



**3 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2023 - 2026**

**Creating platforms that
allow young people to see
their endless potential**



thesupportgroup.org

FOR INQUIRIES

info@thesupportgroup.org

(773) 231-7647

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Vision & Values
3. What We Do
4. Approach
5. Strategies



The Support Group (TSG) has a 34-year history of providing support to at risk youths in Chicago’s inner-city. TSG was founded during a period when the city was plagued by high crime and incarceration rates, drugs and gang violence and sought to provide an alternative to children.

TSG understood that sports is a universal language for youths and that for many it is seen as a ticket to a brighter future. TSG created basketball camps and strategically integrated education and character-building within the program.

TSG is committed to furthering its cause of providing unwavering support and resources that are needed now more than ever.

We are thrilled to share The Support Group’s (TSG’s) current three -year strategic plan, which focuses on our program expansion efforts to provide even more support to young people and our communities. Over the next three years we plan to aggressively address the future of work for our youths.



We intend to fight teen homelessness for DCFS transitioning youths. We will deepen our commitment to safe, peaceful communities to combat the rise in gun violence and the recent crime episodes committed by youths downtown Chicago.

We will strive to improve overall wellness, tackling the mental health crisis impacting our young people. We will focus on financial health through financial literacy and legacy building. We will address physical health with a focus on nutrition education. Finally, we will improve our internal operational effectiveness to ensure sustainability and greater impact.

The threat of cuts to critical funding for social programs is not lost on us and we intend to proactively rethink our approach to engaging donors and stakeholders to secure long term sustainability. TSG intends to meet the moment head on.

As we confront this unprecedented period in our nation's history, we know that the challenges ahead are many and will require greater focus and deeper and more expansive partnerships.

We remain optimistic about the goodness of humanity and the recognition that we are stronger together. We look forward to working with all of you and charting an amazing path forward.

We are confident that together we can establish meaningful solutions to the challenges and produce innovative ideas to create even more opportunities for our youths, so that they can meet the future with confidence, preparedness and optimism.

VISION & VALUES

The Support Group is committed to providing opportunities to inner city youths creating pathways to success. TSG envisions a future filled with thriving young men and women from inner cities across our nation who despite their circumstances not only beat the odds but demonstrate that success is achievable when opportunities are provided. TSG stands ready to transform inner cities nationwide.

To achieve this vision, we must continuously reimagine programs that ensure resources and opportunities for the less fortunate. We must solicit the support of residents, corporations, organizations and government agencies to help us eliminate barriers to opportunities and forge the support necessary to deliver on our values of:

- ❖ **COMPASSION**
- ❖ **DIGNITY**
- ❖ **EQUITY**
- ❖ **RESPECT**
- ❖ **EXCELLENCE**





WHAT WE DO

We improve the lives of inner-city youths by creating impactful programs that prepare them for life's challenges while building character and the skills needed for success.



WE INFORM

Raise awareness around issues that impact youths within inner-city communities.

Share knowledge with community members enabling them to participate in shaping the future of their communities.



WE CONNECT

Build and liaise with political and social advocates aligned with the issues we support.

Attract and seek out diverse people to help us solve important problems and generate amazing ideas.

WE DELIVER

Collaborate with the best leaders in multiple disciplines to deliver the most impactful programming.

Expand our reach by partnering with schools within our communities to implement scalable programs.

Ensure a successful future for youths providing the tools and resources necessary for resilience, becoming the best advocates for change.



OUR APPROACH



The Support Group will:

- Bring national awareness to our programs and impact and ultimately expand our impact statewide and nationally
- Expand our programs to broaden our support for youths
- Engage communities on a deeper level solidifying ambassadors of TSG while creating strong connections within communities.
- Develop our internal structure to create capacity to perform this important transformation.
- Bolster our funding sources with partnerships and advocates.



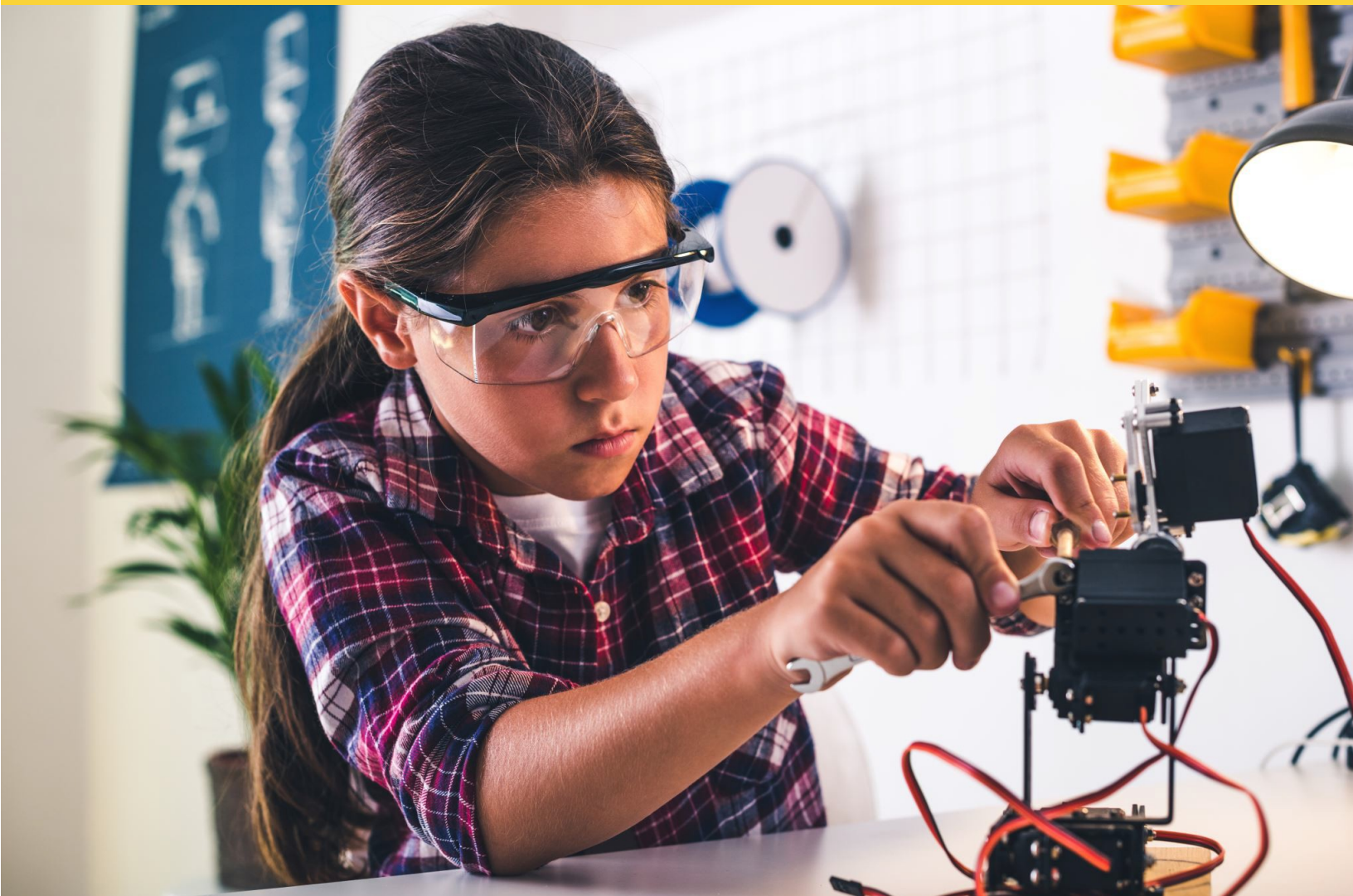
**OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS
[2023-26], THE SUPPORT GROUP
WILL IMPROVE THE LIVES OF
INNER-CITY YOUTHS USING THE
FOLLOWING STRATEGIES:**

STRATEGY 1:

Launch our Workforce Engagement Program

Design a multi-faceted facility that provides training to youths between ages 18 and 24 to enter or re-enter the workforce with the skills necessary to meet the needs of the future, skilled in the following professions:

- **Culinary Arts**
- **Computer & Systems Programming**
- **Healthcare**
- **Logistics and Transportation**
- **Plumbing**
- **Construction**



STRATEGY 2:

Implement wellness programs with a focus on mental health solutions to help youths improve their mental wellness.

Partner with federally qualified health centers to provide accessible mental health care and wellness to youths in need.

- Facilitate healthy discussions about wellness and self-care in various environments.
- Provide mentoring and coaching sessions to help build self-esteem and confidence while creating awareness of the impact of social media on youths.



STRATEGY 3:

Provide housing that will strategically support DCFS emancipated young adults.

This initiative will also benefit young adults in the justice system or those simply in need of transitional support.

- Forge partnerships to acquire properties that will provide critical housing support to youths.
- Bolster awareness within communities of housing accessibility and implement transition plans.



STRATEGY 4:

Improve safety within the Chicago metropolitan area by expanding the Youth Peace Ambassador program within Chicago schools and communities.

- Increase the number of inner-city schools participating in the Youth Peace Ambassador program to improve cooperation and reduce conflict.
- Partner with police departments to build trust and understanding between law enforcement and youths to improve relations and begin to create safer communities.
- Launch peace walk while hosting continuous training sessions to youths on conflict resolution and avoidance.



STRATEGY 5:

Improve the financial wellbeing of families and expand financial growth and equity for generations.

- Educate families on legacy building and asset protection to help improve the lives of their loved ones, creating opportunities to thrive financially.
- Launch financial wellness training and education to ensure successful decision-making and outcomes.
- Establish partnership with financial institution to ensure access to banking accounts for our students.



STRATEGY 6:

Strengthen TSG's internal operations

- Support a positive workplace culture that espouses our shared values, purpose and trust where staff feels valued and inspired to deliver excellence doing what they love.
- Strengthen internal operations creating efficiencies to meet our demands with the adoption of technology and automation allowing staff to focus on those we serve.
- Install shared communication tool to ensure consistent messaging in strategic communications and shared resources.
- Strengthen and grow our financial viability to sustain our programs by building individual donor contributions and implementing fee-for-service initiatives.



Life's persistent and most urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

- Martin Luther King

