The Auburn Gresham Neighborhood Network launched in 2016 with United Way of Metro Chicago coordinating efforts between The Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation and an additional ten social service agencies, all working to promote revitalization in the community. The network introduced the Auburn Gresham GOLD Initiative, which provides professional development and literacy supports for 5 schools, as well as expanded health services and workforce development training and job placement for parents.

### Table: Network Fund, Community Fund, Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Network Fund</th>
<th>Community Fund</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY18</td>
<td>$210,390</td>
<td>$103,700</td>
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<td>FY17</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>$62,500</td>
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</table>

### LEAD AGENCY
Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation

### COMMON AGENDA
To ensure early literacy training for children pre-K to 3rd grade and to provide families access to comprehensive social supports.

### BOLD GOAL
By 2027, 80% of 3rd grade students read at or above grade level.

### LOOKING BACK

Auburn Gresham’s development dates back to the early 1800s, when the area was defined primarily by small German and Dutch settlements.

In the 1920s, the population tripled from 20,000 to approximately 60,000 residents as developers used Auburn Gresham’s access to transportation to attract families from the working class neighborhoods of Bridgeport, Back of the Yards and Englewood who were escaping older and more congested sections of the city. Through the 1960s and 1970s, an upheaval spread by racism and red-lining caused Auburn Gresham to experience a drastic shift in the population, with white residents relocating to the North Side of the city. By the 1990s, the neighborhood was facing increased unemployment, depopulation, declining housing values and other issues.

photos courtesy of the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation
AUBURN GRESHAM BY-THE-NUMBERS

Total Population 45,842

Adults with high school diploma ........................................ 83%
Adults with college degree ..................................................... 14%

Median Household Income (2010) $29,389

Rate of home ownership ......................................................... 44%
Poverty rate ........................................................................ 30%
Extreme poverty rate .............................................................. 15%

Chicago Public Schools 12

Students enrolled ................................................................. 4,624
Student transfer rate .............................................................. 9%
Percentage of homeless students ............................................ 22%
Auburn Gresham GOLD schools .............................................. 5

Major Healthcare Facilities 6

Mental Health providers ...................................................... 2
School based health programs .............................................. 3
Federally Qualified Health Centers ........................................... 3

Neighborhood Network Partner Agencies 10

Focused on Education Services ................................................. 6
Focused on Financial Stability Services ..................................... 2
Focused on Health Services ...................................................... 2
Focused on Safety Net Services ................................................ 2

Unemployment Rate 26%

Top 5 employment sectors
Health Care/Social Assistance ............................................... 21%
Education ........................................................................... 11%
Retail .................................................................................. 10%
Administration ................................................................. 10%
Transportation ................................................................. 8%

LOOKING FORWARD

Auburn Gresham has made great strides toward reaching their bold goal of improving Kindergarten through 3rd grade students’ reading levels. The Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) has initiated Auburn Gresham GOLD, an improvement plan which targets academics in five neighborhood schools through professional development and literary support. The initiative also provides social services—such as expanded health access, including social-emotional support to over 1000 students, as well as workforce development training for 120 parents, resulting in job placement for 12 families. This initiative addresses the 11% student mobility rate head-on. Through a shift in policy, the same curriculum is now shared across all five schools, providing consistency for students who’ve moved. Other Auburn Gresham GOLD initiative highlights include:

- Created a network of teachers across five schools with coordinated efforts and shared resources to ensure kids are reading at grade level by 3rd grade
- Received a $100,000 grant for a school-based health center and satellite center at Cook Elementary
- Received a $75,000 grant for Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline, bringing high quality, culturally responsive teachers to Auburn Gresham GOLD schools
- Received a $5,000 grant for pop-up play space through Play Streets
- Launched Siemer Institute initiative to support consistent education for homeless children and support for their parents
- 50 students across five schools were selected to attend literacy camp
- Network staff presented at a national Collective Impact conference