



BROWN

Brown University

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Fiscal Year 2024

July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024

INTRODUCTION

In October 2023, leaders from Brown University and the City of Providence convened at City Hall to formally sign a [set of agreements](#) that establish Providence's four colleges and universities among the nation's most significant voluntary financial contributors to the community they call home.

For Brown, the agreements reflect the University's sustained commitment to Providence and a goal of continued support for the city's growth and prosperity. The health and vitality of Brown and that of Providence have been deeply intertwined for more than two and a half centuries, and for generations the University has been an anchor institution that plays a vital role in the well-being of the city and its residents. While voluntary payments and community contributions capture only a portion of the University's positive impact, they serve as one important illustration of Brown's dedication to contributing to the city and its residents.

In two separate agreements signed in 2023 — [a memorandum of understanding](#) (MOU) between the City of Providence and its four colleges and universities, and an additional [memorandum of agreement](#) (MOA) between Brown and Providence — Brown University committed to contributing nearly \$175 million in voluntary payments over 20 years. Just as importantly, Brown pledged to match or exceed its annual voluntary payment with community contributions supporting priorities such as K-12 education, community programming and scholarships for local residents. The combined financial impact of voluntary payments and community contributions from Brown will total a minimum of \$303.3 million in benefits to the city between 2024 and 2043.

Per the agreements, Providence will report annually on the impacts of the four colleges and universities' voluntary financial payments to the local community. This report accompanies a data set provided by Brown to the city outlining the University's community contributions in Fiscal Year 2024 — the period of July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024 — and provides additional detail and context on those contributions.

In FY24, Brown's community contributions totaled \$11.9 million, including \$10.6 million in direct spending and \$1.3 million in in-kind contributions. That \$11.9 million comes in addition to Brown's FY24 voluntary payment of \$5.1 million, marking a total financial value of \$17 million to the city.

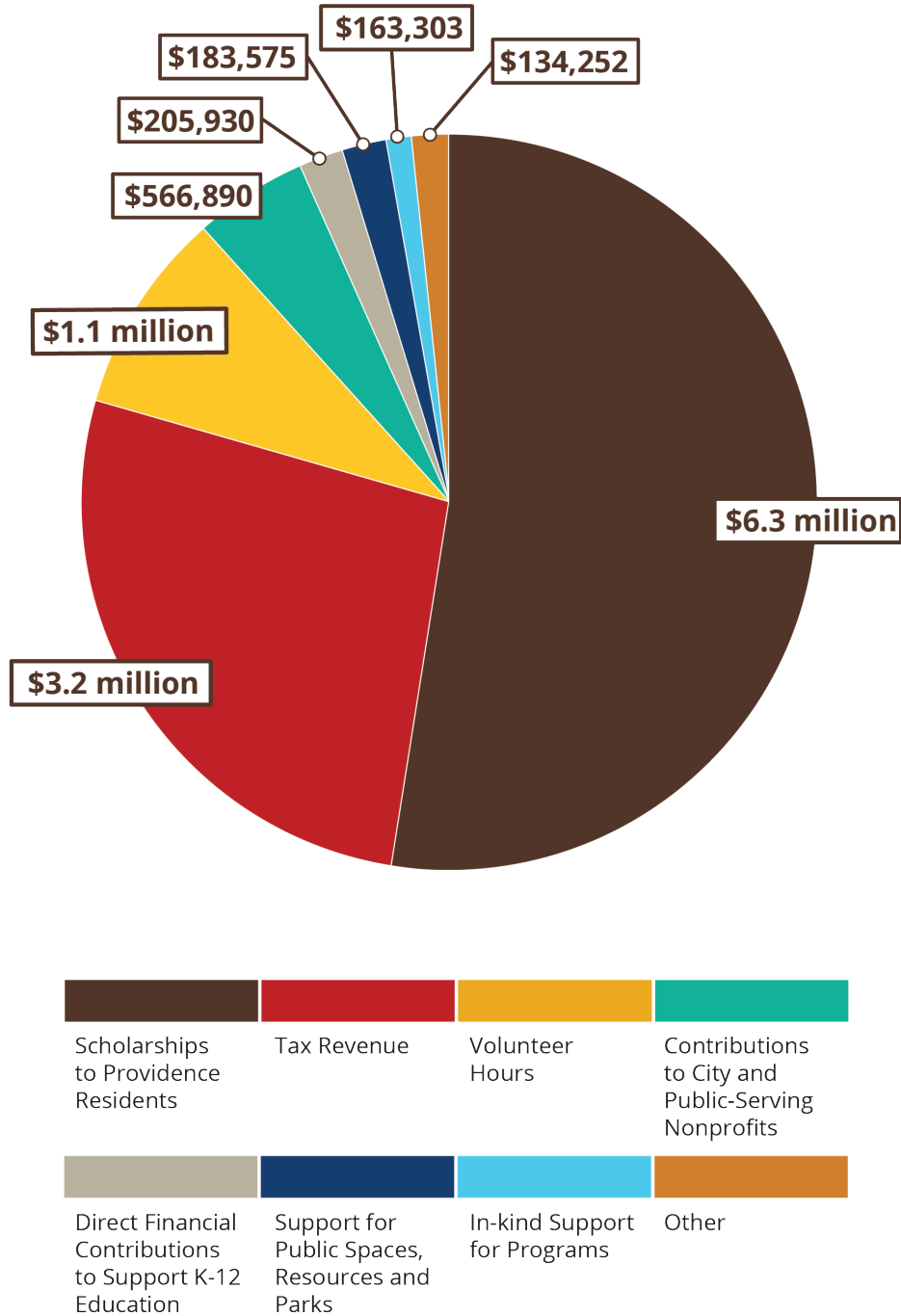
These investments, including financial and in-kind support through myriad programs, services and activities, bolster public and community resources in areas that range from health clinics to teacher training to neighborhood improvements.

From scholarships for local students to partnerships with K-12 schools to support for public infrastructure and city-serving nonprofits, this report highlights some of the key ways in which Brown's community contributions have supported the city in FY24. What this report does not detail is the even greater economic impact the University has based on its role as an anchor institution. For example, Brown's payroll for employees who live in Providence alone totals \$190 million over the same period, reflecting its role as a top employer of local and state residents. The University also injects hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy each year through research spending, visitors to campus, investments in new building projects, entrepreneurial startups and spin-offs based on Brown academic work — important impacts that benefit the city, yet ones that are distinct from the University's direct payments and contributions.

Ultimately, the report offers a look at one important way in which Brown contributes to the city it calls home, among a much greater set of overall positive impacts.

BROWN'S COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Below, this report breaks down Brown's \$11.9 million in FY24 community contributions according to the 11 categories established in the MOU between the city and its four colleges and universities.



"Other" includes Brown's assistance to city employees, payments to district management authorities, services in lieu of the city and support for public safety in Providence.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROVIDENCE RESIDENTS | \$6.3 MILLION

As an educational institution, Brown is home to undergraduate, graduate and medical school degree programs as well as a wide range of academic initiatives that welcome K-12 students to campus. In nearly all of its educational programs, Brown enrolls students who are Providence residents — and for those who have financial need, supports those students from Providence with generous scholarships and aid.

In Fiscal Year 2024, Brown contributed \$6.3 million in scholarships to support 476 students from Providence.

In addition to the many local students who are enrolled in undergraduate, graduate and medical education programs at Brown and receive financial aid based on need, that funding enabled nearly 170 Providence high school students, including 140 from the Providence Public School District, to participate in Brown Pre-College Programs in FY24. That enrollment marked a jump of more than 20% compared to FY23, supported by a new financial aid model that provides full scholarships to every PPSD student admitted to a Pre-College Program.

Separately, the Brown Collegiate Scholars Program launched this year as a new initiative at Brown designed to boost college readiness, enrollment and success for Providence Public School District students. The free college access program prepares cohorts of PPSD students to enter college degree programs after high school by providing students year-round academic support, college-preparation guidance and a dedicated advisor. The University welcomed 30 PPSD students as the four-year program's inaugural cohort in July 2024.

Brown's total financial commitment for Pre-College Program access for Providence students and the Brown Collegiate Scholars Program totaled \$1.1 million. The University's financial investments will increase in the years ahead as new cohorts of students engage in these programs each year.

Other scholarship contributions include the University's pathway programs, which welcome many Providence students to campus each year, empowering both middle and high school students to pursue their academic and professional goals including careers in STEM, medicine and research.

VOLUNTEER HOURS | \$1.1 MILLION

As an academic institution driven by a mission to serve the greater good, Brown's positive impact on the local community comes through its research, teaching and community engagement activities. Each and every day, the work of students and employees across a wide range of Brown schools, departments, offices, centers and initiatives brings that commitment to life. University faculty, staff and students are dedicated to supporting the success of the local community through their efforts on campus to serve community needs and by volunteering on community and civic boards and committees. In FY24, Brown faculty, staff and students contributed more than 30,000 volunteer hours — valued at \$1.1 million — to the Providence community.

As volunteers, hundreds of Brown community members work with Providence-area nonprofits, offering after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring children, supporting refugees and those experiencing homelessness, providing health care, contributing to arts and cultural events, and much more — contributing to meaningful, positive change for Rhode Islanders. While the number of specific efforts is expansive, one notable example is the Brown Tutoring Corps, a program expanded by Brown's Annenberg Institute and Swearer Center in FY24 that deployed 100 undergraduates to tutor Providence students in local schools and other locations, such as the Providence Public Library. The group aims to help close gaps in English language arts, math and science proficiency in the Providence Public School District. The tutors provided approximately 3,600 hours of one-on-one instruction to many hundreds of K-12 students.

Other volunteer-led initiatives focused on improving health care access for Providence residents. Students from Brown's Warren Alpert Medical School and School of Public Health dedicated more than 2,200 hours last year to partnering with organizations like Amos House, House of Hope, DORCAS International, Clínica Esperanza and the Rhode Island Free Clinic to provide free, high-quality care to city residents.

On Brown's annual Staff Development Day, held in June 2024, dozens of Brown faculty and staff members collaborated with 10 Providence-area nonprofits on various community projects, contributing more than 300 volunteer hours to a children's book drive with United Way and Books are Wings, activities with kids at Children's Friend and supporting the work of the Providence Animal Rescue League.

Through programs including the Bonner Community Fellows, iProv Summer Internships, work-study and other paid community-based student roles, and the Community Engaged Data and Evaluation Collaborative, Brown's Swearer Center facilitated direct service through multiple pathways totaling 23,000 hours. A core tenet of all work organized through the Swearer Center, and Brown more broadly, is a focus on local partners' priorities and ideas to inform and shape programming and other engagement with University community members.

Other efforts to support the city and its residents through volunteer service include opportunities organized by student organizations, academic departments, athletics teams, administrative offices and other groups across Brown — helping with efforts as varied as cleaning up India Point Park to measuring local air quality to running free sports clinics.

DIRECT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT K-12 EDUCATION | \$205,930

University leaders believe that every student in Providence deserves access to a quality education, and through education, research and community engagement initiatives, Brown makes a direct and positive impact on students in the city's pre-K-12 public schools. Many of those efforts are outlined in other parts of this report, including the Volunteer Hours section. In addition to those efforts, Brown provides direct financial support for priorities of the Providence Public School District. All of those efforts aim to provide impactful experiences for local students, make a difference in their educational outcomes and enhance their access to high-quality college education and careers. For FY24, Brown's direct financial contributions to support K-12 education in Providence totaled more than \$205,930.

As part of disbursements from the University's Fund for the Education of the Children of Providence, seven PPSD high schools — including Central High School, Providence Career and Technical Academy, Mount Pleasant High School, Dr. Jorge Alvarez High School, E-Cubed Academy, Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex and Classical High School — were able to renovate their library spaces and add new books, furniture, curriculum and programming. Separately, funding from Brown enabled a participatory budgeting exercise held with Nathanael Greene Middle School, in which students elected to spend funds on hands-on learning initiatives, including a trip by all seventh and eighth graders in the district to the Boston Science Museum.

Other direct financial contributions came from Brown's Department of Education to support PPSD and its partner schools, and the donation of physical space by Brown's Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs for the nonprofit Onward We Learn to operate a college readiness program for local high school students.

IN-KIND SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS | \$163,303

In addition to direct financial contributions and volunteer support, Brown provides significant in-kind donations of services, goods, physical space and other resources that play a key role in supporting programs and activities that directly benefit the City of Providence and its residents. Last year, the value of Brown's in-kind contributions totaled \$163,303, supporting new workforce development programs, initiatives to support local K-12 students, opportunities for Providence families, donations of food, clothes and books to local charitable organizations, and much more.

As part of this support, Brown's contributions and partnerships across the city are creating new avenues for community engagement and educational enrichment. A notable example is an effort to inspire a love of reading among local children. Last year, the Brown University Library partnered with the Providence Public Library and the Community Libraries of Providence to launch a summer reading series. Together with 11 other local libraries, Brown curated a dynamic mix of events, performances and activities, encouraging young readers to explore new parts of the city and experience the joy of reading in a fun and engaging way.

The Lindemann Performing Arts Center, now a premier arts destination helping to attract artists and visitors to the city, is home to another example of how the University is supporting Providence's role as a "creative capital" while fostering new employment opportunities for city residents. To stage and produce dozens of events, performances and concerts, The Lindemann relies on highly skilled teams of staff members, and to meet the need for staff, the Brown Arts Institute launched ArtsCrew, a workforce development program that offers hands-on training and skill development for local residents and other workers. In roughly a year, more than 100 ArtsCrew members have been hired and trained for part-time roles in areas such as box office management, stage management, sound and lighting design, and more. More than half of the new hires are Rhode Island-based artists, dancers, musicians and performers, along with other local arts educators, administrators and production staff.

Another example of in-kind support: Investing in and creating new college access and readiness programs that prepare students from public schools in Providence is one of the central pillars of Brown's community engagement initiatives. To give Providence-area high school students a glimpse into everyday life as an undergraduate college student, Brown organizes College Day at Brown, which marked its third year this past spring. In April 2024, hundreds of local teens representing 17 Providence-area high schools explored Brown's campus, including classes, athletic programs and community engagement opportunities. Participants took campus tours, interacted one-on-one with Brown students, staff and faculty, engaged in hands-on learning experiences, enjoyed lunch and listened to panel discussions on topics including the admissions process.

Other programs that provided in-kind support in FY24 include STEM Day at Brown, in which the University's chemistry department hosted 250 PPSD students for hands-on experiments; donations of food, clothes and books from Brown Athletics to Goodwill, Good Neighbors, the Boys and Girls Club of Fox Point and other local nonprofits; partnerships between Brown's Hassenfeld Child Health Institute and the Care Transformation Collaborative of Rhode Island to benefit pediatric care; mini-grants awarded by the Brown University School of Public Health to support student work with local health organizations; and community invitations to local residents and nonprofits to attend Brown Athletics games and competitions at no cost.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CITY AND PUBLIC-SERVING NONPROFITS | \$566,890

Across every aspect of Brown's commitment to Providence, University community members recognize that working with and in support of local community partners is essential to making a positive impact. It is those relationships that enable Brown to build productively on community strengths and make a positive difference in addressing community challenges.

During FY24, Brown contributed more than \$566,890 in financial and in-kind donations to public-serving nonprofits. Those contributions came in the form of direct sponsorship of programs and events, funding for important community initiatives and the donation of space to host events held by nonprofits focused on solving community challenges. Brown's contributions supported nonprofits in a range of sectors, including education and youth development (City Year, College Visions, Providence Promise), economic development and community planning (Economic Progress Institute, GrowSmart RI, Progreso Latino), cultural preservation and public services (Crossroads RI, Providence Public Library, Trinity Repertory Company), and social services and community development (Children's Friend, Family Service of Rhode Island, Sojourner House).

Through these efforts, many of which are single measures of support in much longer-standing partnerships, Brown's community contributions supported local programs that assist residents across the city and play a role in addressing urgent challenges facing Providence, on issues ranging from educational achievement gaps and food insecurity to job creation, affordable housing, infrastructure and community revitalization.

TAX REVENUE | \$3.2 MILLION

While the vast majority of properties owned by Brown are used exclusively for educational or institutional purposes, the University maintains a small number of real estate holdings for other purposes. For all such properties — for example, the lease of Brown-owned space to a commercial tenant — the University pays municipal property taxes directly to the City of Providence, separately and unrelated to any of the University's voluntary payments. In FY24, Brown paid nearly \$3.2 million in municipal property taxes.

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SPACES, RESOURCES AND PARKS | \$183,575

Frequently, Brown makes contributions to the city aimed at enhancing public spaces and preserving resources that benefit local residents. In FY24, Brown contributed \$183,575 to support the revitalization of parks, sidewalks and shared green spaces — creating more vibrant, welcoming areas for the community to utilize. As one example, Brown staff collaborated with the City of Providence's Department of Parks to help restore city-owned parks, care for 500 sidewalk trees and donate more than \$15,000 in mulch and grounds equipment, including hand tools, paint machines and commercial-grade mowers and leaf blowers. Separately, Brown hosted educational seminars for the parks department, focusing on the development of critical skills like synthetic field maintenance and efficient snow removal strategies in service of local residents and neighborhoods. These efforts are helping Providence maintain high-quality public spaces while building expertise among city employees.

PAYMENTS TO DISTRICT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES | \$67,167

As a key commercial district that intersects the Brown campus, it's important to the University that Thayer Street in Providence's College Hill neighborhood is an attractive, clean and safe retail corridor where members of the Brown and local communities can visit and local merchants can thrive. These were among the goals around which Brown, the City of Providence, neighbors and merchants coalesced in the Thayer Street Planning Study from 2014. That partnership continues today and has resulted in numerous infrastructure improvements — from street trees, a bike repair station and a “parklet” to outdoor furniture, sidewalk expansion, Big Belly receptacles and repaving — that have served as a catalyst for new businesses coming to Thayer Street. The University continues to work closely with the Thayer Street District Management Authority and local landlords to attract new and exciting businesses, and Brown contributed \$67,167 to the Thayer Street District Management Authority in FY24 to support these efforts.

SERVICES IN LIEU OF THE CITY | \$32,585

To help reduce the burden on city resources, Brown's facilities management team regularly attends to the upkeep of public walkways near the University, clearing snow and debris after storms and addressing other maintenance issues, ensuring the campus and its neighboring streets are clean, well-maintained and welcoming year-round. In FY24, Brown invested \$32,585 in public services, including snow removal on sidewalks and streets adjacent to campus.

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN PROVIDENCE | \$30,000

While Brown University operates its own police department and emergency medical services, both of which alleviate pressure on the city's first responders, the University has long maintained a close cooperative relationship with the Providence Police Department and other public safety agencies in the city and state. For decades, this collaborative approach has proven effective in keeping local neighborhoods safe.

Brown's Department of Public Safety has a longstanding memorandum of understanding in place with the Providence Police Department and works intentionally to support the city's community policing program. This cooperation includes participation in a police radio and computer network, training programs, special events coordination, assistance with imminent or active threats to the community, investigation of serious crimes, and patrolling areas and responding to incidents involving criminal activity at the off-campus locations of student organizations or housing that are officially recognized by Brown. Brown DPS meets with Providence Police frequently to discuss neighborhood crimes and other police intelligence matters.

For the last two decades, Brown has provided physical space for a Providence Police Department substation in College Hill — on Brook Street until recent years, and subsequently in a temporary location at 172 Cushing St. While the city recently relocated that substation, Brown continues to host an additional police substation in the Jewelry District to serve both the Brown and Providence police departments. The University's donated space in FY24 to support the substations and provide Providence officers with a base for patrols was valued at \$30,000.

ASSISTANCE TO CITY EMPLOYEES | \$4,500

In FY24, Brown provided approximately \$4,500 in assistance and services to support City of Providence employees, including Providence Public School District teachers supported through Brown's Department of Education and Annenberg Institute. As part of this support, PPSD teachers and administrators participated in workshops focused on evidence-based teaching and classroom management strategies. Additionally, some attended seminars and conferences, such as the annual Rhode Island Superintendents Convening led by the Annenberg Institute. These events offered opportunities for networking, leadership development, and learning about inclusive education.

METHODOLOGY: DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Staff from Brown's Office of Community Engagement and Office of Government Relations led the process to collect and analyze data, gathering information from campus and community partners through a mixed-methods approach. The primary data source was a structured survey completed by various units at Brown, including:

- Annenberg Institute for School Reform
- Division of Athletics and Recreation
- Brown Arts Institute
- Brown University Library
- Business Affairs, Auxiliary Services and Real Estate
- Division of Campus Life
- Department of Education
- Facilities Management and Campus Operations
- University Human Resources
- Institute at Brown for Environment and Society
- Office of Financial Aid
- Office of Sponsored Projects
- Office of the President
- Division of Pre-College and Undergraduate Programs
- School of Public Health
- Swearer Center for Public Service
- The College
- Warren Alpert Medical School
- Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs

Qualitative interviews were conducted with leaders from key University departments to gain deeper insights into various community engagement efforts. These interviews provided context to the data collected and helped uncover additional forms of community support not captured by the survey.

Contributions were quantified using the following methods:

- **Financial Contributions:** Direct financial donations were recorded based on the documentation provided.
- **Scholarships:** The value of scholarships provided to Providence residents across the various schools at Brown. This was calculated by summing the total monetary value of scholarships awarded to students during FY24. These scholarships include need-based aid and other forms of tuition assistance specifically serving Providence residents.
- **Space Donations:** The value of donated spaces was calculated based on standard rental rates for similar spaces within the University.
- **Tax Revenue:** The University provided records of taxes paid on commercial leases, which were included as contributions to city revenue.
- **Training and Mentorship Programs:** Contributions related to work training and mentorship initiatives were assessed based on the value of time and resources invested. This includes mentorship programs for students and residents, internships and job training opportunities offered by Brown. The monetary value was calculated by factoring in the number of hours invested by staff and volunteers.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Volunteer contributions were calculated by multiplying the reported hours by the 2024 national average wage rate for comparable work (\$33.49 per hour) using Independent Sector recommendations.

In addition to the survey data, the qualitative information supplemented and contextualized the quantitative findings, highlighting the broader impact of Brown's efforts. Reported contributions were accompanied by sufficient documentation, including financial records, event reports, interviews and departmental logs, to ensure accuracy.

The data presented in this report has some limitations, including the fact that it is based on self-reporting from University departments, which may introduce variability in reporting accuracy. Some contributions may have been underreported or missed entirely due to variations in departmental tracking systems or lack of awareness of relevant activities. Additionally, while most contributions could be assigned monetary values, certain qualitative contributions (e.g., long-term partnerships, goodwill and contributions of artwork) are not easily quantifiable and are therefore not included in the dollar figures.

In addition, despite the wide scope of data collected from multiple University departments, and substantial efforts to reach the entire Brown community, not all offices may have fully reported their community engagement efforts. As a result, the total community investment reflected in this report may not fully represent the breadth of Brown's local impact. These limitations highlight that while the data provides valuable insights into Brown's community engagement efforts, it should be considered a partial view of the University's overall investment in the Providence community.

CONCLUSION

Investing in the success of its home city is embedded in Brown's mission of education, research and service. The community contributions reflected in this report demonstrate some of the ways in which Brown makes a meaningful and positive impact on the local community by working with city and community leaders to address shared challenges, support economic development and improve quality of life for residents throughout Providence.

Brown is committed to strengthening its partnership with the city to sustain these community contributions, with the goal of continuing to make a lasting, positive impact on the City of Providence and its residents for generations to come.