

Theory of Change



HOME REGION PROGRAM: ARKANSAS-MISSISSIPPI DELTA

Education and Youth Engagement

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS

Residents need clear, accessible pathways to careers—and the education that makes those pathways possible. In the Delta today, many K–12 students lack awareness of and preparation for college and career opportunities—contributing to lower average lifetime earnings. Through 2030, we will work to expand access to college and career pathways, after-school options and public charter schools.

What we plan to do



Expand college and career pathways for youth.



Build out after-school programs.



Support public charter school expansion.

How we plan to do it



Support college and career pathway programs, after-school enrichment and charter school access to increase exposure and readiness.



Invest in after-school programs that provide social-emotional and academic enrichment and prepare students for college and career pathways.



Drawing from both locally-launched and proven national networks, fund more quality charter school options for all Delta students.

Why we do it



Gaps in student exposure and preparation for college and career contribute to lower earnings and limited opportunity across the region.

Charter schools can offer Delta families a free, public alternative to traditional schools, using innovative teaching methods and specialized programs. In return for greater flexibility, they are held to high academic standards. In many high-poverty communities, charter schools have contributed to stronger student achievement.



Creating a safe, supportive and consistent after-school environment can improve student performance and exposure to career and postsecondary opportunities. These programs help close opportunity gaps and better prepare youth for future success.

