



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

# OUR COMMITMENT TO CHICAGO

Highlights of our economic and social impact  
in the city and on the South Side

AUGUST 2025



## 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. Throughout the University of Chicago enterprise, including UChicago Medicine, 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.

### Direct Payments to the City

- The University and UChicago Medicine paid more than **\$20.5 million in taxes and fees to the City of Chicago** in fiscal year 2024, including more than **\$4 million for water and sewer services, more than \$1.9 million in municipal parking taxes, and more than \$8 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).

### 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 nearly 17,000 Chicago residents who collectively earn a total of \$1.66 billion annually** through full- and part-time positions; approximately 48% live on the South Side.
- Between 2008 and 2023, the redevelopment of the 53rd Street Corridor in Hyde Park generated **\$817 million in economic activity and \$40 million in additional property tax, income tax, and accommodations tax**. The project has also supported the **employment of 540 additional Chicago residents annually**. These economic benefits were driven by the University of Chicago's **direct investment of \$122 million** in the redevelopment project and its role attracting an **additional \$600 million in investments by third parties**, including the City of Chicago.
- The University is an anchor tenant in Hyde Park Labs, a **300,000 square foot science and advanced technology hub on the South Side** that will contribute needed lab space and advanced infrastructure to Chicago's technology ecosystem and promote a talent pipeline by providing STEM outreach and internship programs for South Side youth.
- UChicago supports a strong Hyde Park business district that is reflective of the South Side, leasing commercial space to a diverse group of tenants, **67% of which are locally-owned businesses and 41% of which are minority- and/or women-owned**.
- The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation supports more than **300 South Side businesses annually** through technical assistance, capacity building programs, and workshops.



## Educational Programs

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

- Through a range of free, targeted programs, UChicago helps prepare Chicago Public Schools (CPS) students to gain admission to, pay for, and thrive in college and excel in future careers. We offer **multi-year college and career readiness programs to 300 CPS students annually**, with priority given to low-income and first-generation college students, and advise thousands of Chicago students about their applications to colleges nationwide.
- Our **numerous financial aid and scholarship programs**, such as Odyssey and UChicago Promise, support lower and middle income Chicago students and families, 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 composed of three campuses, serves grades prekindergarten through 12 and **enrolls approximately 1,500 students throughout Chicago, 98% of whom live on the South Side**.
- The UChicago Youth Internship Program partners with the City of Chicago's One Summer Chicago program to provide **100 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, **nearly 2,000 University students have dedicated nearly 50,000 hours of support to local schools and families** through the Neighborhood Schools Program, working in PreK - 12 classroom and administrative support roles, offering one-on-one tutoring, and supporting STEM programming and initiatives.
- The University hosts the annual South Side Science Festival which offers **100+ interactive demonstrations** led by UChicago graduate students and **draws 4,500 youth and families to campus**.

## 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 12,000 Medicaid inpatients** in 2023—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.
- Opened in 2018, UChicago Medicine's Level 1 Adult Trauma Center serves a key need for the local community and is among the busiest in the city, **treating more than 2,500 adult trauma patients** in fiscal year 2023. Separately, our adult and pediatric emergency departments rank among Chicago's highest in patient volume, **with nearly 97,000 visits** in fiscal year 2023.
- 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.
- As part of our commitment to advance health equity, UChicago Medicine provided **\$636.6 million in benefits and services to communities on Chicago's South Side** in fiscal year 2023, including **\$573 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 2023, the program served **1,805 total patients, 157 children, and 890 families**.
- In 2024, UChicago Medicine and the Pritzker School of Medicine received the **Association of American Medical Colleges' prestigious Spencer Foreman Award** for our sustained, institutional commitment to identify and address the community's needs through engagement, partnership and collaboration.





## 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 **130 sworn law enforcement personnel** who provide services 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 addition to UCPD, the Department of Safety and Security 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.
- In an effort to enhance community safety, the University donated **\$3 million to the City of Chicago for additional security technology**, including cameras and license plate readers, in UCPD's extended patrol area. This donation resulted in **114 new city-owned cameras** throughout the extended patrol area. The University also **launched a new strategic operations center** that allows UCPD to make real-time and proactive adjustments to police and security deployment in coordination with CPD.

## 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.

- The Inclusive Economy Lab **evaluated the guaranteed income pilots led by the City of Chicago and Cook County** to allow policymakers, elected officials, funders, and advocates to learn from the programs.
- The University of Chicago Crime Lab is the **architect of the City of Chicago's Violence Reduction Dashboard**, a one-of-its-kind tool that allows public sector, private, and nonprofit organizations to access real-time violent crime data. Additionally, the Crime Lab's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Leadership Academy provides **rigorous training to CVI leaders from public sector and nonprofit organizations** to deepen their leadership practices so they can implement CVI strategies at scale. To date, 26 leaders who provide services in Chicago have participated in the academy.
- The University of Chicago Education Lab has partnered with Chicago Public Schools for over ten years by **supporting large-scale evaluations of tutoring programs, helping to expand violence prevention programs for students, and increasing the capacity for data analysis** through analysts embedded in the district.
- Each year, the Crown Family School's Network for College Success (NCS) partners with 10-20 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.

## 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 of Chicago enterprise'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](mailto:sarahsheehan@uchicago.edu). Our media contact is Jeremy Manier at [jmanier@uchicago.edu](mailto:jmanier@uchicago.edu).

