

## Pathways Impact Fund FAQ

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### 1. What is the Pathways Impact Fund?

The Pathways Impact Fund, catalyzed by StriveTogether, is a national organization designed to accelerate the growth of high-quality pathways by investing in regional intermediaries that connect education and workforce systems. By supporting intermediaries through grants, strategic advising, and a national field-building collaborative, the Pathways Impact Fund works to scale strategies and models that provide students with high-quality advising, accelerated coursework, career-connected learning and cultivate students' sense of purpose, belonging, and social capital. This coordinated effort, informed by the work of the [Commission on Purposeful Pathways](#), aims to build on national momentum and leadership to ensure more students are engaged in high-quality pathways, accumulate credentials of value, and are on a path toward economic mobility.

#### 2. Why is StriveTogether catalyzing the Pathways Impact Fund?

StriveTogether's work is centered around helping youth meet seven key milestones from cradle to career, ensuring they have the opportunities needed to reach their goals. The work of the Pathways Impact Fund is anchored in the final four milestones. Insights and frameworks developed through the Pathways Impact Fund will inform and strengthen efforts across StriveTogether's Cradle to Career Network and beyond, helping communities scale high-quality pathways that improve postsecondary outcomes and accelerate economic mobility for young people.

#### 3. How does the Pathways Impact Fund work with partners in the field?

The Pathways Impact Fund supports pathways partners by equipping regional intermediaries with the funding, tools, and supports they need to scale high-quality pathways that expand student access to good jobs and economic mobility.

It does this in three primary ways:

**Grantmaking:** The Fund has a goal of investing more than \$25 million in advanced regional intermediary organizations—such as nonprofits, workforce boards, colleges, chambers of commerce, and other cross-sector conveners—that are ready to scale. These multi-year grants help communities streamline and expand funding while accelerating progress toward a shared goal: engaging 25,000 more students in high-quality pathways that lead to credentials of value and economic mobility.

**The Pathways Impact Collaborative:** In Spring 2026, the Pathways Impact Fund will launch the Pathways Impact Collaborative, a national learning community bringing together regional intermediaries and their cross-sector partners committed to ensuring all young people are on pathways with purpose. The Collaborative supports regional pathways intermediaries and their partners, with intermediaries serving as the lead membership organization.

**Supporting the Adoption of Public Goods through a Resource Hub** (launching in 2026): The Pathways Impact Fund will launch a Resource Hub, a curated platform featuring tools, frameworks, and virtual courses to help intermediaries design, implement, and scale high-quality pathways.

#### **4. What is the Pathways Impact Fund’s grantmaking strategy and timeline?**

The Pathways Impact Fund led a closed request for proposals (RFP) process in Fall 2025 and made a subsequent initial round of investments in January 2026 to five regional pathways intermediaries. These investments were announced in February 2026.

The Pathways Impact Fund will launch an open RFP process in Summer 2026. Organizations must meet the following criteria to be eligible for a Pathways Impact Fund grant:

- Operate as a regional/state intermediary (nonprofit, fiscal sponsor, collaborative, or public-private partnership).
- Convene cross-sector partners across K–12, postsecondary, workforce, employers, and government.
- Demonstrate evidence of student success and commitment to serve all students
- Have or are developing formal governance (org chart, organization strategy plan, any governance agreement with your pathways partners – e.g. charter MOU, etc.).
- Show credible capacity to scale pathways to at least 1,700–2,500 new students (preference 5,000+) over three years.
- Demonstrate engagement with enabling conditions (e.g. a strong vision, governance structure that works across agencies, connected data systems, diverse funding sources, supportive state policies and employer activities) and alignment to drive programmatic delivery.
- Ability to build and/or lead cross-sector data systems that support continuous improvement, including:
  - Linking data across K-12, postsecondary, and workforce partners
  - Using disaggregated outcome data to identify and address inequities
  - Facilitating partner use of data for decision-making, improvement, and accountability

The grantmaking strategy beyond 2026 is to be determined.

**Questions?** Contact Julia di Bonaventura, Senior Director, Programs and Strategy, Pathways Impact Fund ([Julia.dibonaventura@strivetogogether.org](mailto:Julia.dibonaventura@strivetogogether.org))

To learn more about the Pathways Impact Fund and to stay connected, visit [pathwaysimpactfund.org](https://pathwaysimpactfund.org).