



2018
ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW

OUR IMPACT TODAY AND TOMORROW



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Letter From President and Board Chair



One million. That's how many neurological connections a baby's brain makes in a single second.

From birth to age five, children learn the skills and behaviors that will lay the foundation for their lifelong academic and social-emotional success. For the nearly 5 million children under age five living in poverty, these are the years in which an achievement gap has the most risk to take root.

Thanks to your generous support, we're helping parents and teachers provide the experiences that our youngest learners need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Leveraging research, practice, professional development and policy and advocacy, we help support parent coaching and high-quality early childhood programs. These programs help ensure a better future for young children.

The Ounce of Prevention Fund believes a new approach is required to help shift the landscape of early childhood education in communities and states to generate momentum for transformational change throughout the nation. The field needs a coalescing force to transform our country's state of early learning — and the Ounce is uniquely positioned to do just that.

Today, we are continuing to build on our history of more than three decades of local, state and nationwide influence to further scale this impact into transformational change.

Guided by a strategic plan with a bold, ambitious goal to impact 1.3 million children in poverty under age five by 2023, we are committed to shaping our country's state of early learning and changing the future for our most vulnerable children.

In partnership with others, we will weave disparate initiatives, programs and expertise into a collective vision that can bring coherence to a fragmented field. These complex issues are too large for any single program or organization to solve alone.

Our accomplishments over the past year, along with our strategic plan, have positioned us to lead a collective and dynamic effort to share knowledge, foster innovation and accelerate change. We invite you to join us as we look ahead to a brighter future for our youngest children.

Thank you,



Diana Mendley Rauner
President



Curt R. Bailey
Chairman



The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age five.



Our Impact

By the numbers

Policy Impact



Advocated successfully for the fiscal year 2019 Illinois budget to include a **\$50 million** increase for early childhood education, its highest level ever.

Championed and led the effort to gather **statewide kindergarten readiness data** for the **first time, thanks to KIDS (Kindergarten Individual Development Survey)**.



Helped to shape **five** federal policy initiatives in partnership with the Educare Learning Network.

Program and Practice Impact



Partnered with state education leaders in Washington, Oregon and Tennessee to improve pre-k programs and policies **reaching 40,000 children.**

Provided home visiting services for close to **2,000 families** in Illinois.

Served more than **1,000 doula participants** for the first time.



Delivered research-based professional development training to more than **4,500 home visiting and center-based professionals.**



Partnered with state and local agencies to pilot Family Connects Illinois, the state's **first universal home visiting program.**

Facilitated peer learning and fostered innovation among **23 Educare schools**, serving more than **3,800 children and families** in diverse communities nationwide.

Served **165 young, low-income children and their families** at award-winning birth-to-five Educare Chicago, developing the literacy, language, early math and social-emotional skills children need to succeed.

Advocacy for Impact

Driving Meaningful Change in Early Childhood Education Through Public Policy

Far too many states and communities are struggling to provide the systems needed for families with young children. That's why policy is a critical component of the work we do at every level of influence — community, state and federal.

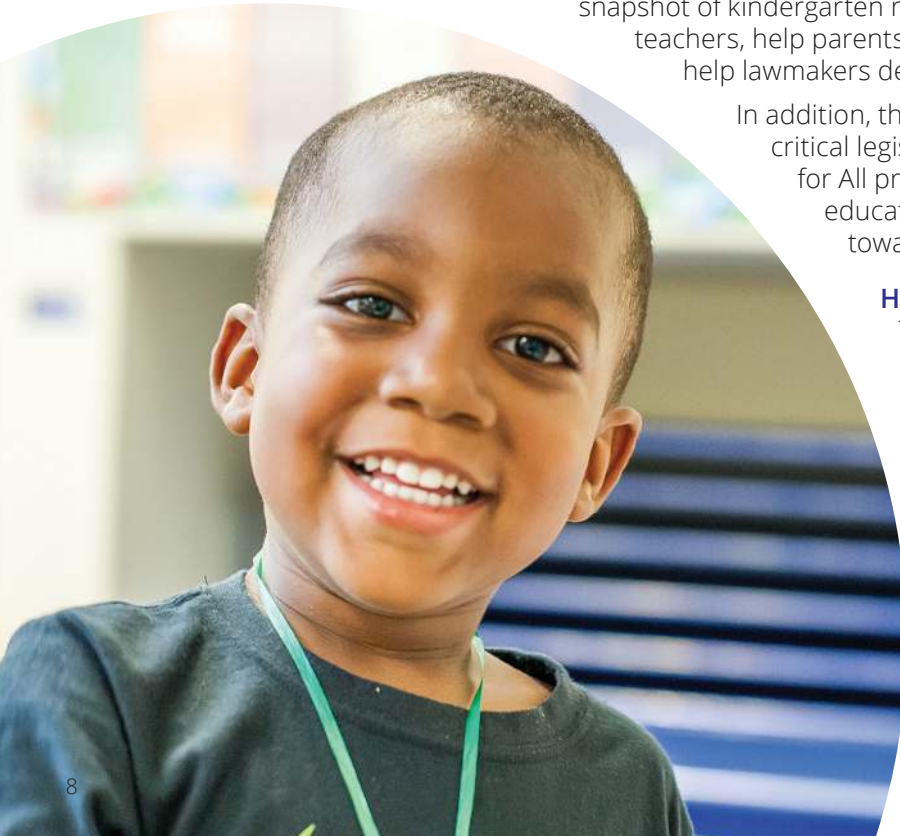
Strides in Early Childhood Education in Illinois

Since 2010, the Ounce has played a leadership role in developing and implementing the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), working with the Illinois State Board of Education, philanthropic partners, educators, researchers and other advocacy groups. Now, thanks to the survey, Illinois has its first ever statewide snapshot of kindergarten readiness, which will guide professional learning for teachers, help parents understand the expectations for their children and help lawmakers determine how resources should be directed.

In addition, the Ounce worked with its advocacy partners to get critical legislation signed into law to make it easier for Preschool for All programs to retain or hire highly qualified early care and education staff as lead teachers as long as they're working toward their teaching license.

Home Visiting Improvements and Innovations

The Ounce partnered with Illinois agency leaders and stakeholders to make home visiting services more effective for the state's youngest children and families. A report was then released detailing the commitments from state leaders to improve the connections across these sectors.



Influencing State and Federal Policy

Through our consultation, technical assistance and peer learning supports, the Ounce contributed to state policy wins in Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire and Wisconsin that resulted in greater access to higher-quality early learning programs and more effective early childhood systems.

Field Leadership and Alliance Building


Recognized as a leader in the early childhood field, the Ounce was commissioned to produce a report on strategies for increasing access to subsidized child care for families experiencing homelessness. The findings of the report will be used to inform policy changes in Pennsylvania. The 2018 State Policy Update, which provides a snapshot of early childhood budget and legislative policy changes in many states, is also a widely used resource by advocates across the country.

In addition, as a result of Illinois' early childhood expulsion law, led by the Ounce and its partners, the Ounce was asked to provide consultation to Washington, Arizona, Colorado and Texas as they advocated for a similar law in their states.



Our Advocacy Focus

1. Sustaining and increasing public funding investments for early childhood education.
2. Establishing sound policies that reduce barriers for families and support high-quality early childhood education experiences for all young children, especially those living in poverty.



First Five Years Fund (FFYF)

Through extensive policy, government relations and communications expertise, the First Five Years Fund (FFYF) — a partnership with the Ounce and leading philanthropies — works with federal policymakers to galvanize support for greater investments and policies to increase access to high-quality early childhood education.



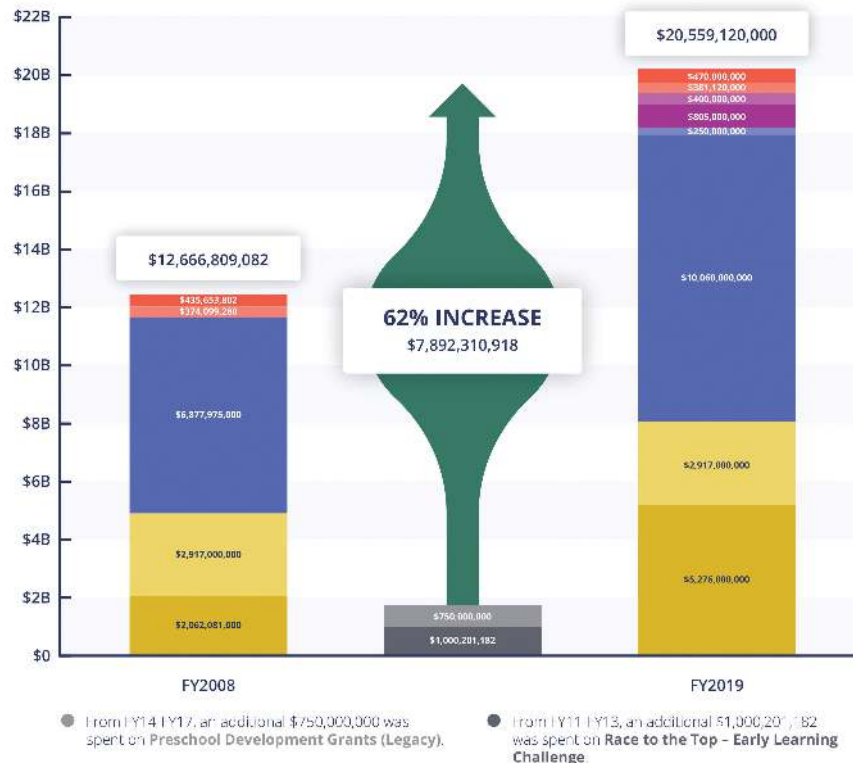
Over the past year, FFYF's instrumental advocacy role in Washington, D.C. has contributed to significant achievements.

- **Bipartisan reauthorization of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program** for five years.
- **Historic Funding Increases for Child Care.** A bipartisan deal in the U.S. Senate resulted in an increase of \$2.37 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program above FY2017 levels. Congress then appropriated an additional \$50 million for CCDBG in the bipartisan FY2019 funding bill.
- **Increased funding for Head Start and Early Head Start** by nearly a billion dollars. The bipartisan funding bill passed in September 2018 added an additional \$200 million for this fiscal year.
- **Funding and Implementation of the Preschool Development Grants Program** for two years. FFYF has been instrumental in ensuring funding was provided by Congress and in leading advocacy efforts to continue to demonstrate broad support for the program across the country.

Since FFYF's founding in 2007, federal funding for early care and learning has increased 62% from \$12.6B to \$20.6B.

Federal ECE Investment Fiscal Years 2008-2019

- Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) [Discretionary]
- Child Care and Development Block Grants (CCDBG) [Mandatory]
- Head Start/Early Head Start
- Preschool Development Grants (PDG B-b)
- Early Head Start - Child care Partnerships
- Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program [Mandatory]
- IDEA Preschool Grants [Part B (519)]
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grants for Infants and Families [Part C]



A young girl with dark hair in braids, wearing a black shirt with a leopard print cat design, is looking down at a white surface, possibly a table or paper. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or office setting.

Increasing Quality by Supporting Teachers and Leaders

Quality early education requires a well-trained workforce and experienced leaders. Building on decades of field experience and validated by comprehensive research, the Ounce has built a suite of online tools and in-person professional development opportunities for early childhood education leaders, teachers and home visiting professionals across the United States. By supporting the professional development of leaders and specifically childhood education practitioners, we can positively impact our nation's children.

This year, our existing professional development programs — **Achieve OnDemand** and **Lead Learn Excel** — grew reach, expanded into new states and communities, refined their offerings and revamped their content.

Through **Achieve OnDemand**, over 2,000 home visitors and home visiting supervisors have engaged in training to provide better service to the families they support.

Lead Learn Excel has transformed the leadership practice of over 600 early childhood education leaders nationwide through training and coaching.

We also introduced two new professional development offerings — **Educare Best Practices Training** and **Early Education Essentials** — representing a significant expansion in the breadth and depth of the Ounce's professional development services.



Impact Through Leadership Development

- **Lead Learn Excel** is a professional learning program designed to enhance child outcomes by transforming early childhood education professionals into the most effective instructional leaders.
- **Achieve OnDemand** offers home visitors and supervisors nationwide a comprehensive online professional development resource. This unique program includes relevant learning experiences for both newly hired and more experienced home visiting professionals. The training is applicable across all national home visiting models.
- **Educare Best Practices Training** is an early childhood professional development program that helps practitioners and center-based programs develop their knowledge, behavior and practices to meet the increasingly rigorous quality standards in early education.
 - **Early Education Essentials** is a new measurement system that includes teacher and parent surveys and data-use and improvement tools. Developed by the Ounce and the UChicago Consortium, the tool helps educators evaluate and improve upon key organizational factors in early childhood settings that influence the success of educating very young children.



Improving Outcomes for Families



The first years set a trajectory for development throughout a lifetime. That's why the Ounce strives to empower at-risk families with support that can help them give their babies a brighter future.

Our trained doulas work primarily with first-time, teen parents to help them build strong bonds with their babies before the child is born. Doulas provide weekly home visits to encourage prenatal care, offer ongoing support at the hospital during labor and delivery and provide postpartum home visits for six to eight weeks after the baby is born. The Ounce partners with the state to train and support doulas and home visitors across Illinois.

Additionally, the Ounce is the leading provider of professional development and training for home visitors in Illinois. In our evidence-based home visiting programs, parent coaches provide child-development and parenting information to help teen parents create safe, stimulating home environments; model positive and language-rich relationships; and ensure families have access to medical, dental, mental health and other supports.

This year, the Ounce partnered with state and local agencies to pilot Family Connects Illinois in two communities. This program began as a process to create a coordinated, universal system to offer all newborns and their parents a home visit in order to provide them with information, resources and supports to meet their individualized needs.

Improving Outcomes for Babies

Relevant findings of FY2018 participants in our doula and home visiting programs:

95% of children were regularly screened to monitor their development.

89% of children visited a physician regularly for well-child care.

87% of participants initiated breastfeeding with their newborn baby — well above average for low-income and young parents.

85% of teen parent participants had either graduated high school or were still in school one year later; typically, most teen parents don't finish their high school education.

14% of first-time teen parents in the home visiting programs have a second baby within two years, lower than the typical 25%.

Two-thirds of births to teen moms in the program were attended by the father of the baby.

97% of all families in Family Connects Illinois pilots exhibited a need for education or referrals for ongoing services during their home visits.



Lisa

Several months ago, the Ounce heard the story of Lisa, a mother who came to accept that her daughter might have a developmental delay. Thanks to an empathic home visitor with specialized training to work with homeless families, Lisa enrolled her child in an early intervention program — a key step in helping address challenges that could impact the child's kindergarten readiness.

Transforming Early Childhood Systems

Providing Technical Assistance to Chicago's Early Childhood Programs

In 2018, the Ounce provided training and technical assistance focused on program quality to the city of Chicago's network of early childhood programs. This network, funded by Head Start and the state's Early Childhood Block Grant, consists of programs in schools and at 60 community agencies which serve more than 14,000 children ages birth to five and their families.

At the Ounce, our strategies included training on curricula, reflective practice groups with supervisors and facilitating cohorts of program leaders to learn about and implement collaborative routines as a vehicle for building a culture of continuous quality improvement in their programs. Each of these strategies was complemented with on-site technical assistance to support the transfer of knowledge into practice.

Partnership for Pre-K Improvement (PPI)

The Ounce launched the Partnership for Pre-K Improvement (PPI) in 2016 with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Alliance for Early Success and the University of Washington. Through this project, we are learning about what it takes to systemically improve preschool system quality. The Ounce is working with three states, Washington, Oregon and Tennessee, to strengthen the policies, infrastructure and programs necessary for continuous improvement of high-quality teaching and learning in pre-k. This work is occurring at multiple levels of their systems, from the state level down to the classroom.



PPI leverages the Ounce's unique program, policy and research expertise. Through this partnership, we support state pre-k leaders with:

- **Consultation** on strategic planning for pre-k systems improvement
- **Peer learning** in a community of states focused on improvement of pre-k
- **Grant funding** to galvanize improvement efforts
- **Access to technical assistance** and resources from national organizations

We create program, advocacy and research partnerships at the state and national levels to build a community of leaders sharing a vision and generating ideas for the field. The Ounce also aims to **create tools and generate knowledge** to increase understanding of what drives improvement in programs and systems in differing state contexts.

Through this work, we have the opportunity to partner and collaborate with state education leaders who oversee pre-k for low-income families across three states. Combined, these programs reach 40,000 children.





Educare: A Learning Network to Drive Change

The Ounce of Prevention Fund opened Educare Chicago in 2000, and the school's innovative approach to learning and impact on children and families has grown into a national network of 23 operating schools in 14 states, with two additional locations under development.

The Educare Learning Network, created in partnership with the Buffett Early Childhood Fund, is made up of organizations across the country that are at the forefront of the early childhood movement. These organizations are operating Educare schools and extending their reach into their local communities and beyond. They are working together to test out new approaches, grapple with challenges and share lessons learned with early childhood educators in the field. The Educare Learning Network is laser-focused on strong child and family outcomes and continuous improvement in practices. Collectively our goal is to transform early education in this country well beyond the walls of the schools and to improve the lives of children in poverty, who deserve access to high-quality early learning.

The Network, informed by our on-the-ground experiences, has established strong partnerships with policy and advocacy leaders to gain access to and improve the quality of early learning programs across the country. In partnership with the Educare Learning Network, the Ounce policy teams have made recommendations and informed the future direction on several key policy issues, including the new Preschool Development Grants and the Head Start Designation Renewal System.

Educare Chicago Staff Education and Certification

- 100% of Educare's Head Start teachers have a B.A., E.C.E. or higher
- 100% of Educare's Early Head Start teachers have a B.A., I.T., C.D.A or higher
- 100% of Educare's teacher assistants have an A.A., C.D.A, E.C.E. or higher

(Source: Head Start Program Information Report)



Educare Chicago Awarded Recognition of Excellence

ExceleRate Illinois recognizes early learning providers for their ongoing efforts to improve the quality of their care by awarding a series of distinctions. Over the last two years, Educare Chicago has received multiple ExceleRate awards:



ExceleRate Illinois Gold Circle of Quality

distinction for
2018-2019



ExceleRate Awards of Excellence

for Preschool
Teaching and Learning
in ExceleRate Illinois



ExceleRate Awards of Excellence

for Infant
Toddler Services in
ExceleRate Illinois

The Educare Learning Network also has a corresponding national collective of university researchers who partner with Educare schools to evaluate and continuously improve our work. The Educare Learning Network, with more than 25 expert researchers/scholars and 15 academic institutions, is consistently conducting research. The Network explores the latest science about early childhood education, translates those findings into real world experiences through our programs, collects information and data, and then rigorously drives changes in practice, professional development and policy. For even broader impact on the early childhood education field, Educare researchers have generated:

- Fourteen peer-reviewed academic journal articles and three book chapters;
- Four dissertations or theses, with an additional 10 academic papers that are under review and;
- More than 60 presentations at professional research and practitioner conferences or meetings

Today, the Educare Learning Network continues to build on its momentum as a catalyst for change for children.

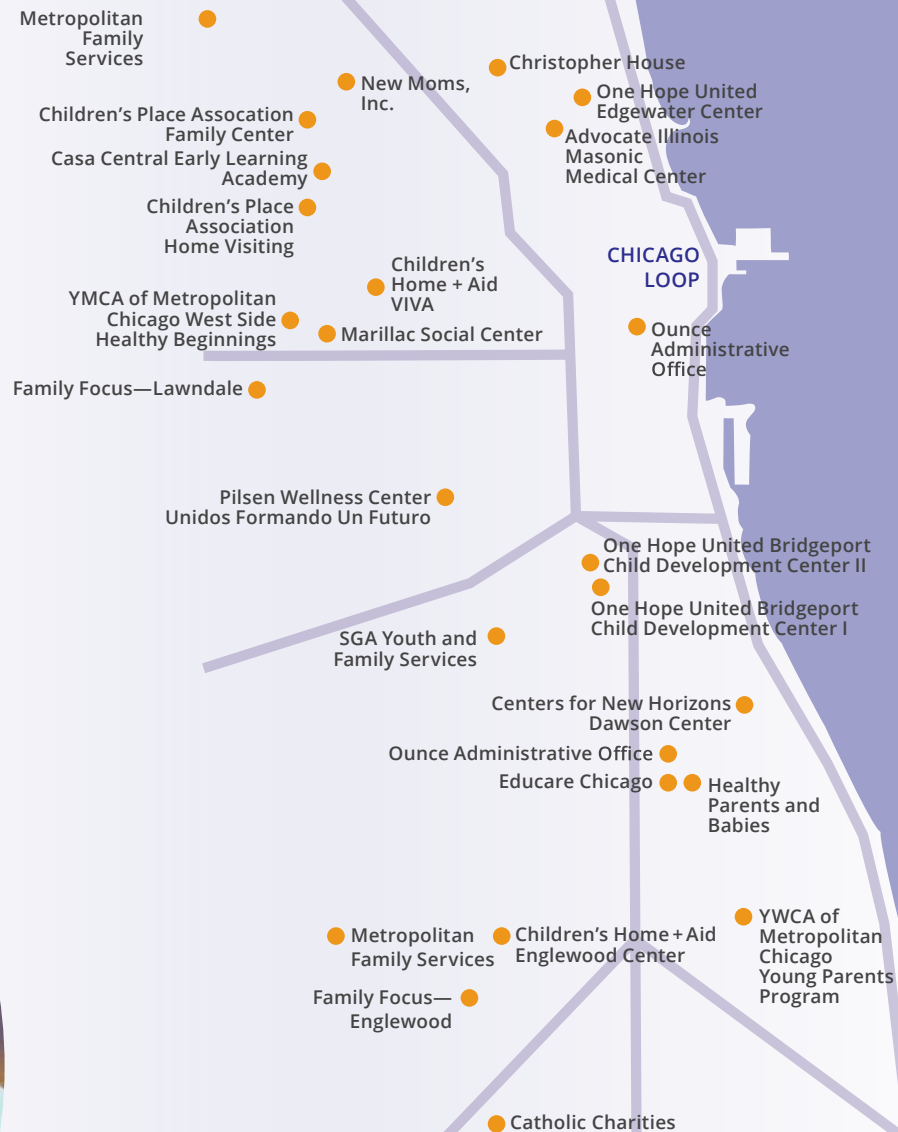
Partners & Sites

Greater Illinois



Partners & Sites

Chicago



National





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Illinois	New Hampshire	
Indiana	New Mexico	



EDUCARE

SCHOOLS ●

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Atlanta	Omaha at Indian Hill
California at Silicon Valley (San Jose)	Omaha at Kellom
Central Maine (Waterville)	Seattle
Chicago	Springfield, MA*
Denver	Tulsa at Clinton*
Flint, MI	Tulsa at Hawthorne
Kansas City, KS	Tulsa at Kendall-Whittier
Lincoln, NE	Tulsa at MacArthur
Los Angeles at Long Beach	Washington, DC
Miami-Dade	West DuPage, IL
Milwaukee	Winnebago, NE
New Orleans	

*Under construction

PARTNERSHIP FOR PRE-K IMPROVEMENT (PPI) ●

Oregon	Tennessee	Washington
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FEDERAL POLICY ●

Washington, DC

Ounce of Prevention Fund Donors

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\$10,000,000 OR MORE

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 W.K. Kellogg Foundation
 Pritzker Children's Initiative +
 Saul Zaentz Charitable Trust
 Helen & Sam Zell +

\$500,000 TO \$999,999

The Crown Family +
 Irving Harris Foundation +
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 Robert R. McCormick Foundation +
 Diana & Bruce Rauner +

\$100,000 TO \$499,999

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 BMO Harris Bank +
 The Boeing Company +
 The Chicago Community Trust
 Nancy & Steve Crown +
 Early Childhood Funders'
 Collaborative/BUILD
 Tom Gimbel, LaSalle Network +
 Oscar G. & Elsa S. Mayer Family
 Foundation
 Northern Trust +
 Related Midwest +
 Muneer Satter & Kristen Hertel,
 The Satter Foundation +
 Uta Beauty +

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 David Friedman & Halee Sage +
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