1.4 billion public dollars added to communities and across states since 2021

8.5 million students impacted across StriveTogether network member communities

# Improving early outcomes for increased economic mobility

Across the country, Cradle to Career Network members are making strides toward better and more equitable outcomes in early grade reading to unlock future success. See next page to read more.





## Why is early literacy important?

National statistics reveal that 32% of fourth graders score proficiently in grade-level reading. Disparities persist, with Black and Latine students, along with those experiencing poverty, exhibiting lower rates of reading proficiency compared to their white counterparts. Early grade reading is crucial for academic and future success, with studies showing that students who read at or above grade level by third grade are more likely to graduate from high school, attend college and ultimately achieve economic mobility. The Annie E. Casey Foundation reports that the average annual income of adults proficient in literacy is nearly \$63,000, significantly higher than the average

of almost \$48,000 earned by adults who score just below proficiency.

Cradle to Career Network members lead work in their communities to improve early grade reading proficiency for all students, including addressing key indicators of progress. These include the accessibility of tutoring and high-quality learning materials in multiple languages, as well as eliminating barriers to parent engagement in their child's education. Early grade reading is one of the seven key outcomes areas addressed by the Network — all critical steps on the path to economic mobility.



### **Bridgeport Prospers | *Bridgeport, Conn.***

Bridgeport Prospers is leading technology-driven initiatives to increase student engagement and achievement, including a new online reading program. Through the program, a majority of kindergarteners and first graders — 83% and 56%, respectively — are accessing content at or above grade level, indicating tangible progress in early grade reading proficiency.



### **Bright Futures Education Partnership | *Monterey County, Calif.***

Bright Futures Education Partnership's multifaceted collaborations, backed by substantial funding wins, including a \$1.5 million donation, have empowered local communities, dispelled misconceptions and improved early literacy outcomes in their region.



### **Building Our Future | *Kenosha, Wis.***

Building Our Future's collaboration with the Wisconsin Reading Corps has led to over 73% of tutored students in Kenosha County exceeding growth targets, effectively addressing disparities in literacy proficiency for the target schools.



### **Cradle to Career Partnership | *Pima County, Ariz.***

Cradle to Career Partnership's collaborative efforts with school districts have led to third grade reading proficiency rates increasing from 34% to 38% in 2022 alongside positive gains across all racial and ethnic groups.



### **Delta Health Alliance | *Mississippi Delta region***

Through their targeted Literacy Fellows initiative, Delta Health Alliance's Leflore Promise Community (LPC) is seeing notable increases in the number of students passing Mississippi's third grade reading assessment. Literacy rates for LPC students have risen from 32% in 2021 to 50% in 2023.



### **El Monte Promise Foundation Partnership | *El Monte, Calif.***

Through innovative community engagement programs, robust language development initiatives and active involvement of parents in decision-making processes, El Monte Promise Foundation Partnership is supporting third grade reading proficiency for English learners that exceeds state averages by 3%.



### **Northfield Promise | *Northfield, Minn.***

Northfield Promise supported increased local third grade reading proficiency from 59% to 68%, despite statewide declines, through targeted interventions for diverse student groups and robust family engagement initiatives.



### **Spartanburg Academic Movement | *Spartanburg, S.C.***

Spartanburg Academic Movement's Four Schools Project improved early grade reading proficiency rates, surpassing their goal and reaching 32% by 2022 and reducing disparities, leading to an expansion of the initiative to 10 more schools.

# Financials

## Operating highlights

StriveTogether's auditors have expressed an unqualified opinion on our financial statements for the fiscal year that ended on December 31, 2023. Those financial statements are available on StriveTogether's website.

### Revenues

2023

2022

Grant Revenue	\$22,716,650	\$23,285,500
Fee for Service	\$323,956	\$294,057
Network Membership Fees	\$173,958	\$171,666
Convening and Sponsorship	\$649,602	\$655,340
In-kind Donations	\$257,248	\$0
Other Revenues	\$517,940	\$141,795
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$24,639,354</b>	<b>\$24,548,359</b>

### Expenditures

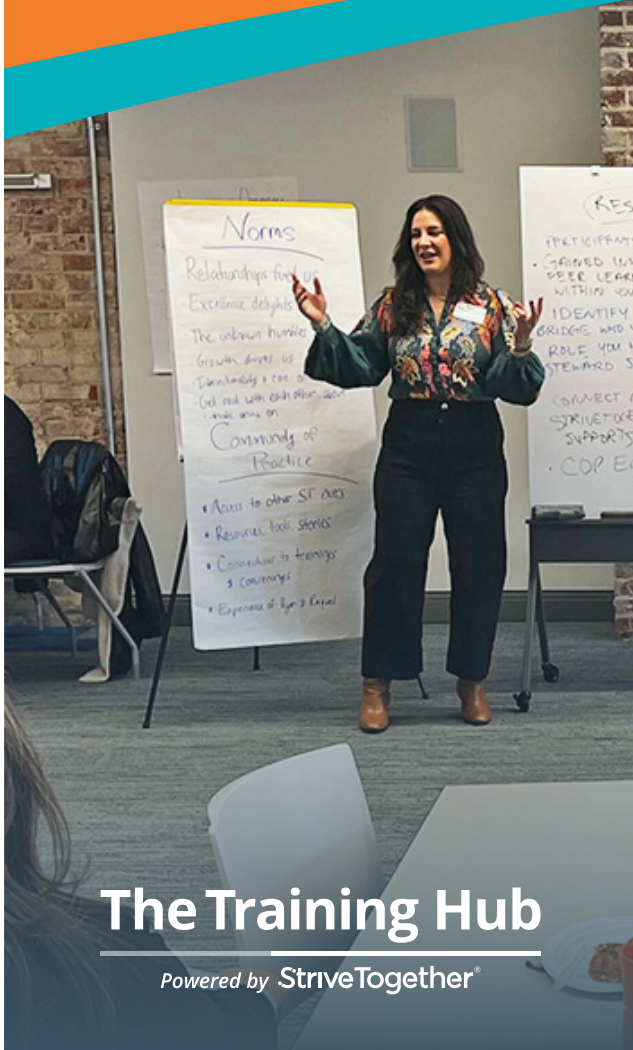
2023

2022

Grants to Other Organizations	\$9,043,150	\$10,685,000
Personnel	\$7,074,340	\$6,484,176
Consulting and Professional	\$5,541,053	\$5,449,979
Conferences, Conventions and Meetings	\$1,220,721	\$873,068
Information Technology	\$642,554	\$465,884
Travel	\$442,141	\$370,311
Network Stipends and Support	\$235,402	\$358,264
Communications	\$159,570	\$460,020
Depreciation and Amortization	\$429,166	\$415,105
Other	\$283,411	\$226,588
Occupancy	\$198,849	\$194,015
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$25,270,357</b>	<b>\$25,982,410</b>

# Advance your work:

## *Empowering leaders to ignite change*



**The Training Hub Powered by StriveTogether** offers high-quality virtual learning to support you in leading collaborative work in your community.

Grounded in proven, globally recognized approaches and tested by leaders across the country, our offerings are designed to strengthen your ability to work across sectors, change systems and achieve equitable outcomes.



### Learn.

Learn at your own speed with our self-paced online content.



### Apply.

Apply what you learn through practical exercises.



### Support.

Receive support from our dedicated, experienced team.

*Thanks to funding from StriveTogether supporters, the Training Hub is free and accessible to all.*

## The Training Hub

Powered by StriveTogether®

**Enroll in courses today.**





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 more than 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 about 14 million young people, including 8 million children of color and 5 million children experiencing poverty.

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