01 BACKGROUND
Thrive Chicago (www.thrivechi.org) creates collaborative networks of people and data that drive innovation so all of Chicago’s young people can Thrive.

Thrive deploys a set of four key capabilities:

- Convening and connecting public and private partners in the youth sector
- Elevating research and data that identifies the city’s areas of greatest need and best practices to address those needs
- Co-designing innovative solutions with community partners
- Strategizing to systemically fund the most impactful solutions

02 THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL AGE STRATEGIES WILL LEAD THRIVE IN:

Being a Valued Thought Leader for School Age Partners

As a senior member of Thrive Chicago’s dynamic and growing team, the Director of School Age Strategies will engage a broad group of Thrive Chicago’s executive and programmatic stakeholders to inform strategy development and lead day-to-day operationalization of Thrive’s new School Age portfolio.

This role is responsible for developing and maintaining key executive level relationships to ensure that collective strategies are successfully executed, for ensuring that the strategies are data- and research-informed, and for broadly communicating successes and challenges to continuously refine collective strategies. The start-up mode demands an entrepreneurial staff that thrives in creating something new and ambitious and celebrates the power found when human, financial and institutional resources and leadership are rallied toward a common goal. This role will report to Thrive’s Chief Strategy Officer.

POSITION DESCRIPTION
Thrive Chicago seeks to hire a thought leader to serve as the newly developed, executive level Director of School Age Strategies to use the levers of collaboration and data to drive social emotional learning outcomes and to bring more high-quality learning opportunities to children in their neighborhoods.
Driving Collective Action

This role will convene key school age stakeholders to identify data-informed focus areas, co-design collective solutions, raise funding and test and scale effective solutions. There are currently three overlapping area of focus:

- **Social Emotional Learning**: Thrive, in partnership with Chicago Public Schools and Communities In Schools of Chicago, led a collective strategy to build an ecosystem of educators, nonprofit professionals, youth, and their families that are equipped to support the social-emotional learning (SEL) skill development of Chicago’s youth. The shared vision is for Chicago’s youth to have access to engaging learning opportunities both in and outside the classroom that enable young people to develop the critical SEL skills they need to succeed in college, career, and life. With grant funding from national funders, the Director of School Age Strategies, will lead the citywide community of practice and work collaboratively with its partners to co-design and lead SEL professional development for this ecosystem and ultimately measure its impact.

- **Learning Hubs**: This role would lead another, related collective impact strategy with Thrive’s partners to launch “learning hubs” across Chicago. The Director of School Age strategies will lead a group of stakeholders, both citywide and neighborhood based, who share the vision that every student in Chicago have the opportunity to thrive in a world class learning hub in their neighborhood. These neighborhood-based learning hubs will help coordinate community assets (e.g. afterschool programs, SEL, health and parent supports, etc.) to accelerate learning and to mitigate barriers to learning with the goal of graduating more students ready to be successful in the local and global economy.

- **Thrive Data Partnership**: The Director of School Age strategies will work very closely with Thrive’s data team that drives the Thrive Data Partnership. The Thrive Data Partnership is a group of 25+ community providers (e.g. out of school time partners) that gain real-time access to a dynamic dashboard of close to 50 various academic indicators, including attendance and grades, so that they can be better partners to school leaders by more specifically addressing student needs. The plan is to expand to over 100 partners over the next several years, adding new academic and program information and dashboard views to support student growth. The Director will help connect this group of stakeholders to broader Thrive school-aged goals, including a focus on SEL supports and coordinating with learning hubs mentioned above.

Additional work streams may be undertaken over time and the Director will work closely with stakeholders and the Thrive Chicago team to ensure that all Thrive Chicago’s school age-focused work is data-informed, outcome-driven, implements a continuous improvement process, and aligns with the overall organizational mission.

03 QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

In any new enterprise, start-up staff must excel in a fluid environment, innovate on the fly, and be willing to take on tasks as needed to move forward. Thrive Chicago is no exception. Successful candidates will have the following qualifications and characteristics:

- A passion for systems change, community organizing, coalition building and strategic work
- Excel in a fast paced, challenging and shifting landscape of challenges
- Proactive leadership in being able to make the position ‘your own’ and contribute beyond the job requirements
- Excellent writing and verbal communication skills, with an ability to communicate complex information clearly and effectively
- Able to quickly and creatively solve problems with incomplete information
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to develop productive relationships with stakeholders across functional and organizational lines
- Able to keep many priorities in motion, constantly seeking out information to advance key projects and tasks forward with a deep focus on details and accuracy
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate strategic conversations among diverse groups of stakeholders to achieve a common outcome and agreed upon results
• Exceptional analytical skills with an ability to draw insightful conclusions from large amounts of qualitative and quantitative data and apply continuous improvement practices to the work of the Working Group
• Demonstrated ability to manage the scope, requirements, deliverables, timeline, and resource needs of complex, multi-stakeholder projects. Knowledge of project management fundamentals and experience managing projects are essential
• At least 5-7 years of senior-level experience and demonstrated success in business development and fundraising proficiency in designing both digital and print fundraising materials and presentations
• Advanced skills in Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint required. Experience with data visualization technique and applications preferred
• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university required.
• Experience and existing relationships within Chicago’s education systems is preferable

04 COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
Salary and benefits will be competitive and commensurate with experience.

05 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
Please submit a resume/CV and cover letter to info@thrivechi.org with YOUR LAST NAME and “Director of School Age Strategies” in subject line. We will review applications on a rolling basis, so it is to your advantage to apply as soon as possible.

Thrive Chicago believes in equal employment opportunities for all, regardless of color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or any other legally protected classification. Thrive’s policy is to hire and promote the most qualified applicants and to comply with all federal, state and local equal employment opportunity laws.