



2022-2025

CHATTANOOGA  2.0

IMPACT REPORT
BRIGHT STARTS. THRIVING FUTURES.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 MEET CHATTANOOGA 2.0
- 3 BY THE NUMBERS
- 5 BIG BET: EARLY CHILDHOOD
- 7 BIG BET: LITERACY
- 9 BIG BET: CHATTANOOGA FUTURE FUND
- 11 BIG BET: VIABLE PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY
- 13 ACTION TEAMS
- 14 2030 GOALS
- 15 SUPPORT THE WORK



MEET CHATTANOOGA 2.0



VISION

Chattanooga-Hamilton County enjoys a thriving and inclusive economy, where social and economic mobility is achievable because children, students, and families are equipped with the resources and supports needed to reach their full potential, cradle to career.



MISSION

To create proof points and drive collaboration, measurement, and alignment of policy and practice to ensure all children and youth receive a quality education and career opportunities that help them realize their full potential.

Ten years ago, our community united around a bold vision: that every child in Hamilton County should have the chance to learn, grow, and thrive from cradle to career. Born from that shared hope, Chattanooga 2.0 has grown into a nonprofit backbone organization, leading this collective movement to strengthen the systems that help children and youth succeed. By convening action teams, we connect families, schools, employers, and partners to remove barriers and create scalable proof points, because every learner’s success fuels a stronger local economy.

To reach our community’s vision of a thriving, inclusive economy, Chattanooga 2.0 is working on four “Big Bets.” **Early Childhood** equips every child for Kindergarten and beyond. **Literacy** unites families, educators, and partners to ensure students are on a path toward college and career readiness. **Viable Pathways to Prosperity** creates career pathways to thriving-wage jobs. The **Chattanooga Future Fund** invests in children’s futures through savings and financial education. Together, these strategies strengthen Hamilton County’s talent pipeline and drive long-term economic mobility.

This Impact Report reflects our community’s progress from 2022 to 2025—a transformational period for our organization and community. Over the next decade, we expect more public and private investment and even more progress. Join us in building momentum: get involved in an action team, partner with us, and invest in Hamilton County’s future.

BY THE NUMBERS

From early childhood education to the attainment of a thriving wage career, we're leading initiatives to remove systemic barriers and provide intentional support to children, students, and their families.

EARLY CHILDHOOD



CHILD CARE TEACHERS RECEIVED COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE with 90% agreeing that it increases their job motivation



UNIQUE VISITS TO THE KINDERGARTEN-READY RESOURCE WEBPAGE 96% from Ham. Co. locals



KINDERGARTEN SKILL RESOURCE VIDEOS created in partnership with community organizations

LITERACY



K-1 STUDENTS AT 14 SCHOOLS WILL BENEFIT FROM LITERACY FIRST TUTORING provided by Chattanooga 2.0 and partners in the 2025-2026 school year



FAMILIES SAW CHILDREN READING MORE with ~6,500 books distributed through the Family Reads program at 4 schools



OF STAFF AT 5 PROVIDERS SAW IMPROVEMENT WITH THEIR STUDENTS FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILLS because of the Out-of-School Time K-2 Literacy Toolkit

CHATTANOOGA FUTURE FUND



STUDENTS CLAIMED THEIR \$100 COLLEGE & CAREER SAVINGS ACCOUNTS from the Future Fund within its first 10 months



IN ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS from individuals and businesses allocated to individual student accounts through the Future Fund

VIABLE PATHWAYS



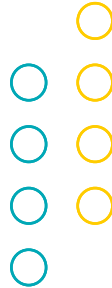
VIABLE PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY UNDERWAY for local youth. On-track to 10 by 2027



YOUNG PEOPLE GAINED SKILLS & CREDENTIALS through our lineworking, welding, dental assisting, and data analysis pathway programs



PLACEMENT RATE FOR LINEWORKING STUDENTS maintained across Lineworker Pathway graduates



DATA



NEW DASHBOARDS BUILT to analyze mental well-being, relief funding for children and youth, fiscal funding for children and youth, and WIC enrollment in Hamilton County



SEATS FILLED DUE TO STAFFING SHORTAGES The first-ever child care seat count shows that we would have up to 11,000 seats for the 25,000 children under age six, if not for ECE teacher shortages.

BIG BET: EARLY CHILDHOOD

Nurturing children’s physical, cognitive, and emotional growth from birth builds the foundation for lifelong success. Chattanooga 2.0 coordinates health, learning, and family support organizations to work together as one system, so every child in Hamilton County can start kindergarten healthy, prepared, and supported. We align public, private, and philanthropic partners to increase access to high-quality early learning, strengthen the early childhood workforce, equip caregivers with skill-building resources, and champion two-generation approaches that meet the needs of both children and families.



READY, SET, KINDERGARTEN CAMPAIGN

A countywide campaign providing skill-building videos, a podcast, and bilingual resources to help families develop children’s essential skills for Kindergarten success.



QUALITY MATTERS FUND

A fund investing federal and local dollars to support child care teacher retention, professional growth, and facility improvements across Hamilton County.



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

A neighborhood-focused, data-informed initiative in Alton Park empowering parents and partners to strengthen systems, align services, and improve early childhood outcomes.

WHY IT MATTERS

Hamilton County has 11,000 early learning seats for the 17,000 children under six with all parents in the workforce. About half of these children live in Chattanooga, where 81% of seats are located, limiting access for others. With child care wages averaging \$13.90 an hour and staffing shortages leaving classrooms empty, the real seat count is closer to 8,700. This discrepancy highlights the urgent need to grow and support a strong early childhood workforce.



IMPACT

Before 2023, Hamilton County lacked a common definition of what it means to be “ready” for Kindergarten. To address this, Chattanooga 2.0 collaborated with pediatric experts, early educators, families, and local school and government leaders to define readiness and identify key early learning skills. Over the next two years, the team created engaging materials and resources to help families and early educators build those skills through everyday activities.

“I like being able to put something in the parents’ hands that helps them understand what is required for their kid to go to kindergarten. It helps them realize that it will take more than just a preschool to do that - we will need their help also.”
- Chattanooga PreK teacher



LEARN MORE AND
SUPPORT THE WORK!

Literacy is the foundation on which all life skills are built. Chattanooga 2.0 is uniting families, educators, businesses, and community partners to ensure that 70% of Hamilton County's third- through fifth-grade students are reading and writing on grade level by 2030. Achieving this goal requires a shared commitment to creating and scaling local proof points of evidence-based strategies. Together, we are building a robust and aligned system of literacy supports that begin at birth and reach children at home, in school, and across the community.



LITERACY FIRST TUTORING

A one-on-one tutoring program proven to get kids on grade level and made possible through a public-private partnership with Hamilton County Schools, Montessori Elementary at Highland Park, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



FAMILY READS

An initiative to make books and activities aligned to Hamilton County Schools' curriculum available through schools and libraries to help families build reading skills at home.

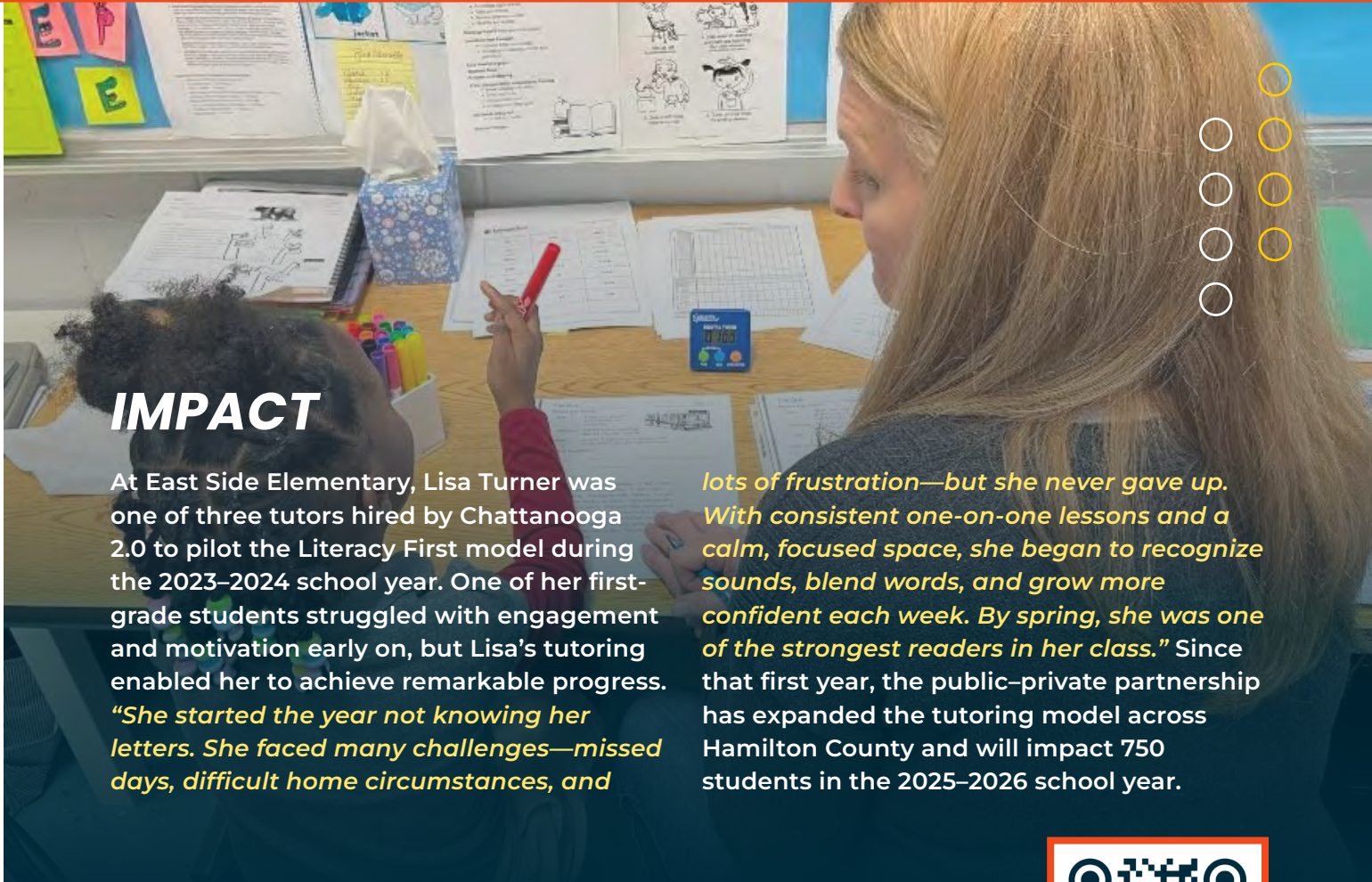


OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME K-2 LITERACY TOOLKIT

A resource to equip afterschool providers with read-alouds and hands-on activities to strengthen foundational literacy skills and extend classroom learning.

WHY IT MATTERS

Adults who develop strong literacy skills early in life can earn up to \$1 million more over their lifetimes than peers who do not. Chattanooga 2.0 and its partners are not only improving early reading proficiency but also building the foundation for a thriving local workforce and stronger economy.



IMPACT

At East Side Elementary, Lisa Turner was one of three tutors hired by Chattanooga 2.0 to pilot the Literacy First model during the 2023-2024 school year. One of her first-grade students struggled with engagement and motivation early on, but Lisa's tutoring enabled her to achieve remarkable progress. *"She started the year not knowing her letters. She faced many challenges—missed days, difficult home circumstances, and*

lots of frustration—but she never gave up. With consistent one-on-one lessons and a calm, focused space, she began to recognize sounds, blend words, and grow more confident each week. By spring, she was one of the strongest readers in her class." Since that first year, the public-private partnership has expanded the tutoring model across Hamilton County and will impact 750 students in the 2025-2026 school year.



LEARN MORE AND
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BIG BET: CHATTANOOGA FUTURE FUND

The Chattanooga Future Fund helps families invest early in their children's dreams. Through savings accounts for career and college expenses, as well as financial literacy and career exploration workshops, this initiative ensures every kindergarten and middle school student has the financial knowledge and resources for life after high school. By leading this community-wide effort, Chattanooga 2.0 is helping every young person access a tangible path toward education and economic mobility. The Chattanooga Future Fund reinforces a shared belief across Hamilton County: every child's future is worth investing in.



STUDENT SIGN-UPS

Join the community-wide push to help students access their \$100-seeded Future Fund accounts and earn even more through local and state incentives.



COMMUNITY-GIVING

The Future Fund serves as a platform for individuals and businesses across Hamilton County to invest in individual student accounts.



FINANCIAL LITERACY & CAREER EXPLORATION WORKSHOPS

This series of free workshops provides students and families with the knowledge, skills, and resources to make informed financial and career decisions alongside their Future Fund savings.

IMPACT

When the Chattanooga Future Fund launched in early 2025, some parents of public school students in Hamilton County were skeptical. Not all caregivers were aware that career and college savings accounts were an option for their children. But as our Future Fund team attended school events to connect and talk with families, early perceptions quickly turned into excitement. When parents realized what the Future Fund could mean for their child's future, a shift took place. Tiffany, a mom of a local middle school student, shared that, while she finds the financial aspect of the

Future Fund exciting, she is particularly eager to see the impact of new educational opportunities that will be created as a result of the program. *"I hope that things will look completely different in 15 years, starting within my own community! Education about these things is so important. I now have my son and niece signed up, and I tell anyone I can to do the same."* Tiffany's story reflects a growing community movement to help every family in Hamilton County build financial confidence and plan for their child's future—from kindergarten to middle school through career.

WHY IT MATTERS

Children from low to moderate-income families with \$100-\$500 in savings for education are 3x more likely to enroll in postsecondary programs and 4x more likely to graduate. Just a small investment makes a big difference!

LEARN MORE AND
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BIG BET: VIABLE PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Viable Pathways to Prosperity opens doors to high-demand, good careers through hands-on training and real-world experience. Created to address labor shortages and expand opportunity for Hamilton County's young people, pathways offer early career exposure, industry-aligned training, and credentials beyond high school—removing barriers to entry and preparing participants for thriving-wage careers that strengthen our region's workforce. Chattanooga 2.0 leads this work with educators, employers, and community partners to make pathways clear, connected, and viable for all.



POWERING CAREERS IN LINEWORK
A fifteen-week pathway co-built with industry partners and associations that provides training, housing, living stipends, and mentoring leading to thriving-wage linework careers.



TRAINING FUTURE WELDERS
A four-week pathway co-built with postsecondary and industry partners providing credentialed training and wraparound supports leading to thriving-wage welding careers.



DENTAL ASSISTING LAUNCH
A twelve-week pathway providing clinical training, mentoring, and industry credentials that prepare young adults for thriving-wage careers as registered dental assistants.

IMPACT

For Jewel Austin, a Hixson High School graduate, the spark for a dental career began at age 12. *“Even that young, I knew I wanted to learn all about dental work,”* she explained. Her interest grew in high school, where health science came to life through hands-on Future Ready Pathway courses. After high school, she heard about the Dental Assistant Pathway, a partnership between Chattanooga 2.0 and Revive Dental, offering 12 weeks of real-world training and a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) certification, and she jumped at the

chance. Revive Dental's Charelle Kennington shared, *“She came in smiling, ready to go every single day and she made it through with flying colors.”* In November 2025, Jewel earned her RDA, and a week after graduating, she accepted a job offer. She plans to work as a dental assistant before returning back to school to pursue dental hygiene. Jewel's journey reflects our broader mission to connect young people with clear, supported pathways from classroom to career, ensuring every student in Hamilton County can pursue a future filled with purpose and possibility.

WHY IT MATTERS

More than 60% of jobs in Tennessee will soon require some form of postsecondary education or training. Viable Pathways to Prosperity directly addresses this skills gap by preparing Hamilton County young people for the high-demand careers driving our state's economy.

LEARN MORE AND
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EARLY MATTERS

Early Matters is an action team of over 40 organizations united to improve early childhood outcomes in Chattanooga-Hamilton County. For over a decade, partners have advanced access to quality programs through advocacy and systems-building to support healthy, happy childhoods.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) ALLIANCE

The Out-of-School Time Alliance connects nearly 50 providers working to expand access, quality, and impact in afterschool and summer programs. Through shared standards, professional learning, and coordinated tools, like the Hamilton County OST Program Locator, the Alliance builds a data-driven system that strengthens partnerships and ensures every student benefits from high-quality learning beyond the school day.

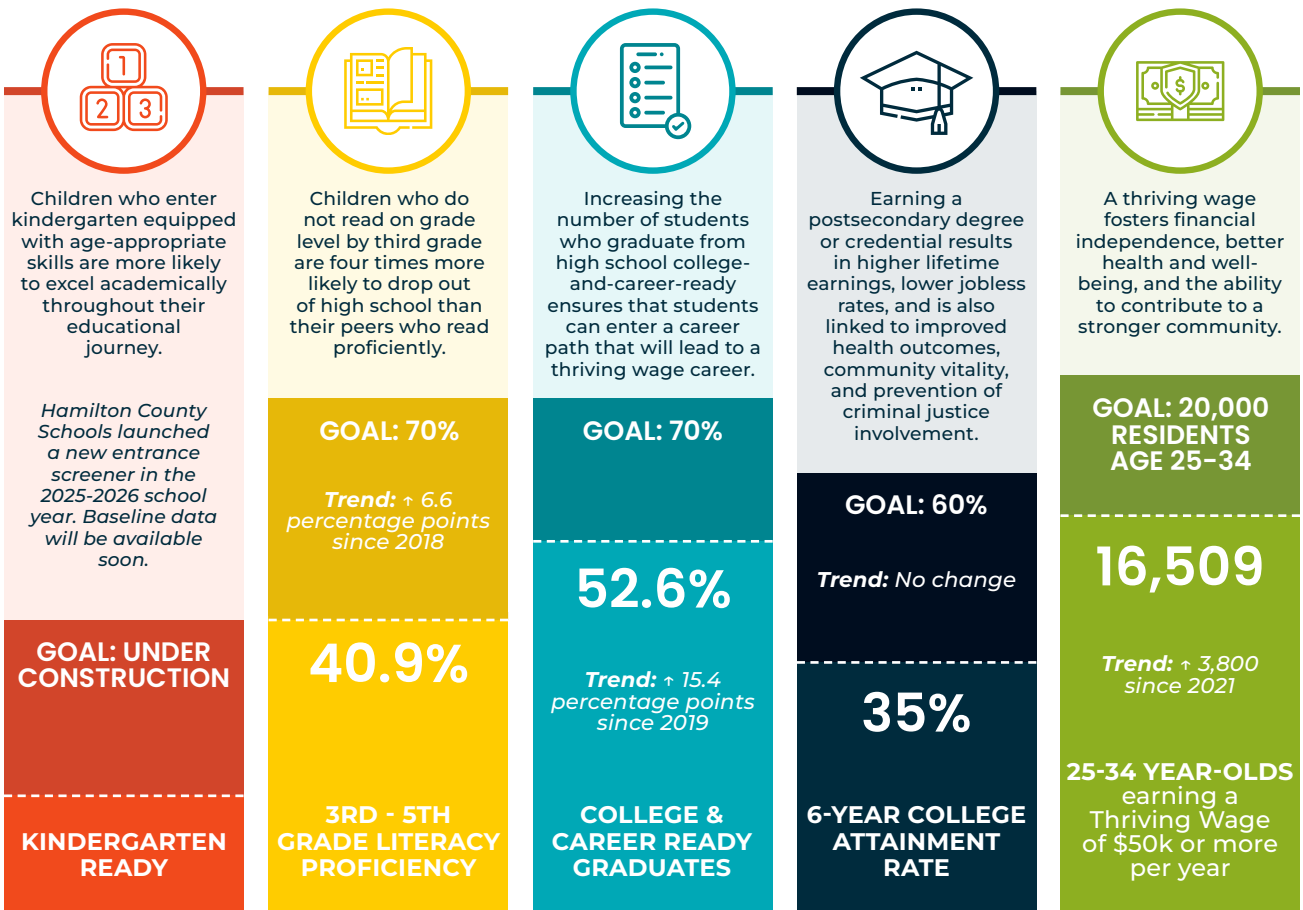
HAMILTON COUNTY-CHATTANOOGA CHILDREN'S CABINET

The Hamilton County–Chattanooga Children’s Cabinet is co-chaired by the mayors of Chattanooga and Hamilton County and the Hamilton County Schools superintendent, who together unite senior public officials and cross-sector nonprofit leaders to coordinate services for children and youth. Through shared data, joint funding, and collective action, the Cabinet drives community solutions for young people that strengthen housing stability, improve health, and reduce chronic absenteeism and violence.

DATA COUNCIL

The Chattanooga 2.0 Data Council brings together local government, education, business, and nonprofit partners to align data across systems. By expanding access and analysis, the Council helps the community track progress, guide investments, and anticipate emerging needs. Together, we ensure Chattanooga 2.0 remains data-driven—because better data leads to better outcomes for children and families.

Our 2030 goals belong to the entire community. These goals are not the responsibility of any one group. Progress starts when community leaders, employers, educators, and families come together to support children and youth from birth through career. These goals are grounded in shared data that guide collective decision-making and reflect our community’s progress. Together, we hold the responsibility and the opportunity to address complex challenges and build a stronger future for every child.



SUPPORT THE WORK

Behind every successful program is a team making it possible. Investing in our backbone means fueling the leadership, coordination, and vision that turn good ideas into lasting impact for children and families across Hamilton County. Scan the QR code to donate today, or email us to explore larger investment opportunities that sustain this critical work.



CHATTANOOGA



THANK YOU TO OUR BACKBONE FUNDERS:
THE BENWOOD FOUNDATION
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA
MACLELLAN FOUNDATION
TENNESSEE SCORE
UNITED WAY OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA