



# We Help Place-Based Organizations Achieve Their Goals and Accelerate Their Impact

Young people's futures aren't shaped just by their families or schools; their communities matter a lot, too. Evidence shows that a young person's social network can be a stronger predictor of economic mobility than their individual family's circumstances. Place-based partnerships — in which local residents and organizations from different sectors collaborate — serve to strengthen and sustain relationships between young people and their communities.

## Our Approach

**Bellwether envisions a future where *all* young people have access to an excellent education and live lives filled with opportunity.** We're a nonprofit that has helped more than 600 organizations — including school districts, charter schools, government agencies, nonprofits, and foundations — in over 30 states address their most pressing issues and achieve their goals. In 2024, more than one-quarter of our work was focused outside the K-12 education system. We apply our team's deep education experience and expertise in place-based work to serve more young people across the country. Here's how:

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### Strategic Planning

We develop tailored strategic plans for place-based partners and intermediaries that help them set priorities, define their goals, and improve how they operate.

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### Landscape Analysis

We provide in-depth, data-driven analyses of community demographics, assets, and policy trends to help clients set the right priorities.

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### Implementation Support

We work with place-based organizations to define clear roles, responsibilities, and structures so they can put their plans into action.

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### Partnership Facilitation

We help organizations collaborate with one another to achieve results.

# Our Work in Action

## **Mobile Area Education Foundation (Alabama)**

Since 2023, Bellwether has partnered with the Mobile Area Education Foundation (MAEF) to create a multiyear vision of success, including a strategic plan for its Youth Success Partnership initiative. Through a collective impact model, the Youth Success Partnership seeks to ensure that all young people in Mobile County, Alabama, are equipped to achieve their goals. Bellwether's collaboration with MAEF includes facilitation of conversations among community members, helping them align on shared goals around pre-K through Grade 12 education, health care access, and postsecondary workforce development.

## **Partners for Rural Impact (Nationwide)**

In 2017, Bellwether helped Partners for Rural Impact (PRI) create its first strategic plan, shape its vision, and launch as an independent national nonprofit. Since then, our team has provided strategic and tactical advice to PRI to help it develop new educational leadership structures and serve more individuals. Now the leading place-based rural nonprofit in the country, PRI has increased its revenue by more than 60% since its inception and continues to transform communities across rural America.

## **UP Partnership (Texas)**

In 2020, Bellwether partnered with UP Partnership to launch its Equitable Enrollment Collaborative (EEC), a San Antonio nonprofit dedicated to improving postsecondary student outcomes. Our team helped the EEC refine its data model and develop an institutional coaching approach. As a result, EEC created actionable strategies and built partnerships within the community that have increased postsecondary enrollment for young people across the San Antonio metro region.

## **William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone (Maryland)**

In 2024, Bellwether helped the William Julius Wilson Institute (WJWI) implement the ENOUGH Act in Maryland — a signature piece of legislation designed to increase statewide place-based partnerships. Our team worked with WJWI to develop a coordinated approach that supported ENOUGH Act funding recipients across Maryland.



***To learn more about Bellwether's work with place-based organizations, get in touch at [contactus@bellwether.org](mailto:contactus@bellwether.org).***