UNITED WAY OF METRO CHICAGO
NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK INITIATIVE



BRONZEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Bronzeville Neighborhood Network, led by Bright Star Community Outreach (BSCO), was formed in 2015 with a coalition of 10 agency partners. BSCO has since completed their "Community Action Plan," which outlines a strategy to bring committed community stakeholders to the table to address the neighborhood's most pressing needs and implement change in workforce development.

Between 1910 and 1920 during the Great Migration, Bronzeville became home to African Americans who had fled Jim Crow South in search of industrial jobs and a better life. By 1950, Bronzeville was an epicenter for Black art, literature, music, and business. Many influential African Americans called Bronzeville home, including Ida B. Wells, Nat King Cole, Louis Armstrong, and Gwendolyn Brooks. With the rise of the civil rights movement and the dismantling of segregation in the late 1950s, many African American families left Bronzeville for less crowded neighborhoods with better housing and schools. Bronzeville's population declined by more than 75% between 1950 and 2000, and much of the community's economic base was lost. Today, neighborhood groups and businesses are working to reinvest in this dynamic community.

LEAD AGENCY

Bright Star Community Outreach

COMMUNITY VISION

Increase access to services and opportunities that reduce violence and increase healthy living for both youth and adults in the Bronzeville community

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES: A DUAL APPROACH IN BRONZEVILLE



NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK IN ACTION

Bronzeville Neighborhood Network lead agency Bright Star Community Outreach has built a foundation for strong growth.

- The Network has created a framework that includes a **comprehensive community action plan** that focuses on four areas: violence prevention, trauma-informed care, education, and workforce development.
- Bronzeville is committed to **bringing all necessary partners to the table**—schools, social service agencies, faith community leaders, businesses, law enforcement, and political officials—to address the community's biggest challenges through the multi-pronged approach by the year 2027.



COALITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Launched the Access United initiative in conjunction with the Chicago Federation of Labor to identify residents who want to work in the construction trades
- Developed the Greater Bronzeville Community Action Plan handbook as an engagement framework aligning new and existing partners around the Network's bold goals
- Opened the TURN Center, a community hub with wrap-around services in education, health and wellness, and job training



> *"Real transformation begins when we work together around a common vision for our community. The Greater Bronzeville Neighborhood Network understands our assignment because we remain committed to listening, learning, and responding to the needs of those we serve."*



LAKRESHIA KINDRED
Executive Director,
Bright Star Community Outreach



JOIN US! Together, we can build neighborhoods like Bronzeville stronger. Direct your United Way gift to **"Neighborhood Networks"** to be a part of this critical strategy. Learn more at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/neighborhood-networks**

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