



FULL REPORT

THE ECONOMIC MOBILITY IMPACT OF BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE GREATER TRIAD



Introduction

The Triad stands at a pivotal moment.

Across High Point, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Asheboro, Burlington, and the surrounding region, tens of thousands of young people are growing up in communities where opportunity is uneven and economic mobility is increasingly difficult to achieve. Poverty, low literacy rates, chronic absenteeism, mental health challenges, and juvenile justice involvement have quietly become economic challenges

A 20-Year Economic Forecast of the Future Ready Triad Model

—not just educational ones. These indicators affect the long-term health, vitality, and competitiveness of our region.

As the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Triad (BGCTriad) transitions from a city-based organization to a regional movement—expanding from five locations and 2,000 youth to more than **7,500–9,000 youth served annually by 2030**—the question becomes increasingly clear:

What is the economic value of transforming the life trajectories of thousands of young people across the Triad?

This report answers that question by quantifying the economic impact of BGCTriad’s **Future Ready** model—a comprehensive continuum that blends academic intervention, athletic excellence, social-emotional learning, mentoring, leadership development, workforce readiness, and a region-wide expansion strategy. The analysis demonstrates how the integrated Academics + Athletics model, developed in partnership with **Beyond Sports NC (BSNC)**, will generate billions in long-term regional economic benefit.

This is more than youth development.

This is an economic transformation.

The Triad’s Challenge Landscape

Youth Poverty

Child poverty rates across the Triad remain stubbornly high:

- Alamance County: 13.8%
- Asheboro: 27.6%
- Davidson County: 26.6%
- Forsyth County: 25.8%
- Greensboro: 23.0%
- Guilford County: 21.7%
- High Point: 21.2%
- Rockingham County: 12.1%
- Winston-Salem: 32.7%

In several neighborhoods—particularly in East Greensboro, South High Point, and areas of Winston-Salem—poverty rates for children exceed 35%. Poverty is one of the strongest predictors of lower literacy, higher absenteeism, reduced lifetime earnings, and increased justice involvement.

Literacy and Academic Preparedness

Third-grade reading proficiency is one of the strongest predictors of future economic mobility. Across the Triad:

- Too many students enter fourth grade behind in reading.
- Academic gaps widen rapidly for low-income students.
- Middle school disengagement affects high school transitions.
- NC courts often use third-grade reading trends to forecast future incarceration needs.

Low literacy today becomes low earnings tomorrow.

Chronic Absenteeism

The Triad—like many regions across NC—faces alarming chronic absenteeism rates:

- Many schools report 20–30% chronic absenteeism.
- Students who miss more than 10% of the year are significantly more likely to fail core subjects, repeat grades, or drop out.
- Dropouts earn \$10,000–\$15,000 less annually and contribute less in taxes.

Youth who attend Clubs consistently (3–5 days per week) show dramatic improvements in school-day attendance.

Juvenile Justice Trends

Regional data shows a troubling increase:

- Juvenile arrests increased **10% in 2023**.
- Over **50%** involved repeat offenders.

The public cost of a single juvenile justice-involved youth often exceeds **\$250,000–\$750,000** over their lifetime.

Workforce Mismatch

Triad employers consistently report shortages in:

- Healthcare
- Advanced manufacturing
- Technology
- Construction
- Logistics
- Education
- Recreation and fitness

Without a strong youth-to-career pipeline, these gaps will widen.

Insufficient Out-of-School-Time Options

Across the region:

- Quality OST programs are at capacity.
- Pay-to-play athletics exclude low-income youth.
- Transportation barriers limit access.
- Teen engagement options are scarce.

The need for accessible, high-impact OST programming far exceeds supply.

The Future Ready Solution

BGCTriad's strategic expansion responds directly to the region's challenges by establishing a **multi-city, multi-site system** aligned with the BGCA Future Ready Framework.

By 2030, BGCTriad will include:

- **25–30 sites** spanning High Point, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, Burlington, Asheboro, and additional communities
- 7,500–9,000 youth annually
- A workforce of **600–750 employees**
- Integrated academic and athletic programming
- A premier, regional **Beyond Sports League**
- Evidence-based literacy and math programming
- Trauma-informed staff and environments
- Career and workforce readiness pathways
- Strong partnerships with schools, city governments, employers, and BSNC

Academics + Athletics: The Engine of Impact

The Academics + Athletics model is the cornerstone of the Future Ready strategy.

Why Athletics Is a Powerful Economic Lever

Research shows athletics dramatically increases:

- Daily school attendance
- Engagement with academics
- Social-emotional skill development
- Belonging and confidence

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- Mentor connections
- Behavioral stability

Athletics becomes the “front door” to academic intervention and tutoring—especially for middle and high school youth.

Beyond Sports NC Integration

The partnership with **BSNC** accelerates expansion by connecting BGCTriad to:

- 43 schools across the Triad
- Existing after-school athletic programs
- Parks & Recreation facilities
- Established league and coaching infrastructure

BSNC’s footprint and BGCTriad’s programming form a unified network designed to deliver high-quality, inclusive athletic and academic opportunities at scale.

The All-Star Sports League

With a pilot launch in 2026/2027, the **All-Star Sports League** becomes the region’s first **elite, no-pay-to-play** league, offering:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Volleyball (by 2027)
- Flag Football
- Golf
- Cheer
- Esports
- Clinics & seasonal camps
- Baseball/Softball (by 2030)
- Track & Field (by 2030)

This league rivals expensive travel athletics, without the cost barrier. It becomes the central driver of attendance for academic engagement.

The ADA-Weighted Model

Consistent attendance (ADA) is the single strongest predictor of long-term outcomes.

Frequent Club attenders experience:

- Higher literacy gains

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- Higher GPAs
- Lower absenteeism
- Higher graduation likelihood
- Lower justice involvement
- Stronger workforce transitions

Modeling uses ADA as a multiplier:

more attendance → more impact → more economic lift.

The Three Economic Levers

BGCTriad's work is built upon the three outcome areas with the strongest economic returns.

Literacy Gains → Higher Lifetime Earnings

Youth who become proficient readers by third grade are dramatically more likely to graduate high school. Graduates in NC earn:

- **\$400,000–\$600,000** more than dropouts across their lifetime
- Even more if they complete a postsecondary credential

Literacy is economic destiny.

Clubs accelerate literacy growth through structured interventions and increased attendance.

Chronic Absenteeism Reduction → Academic & Workforce Stability

Chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator of academic failure and workforce instability.

Clubs significantly improve attendance, especially when youth are engaged in athletics, mentoring, and structured routines.

The lifetime earnings gap between regularly attending students and chronically absent students ranges from **\$250,000 to \$500,000**.

Juvenile Justice Prevention → Public Savings

Youth who avoid the juvenile justice system contribute significantly more to the economy.

Each youth diverted from the justice system saves public dollars in:

- Detention
- Policing
- Court costs
- Remediation
- Lost future earnings

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Over 20 years, BGCTriad's justice diversion impact will save **\$300M–\$450M**.

Individual Economic Impact (20-Year Horizon)

High School Graduate (No Postsecondary)

Lifetime earnings lift: **\$400,000–\$600,000**

Postsecondary Certificate/Trade/Associate Degree

Lifetime earnings lift: **\$700,000–\$1,000,000**

Bachelor's Degree

Lifetime earnings lift: **\$1.2M–\$1.7M+**

ADA-Weighted Multiplier Impact:

Frequent attenders experience **1.5x–3x** greater economic gains.

Poverty Probability Reduction:

BGCTriad reduces the probability of adult poverty by **25–40%**.

Regional Aggregate Impact (20-Year Horizon)

When scaling to 7,500–9,000 youth annually, BGCTriad will generate:

Earnings Lift

\$2.5–\$3.4 billion in increased lifetime earnings

Public Savings

- **\$300M–\$450M** juvenile justice savings
- **\$250M–\$400M** K-12 remediation reduction
- Tens of millions in reduced public assistance

Workforce & GDP Impact

- Thousands more entering skilled trades, healthcare, logistics, tech, manufacturing, and recreation
- **\$3.5–\$5.0 billion** increase in total regional economic activity

Job Creation

- **600–750 jobs** created by BGCTriad expansion
- Significant indirect and induced job creation through vendors, partners, and families

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Without BGCTriad expansion:

- Dropout rates remain high
- Juvenile justice involvement increases
- Public assistance costs rise
- Workforce gaps widen
- Billions in lifetime earnings are lost
- Economic mobility stagnates

The cost of doing nothing is staggering.

The cost of doing what works is transformational.

Conclusion

The data tells a powerful story:

Investing in youth is the single most effective economic development strategy available to the Triad.

The Future Ready Triad model—powered by BGCTriad, rooted in the Academics + Athletics system, and expanded through the Beyond Sports NC partnership—has the potential to reshape the region’s economic trajectory for decades.

This is a generational movement that elevates youth, strengthens families, stabilizes communities, and builds the workforce of tomorrow.

It is not simply the right thing to do.

It is the smartest investment the region can make.

Contact:

Dr. William D. Gibson
President & CEO
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Triad
336.882.2582 Ext: 201
w.gibson@bgctriad.org

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(Evidence connecting OST participation, risk reduction, and academic success.)

Economic Impact & Forecasting Disclosure Statement

This report uses economic modeling techniques that rely on established national, state, and regional datasets, including the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, North Carolina Department of Commerce, and industry-standard multipliers from IMPLAN and RIMS II. Forecasts and estimates are based on currently available data and reasonable assumptions regarding demographic trends, wage growth, organizational expansion, and program participation.

All projections reflect a 20-year economic horizon and are intended to illustrate the potential impact of the Future Ready Triad model on economic mobility, workforce development, and regional economic activity. Actual results may vary based on changes in economic conditions, funding levels, program participation, staffing patterns, and other external factors. The estimates provided should be interpreted as directional indicators rather than precise predictions.

These reports are designed for strategic planning, regional economic development dialogue, and philanthropic engagement, and should not be construed as audited financial forecasts.