



PANDEMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Since 2014, the Bold Goals Coalition has served as a resource to help our community come together to improve our community’s biggest problems. Over 200 organizations have engaged in developing and implementing strategies to help us achieve more collectively than we can individually. To increase our impact in 2021, we are focusing our attention on a few priority issues where we believe we can see measurable improvements by the end of 2021.

The local needs related to **Hunger Relief, Mental and Behavioral Health, Child Care and Early Education** and **Student Academic Support** continue to expand due to the COVID-19 pandemic and require enhanced collaboration across many organizations, cities, school districts and communities.

Our mission as a Coalition is to find solutions and see results. As we work in these key areas, **we will keep equity central to our work** and focus our attention on communities most directly affected by health and education disparities. Our goal is to utilize the Coalition to bring enhanced public attention to these issues, launch innovative programs to address them directly and advocate for policy changes to solve our community’s biggest problems.

HUNGER RELIEF

REDUCE FOOD INSECURITY RATES WITHIN CENTRAL ALABAMA BY 10%

Unemployment and food insecurity rates have grown sharply due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and estimates are that more than **54 million Americans may face hunger in 2020, a 46% increase from 2019**. Locally, the number of people visiting food pantries and food distribution sites **increased from 73,000 in July 2019 to 136,000 in July 2020**.

We will work to enhance and expand current meal delivery and food distribution programs to create a coordinated network that can meet needs throughout Central Alabama and ensure no one goes hungry.

EXPAND BY 50% THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN RECEIVING MEALS WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT

74,394 students in Central Alabama receive Free and Reduced meals during the school year, but they face challenges receiving those meals when school is out. Only 10% of Alabama students who receive Free and Reduced meals at school access meals through similar programs when school is not in session.

68,000 Children
in Central Alabama are food insecure.

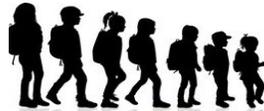
The Coalition has played a leadership role in expanding summer meal sites to ensure children have access to food when they are not in school. Since 2017, **18 new meal sites have launched and served 1,705 children daily in 2019**. That work has the potential to further expand throughout the region through partnerships with school districts, youth development providers and others to ensure children can access meals anytime they are out of school.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT

ENROLL 1,000 ADDITIONAL STUDENTS IN ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Studies have shown that children reading below grade level at the end of 3rd grade are at greater risk of failing to complete high school, of being severely underemployed and incarcerated. The academic disruptions for many students due to the pandemic only magnify the need for students to have the academic support they need through quality **after-school and summer enrichment programs** that enhance their school-based learning. Through the **Bold Goals Academy** program, we are expanding the

**48% of 3rd Graders
in Central Alabama
are reading at grade level.**



reach of proven youth development programs into communities and schools across the region to ensure that more students have the resources they need to get caught up.

MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

ENSURE 5,000 ADDITIONAL STUDENTS RECEIVE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

The Bold Goals Coalition is committed to addressing students' mental health needs by working with area school districts to provide comprehensive school-based strategies. The social isolation, missed milestones, health fears and economic challenges over the past year have only enhanced a mental health crisis that was already overwhelming in scope. Implementing practices such as **mental health training for staff, screening tools to assess the mental health needs of students and direct counseling and mentoring services** to help school districts build environments that support the needs of all students.

CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

500 ADDITIONAL CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN ALABAMA'S FIRST CLASS PRE-K PROGRAM

The most critical time of development in a child's life is the first few years. Quality early education programs provide a solid foundation for children that enhance their school readiness and benefit long-term academic performance and life success. The pandemic has also illustrated how early education programs and institutions are a critical element of an equitable, thriving work force.

The Bold Goals Coalition is working to increase early education availability in Central Alabama and expand access to Alabama's First Class Pre-K program to help more children receive the early support they need to be successful in school and beyond.



**Only 37% of four-year-olds in
Alabama have access to a First
Class Pre-K Program**

**The Bold Goals Coalition is 200 organizations solving big
community problems by aligning partners, resources and agendas.**