

Thrive2027 is a community commitment to achieving three 10-year goals to drive measurable and meaningful change in Greater Portland.

- Goal 1: More children have a strong start so that they are reading at grade level by the end of third grade,
- Goal 2: More people have the education and employment opportunities they need so that they can afford to live and work here, and
- Goal 3: More of our neighbors live longer, healthier lives.

## THE CHALLENGE

Our community came together because, despite our best efforts, improvements are not happening quickly enough or reaching as deeply or widely as we need. Too many in Greater Portland are struggling. It is clear that we need more people from all sectors at the table collaborating at a large scale to build a thriving community for us all.

There are many important programs and initiatives with the goal of improving lives in Greater Portland. The challenge is that they are often disconnected and sometimes conflicting with one another, and working within the silos of their respective area of expertise.

We cannot expect only the “experts” to address all of the education, financial stability, and health issues in our community, nor can we expect to find simple solutions. Complex, interconnected challenges require coordinated community action in order for us to take full advantage of our human capital.

## THE APPROACH

Thrive2027 integrates efforts so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It brings organizations and individuals together in new, networked ways across sectors with the understanding that we can’t address complex issues in silos. **The focus is on solving problems through deliberate, coordinated community action.**

Thrive2027 does not replace the important programs and services in our community. Instead, it integrates work so our region can:

- Identify needs and gaps using objective data to target solutions
- Convene influential players from across sectors
- Develop and implement research-based strategies
- Leverage and maximize limited resources
- Track and transparently share progress toward goals

United Way of Greater Portland serves as the backbone organization – acting as an “orchestra conductor” and an engine that drives the initiative forward – to ensure community partners align efforts, progress is measured, work is facilitated and evaluated, and everyone remains focused on the shared vision.

## JOIN US

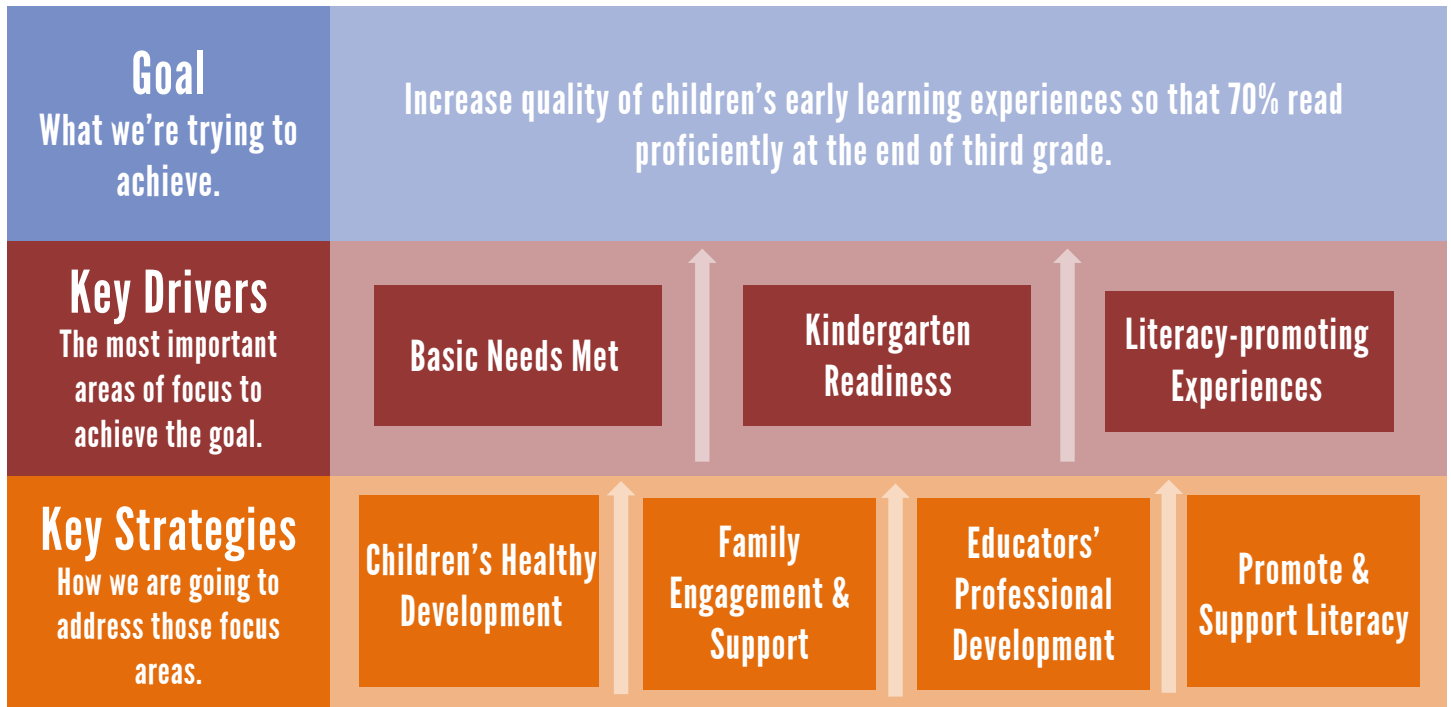
**We need you. Your involvement is our most powerful resource.** Behind all our work, there are those who get involved in big and small ways to ensure a better future for our community.

With businesses, nonprofits, government, schools, funders, and individuals at the table, together, we can align and activate people, processes, and resources for the highest impact. This is the kind of leadership our community needs and the kind of collaboration that will make sustainable impact for our community.

**Tell us what you are already doing** (for example, corporate social responsibility, programmatic work, volunteer initiatives, population health goals) **or that you would like to do.**



## GOAL 1



### Count us in to Increase Quality Early Education

#### Children's Healthy Development

80% of brain development happens between birth and three years old. Strategies in this area focus on a child's development, including healthy physical development, nurturing relationships, and exposure to language and interactions.

#### Family Engagement & Support

Families are a child's most influential environment for learning and growing. Parents and caregivers benefit from information about how to best support a developing mind and body. They may also need resources to become stable in a way that will provide the best environment for a child. These resources can include housing, counseling, food, and job opportunities.

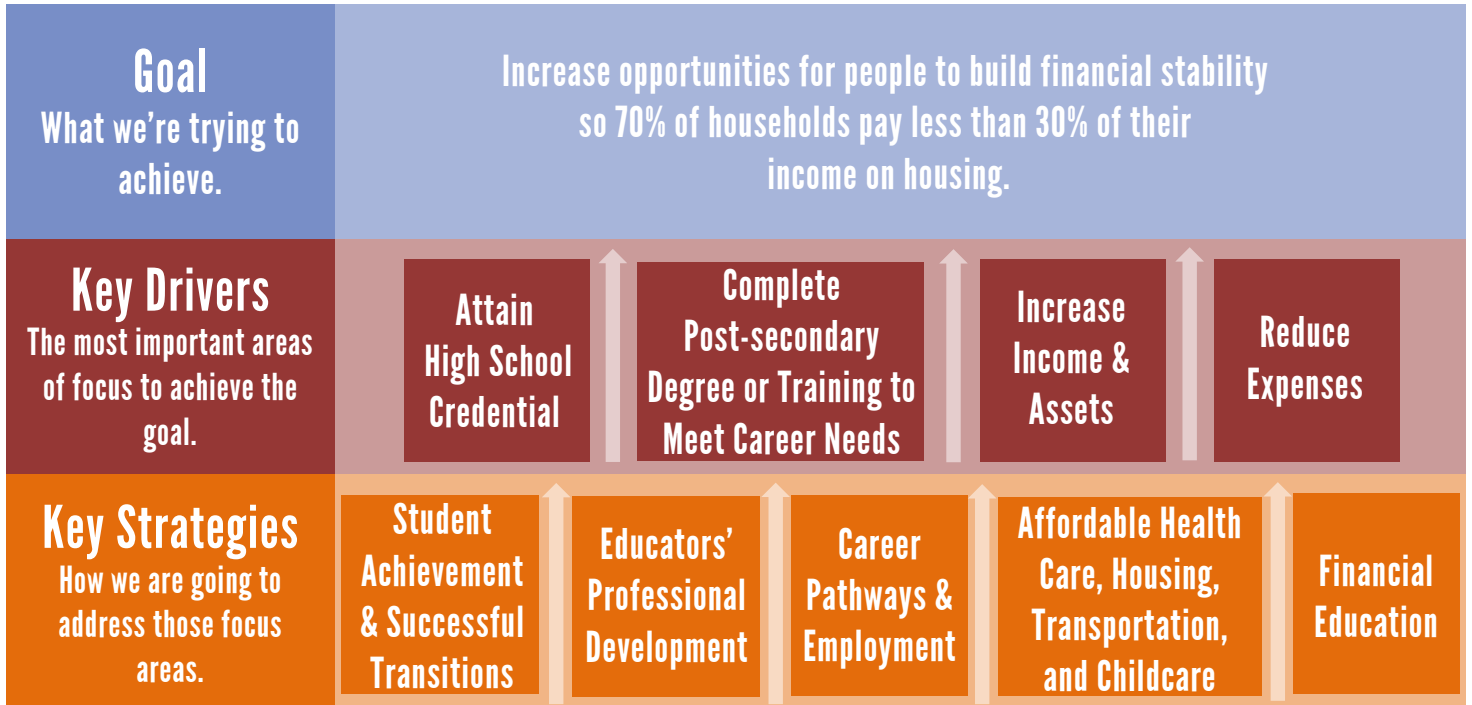
#### Educators' Professional Development

A high-quality learning environment is a significant influence on a child's optimal development. Educators and care providers in every setting must have access to information about how to best support the children they have in their care.

#### Promote & Support Literacy

Literacy development can happen in every setting in which a child learns, lives, and plays. Strategies in this area focus on providing information and resources to engage every child all the time in productive learning environments designed to meet their needs and enhance literacy.

## GOAL 2



### Count us in to Ensure More People Can Afford to Live & Work Here

#### Student Achievement & Successful Transitions

Student achievement and success strategies encompass best practices that will improve student outcomes including family engagement, mentoring, early college experiences, and support during critical transitions from middle school to high school, high school to college, and during the first-year of college.

#### Educators' Professional Development

A high-quality learning environment is a significant influence on youth development. Educators and care providers in every setting must have access to information about how to best support the youth they serve.

#### Career Pathways & Employment

Ensuring that individuals have multiple opportunities to identify and secure meaningful employment and have the necessary supports and credentials to be financially stable. In addition, employers have more access to qualified employees.

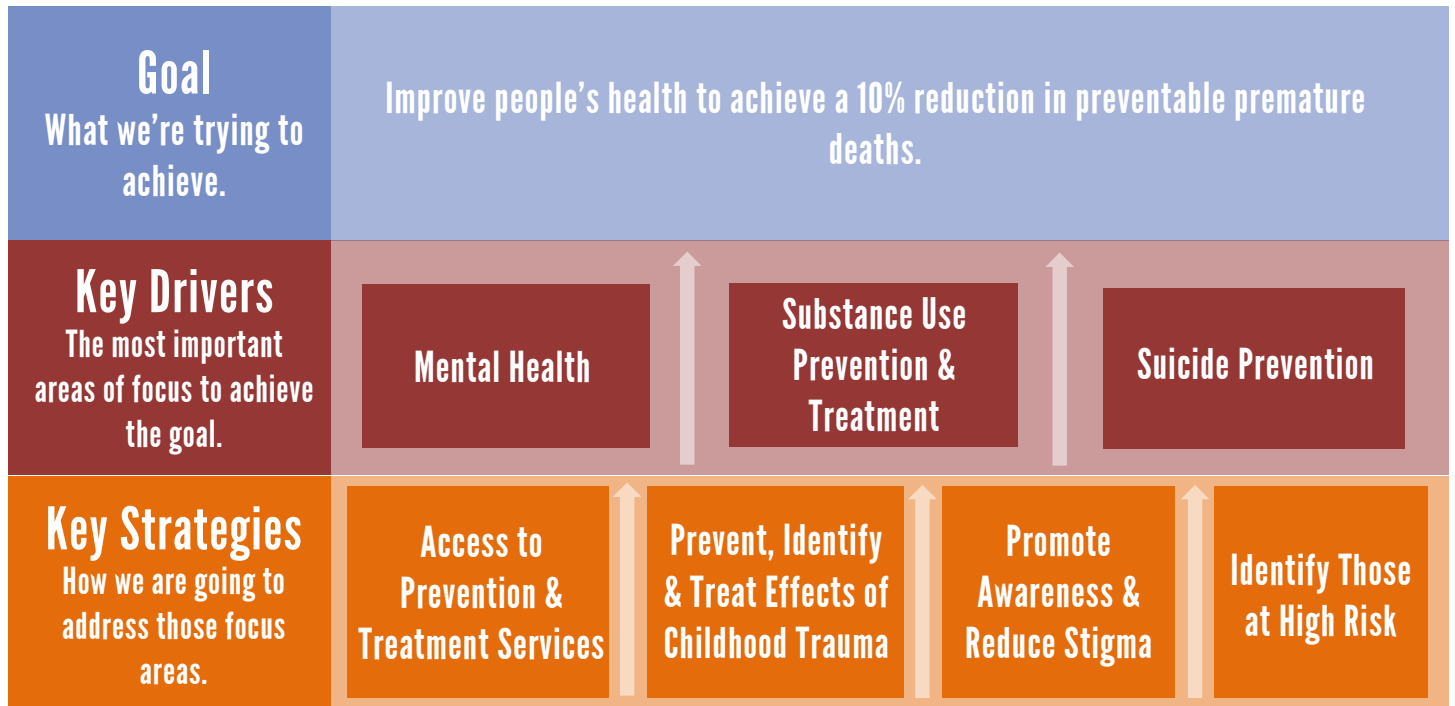
#### Affordable Health Care, Housing, Transportation, and Childcare

Strategies focus on affordable goods and services because having manageable expenses impacts a household's ability to generate disposable income to build emergency savings and create long-term assets for financial stability.

#### Financial Education

Supporting both youth and adult development of strong financial practices to promote aspirations and long-term financial well-being, and also ensuring that individuals have access to programs and services for which they qualify.

## GOAL 3



### Count us in to Ensure More People Live Longer, Healthier Lives

#### Access to Prevention & Treatment Services

These strategies focus on strengthening access to and delivery of health care so that people are better able to address their physical and behavioral health needs.

#### Prevent, Identify & Treat Effects of Childhood Trauma

Research shows that Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma have a profound impact on individual's health across the life span. Those who experience unmitigated ACEs have higher rates of mental illness, substance use disorder, and chronic disease such as heart disease and diabetes. As such, strategies will focus on preventing, identifying, mitigating, and treating ACEs.

#### Promote Awareness & Reduce Stigma

To reduce drug induced deaths and deaths by suicide we need a supportive community that reduces access to (and prevents use of) substances, promotes connectedness, and teaches coping and problem solving skills to enable individuals to tackle challenges, stress, and adversity.

#### Identify Those at High Risk

To reduce premature death we need to identify those at highest risk and support them. This includes knowing the warning signs, providing crisis intervention, and treatment by providing supports for individuals, families, and friends.