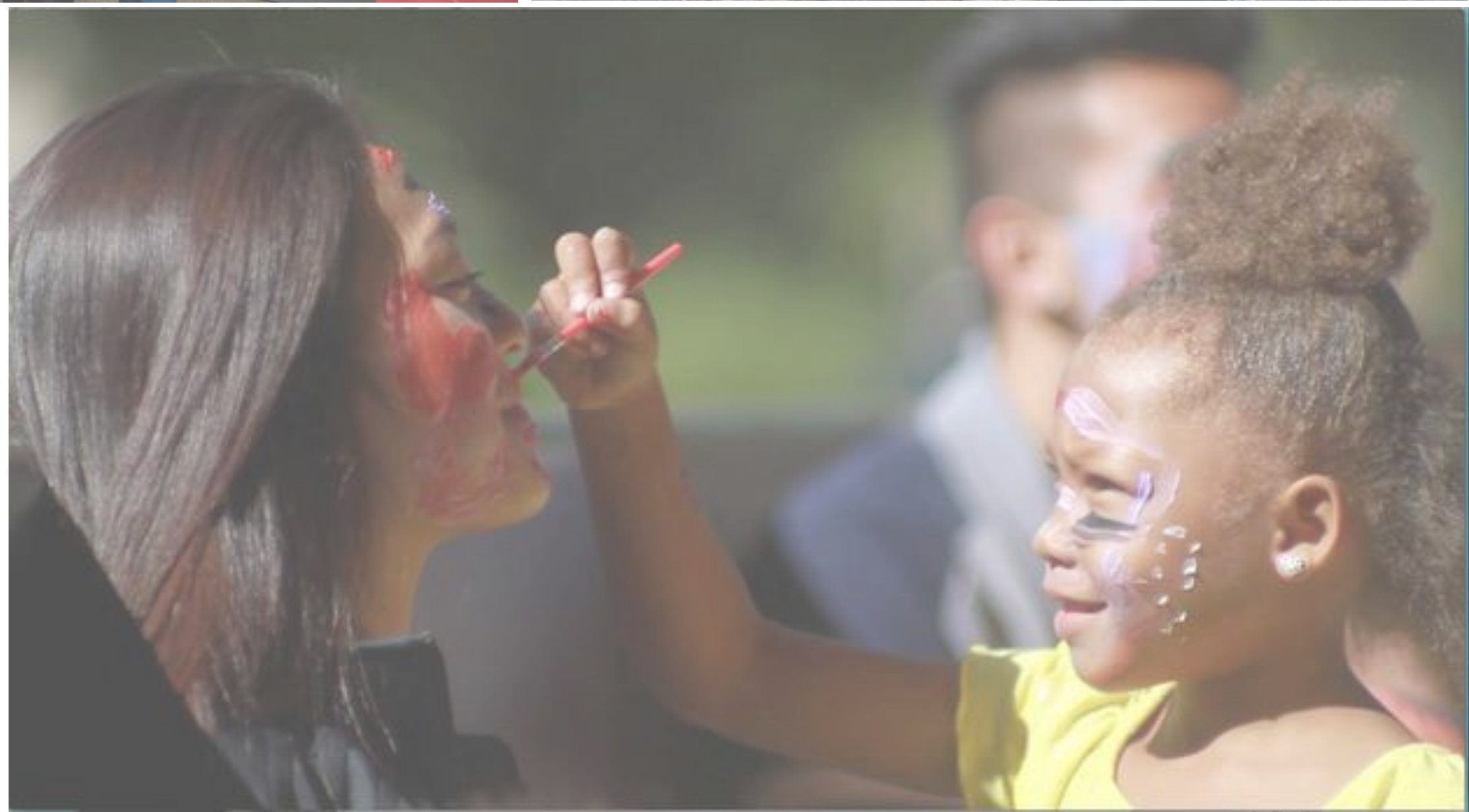




**Family
Independence
Initiative**



*Trust and Invest In
families.*





Our Vision

Across the United States, families and communities living in low income are recognized, *trusted and invested in*, so they may achieve their goals and dreams.

Our Mission

We trust and invest in low-income families across the nation so they can work *individually and collectively* to achieve prosperity.

History

The *Alternative*

Most of what you believe about poverty is wrong



Mauricio L. Miller

- FII was founded in 2001 in Oakland, California by social innovator Mauricio Lim Miller
- In 2010, Michelle and Barack Obama recognized FII's work and appointed Miller to their White House Council for Community Solutions.
- The New York Times, New America Foundation, Chronicle of Philanthropy and the Stanford Social Innovation Review have published FII's work.

The Problem



Family
Independence
Initiative

Current system blames the person for their situation



- *We need to teach people the skills needed to have better jobs*
- *We need to teach people how to budget*
- *We need to teach people how to make decisions*
- *We need to teach people parenting skills*
- *We need to teach people how to fish*

Current system is *failing*



▲ \$400B

spent annually on
fighting the War on
Poverty

and yet

- Poverty rates have **not changed** significantly in the last 50 years
- **Social capital** exchanges and community led solutions are **largely unrecognized and underinvested in**
- Majority of funds go to a **deficit based model** of programs and services, rather than **investing directly** into community

The Reality

- *People are trying to get to a better place*
- *People are hardworking and resilient*
- *People live in community and solutions are created in community*
- *Success is different for everyone*



Deficit-Based System



75%

move above the
poverty line in just 4
years

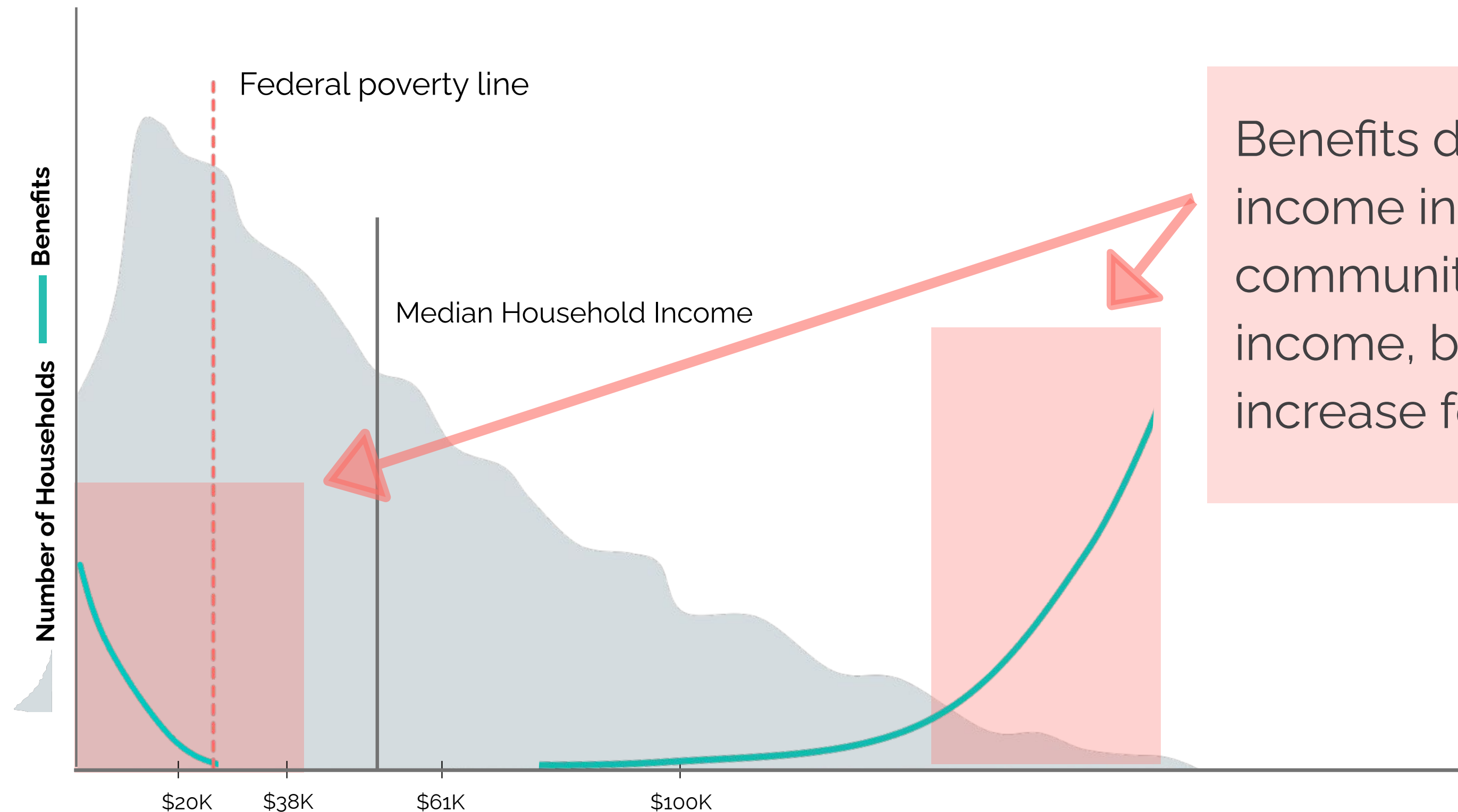
39%

do not access
Federal Subsidies

50%

fall back under the
poverty line in 5
years

What contributes to this *system of inequality*?



Benefits decrease as income increases for communities with low income, but benefits increase for the upper class

Our approach

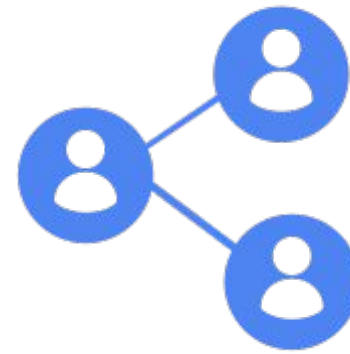


Strength-Based Approach



UNRESTRICTED CAPITAL

Unrestricted cash or cash equivalent investments directly in an individual or household. People do not have to show their “neediness” in order to receive investment.



COMMUNITY

Incentivize and promote social capital exchanges present in communities, where people rely on each other and increase their social and economic mobility.



CHOICE

Individuals and families have full agency over their decisions and how they utilize their direct investments in order to achieve mobility.



UpTogether

A technology platform for the exchange of *financial* and *social capital*

Users



MEMBERS

- Hard-working, low-income individuals across the United States
- 50-150% of the federal poverty line
- Not in active crisis
- Has home or mobile enabled internet access



PARTNERS

- Philanthropic, government, or academic sectors
- Provide direct unrestricted capital investments in members
- Learn from and contribute to the growing strength-based data about members and their communities

Family Impact



\$1,856

Families increase their total liquid assets from \$629 to nearly \$2,485



▲ 21%

INCREASE in total income

▼ 42%

DECREASE in federal assistance

\$15,180

The average investment directly to a family is \$3,200. The overall economic impact of a FII family is \$15,180



How Systems *See Me*

- Single mom
- Section 8 Housing
- Food stamps consumer
- Underemployed
- GED Graduate

How I *See Myself*

- Mother of two A students
- Active member of my community
- Participant of a \$10K lending circle
- Entrepreneur paying back a small business loan
- FII Scholarship Recipient



Central Texas



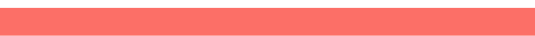
The St. David’s Foundation, Google.org, and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation announced Tuesday a \$1.3 million grant that will bring a new anti-poverty project to Austin.

Just as the Move Baby, Move exercise program was gaining recognition, resident and fitness specialist Aaron Palmer was shaken after his co-founder’s death.

Together, they had teamed up to create a music-based chair aerobics program. After Varnado’s death, Palmer said he was “in bad shape for a long time.”

About two years ago, Palmer decided to check out the Family Independence Initiative, which was lifting low-income families by giving them direct access to funds. The organization’s refocus, plan and keep moving forward to fulfill his goals.

On Tuesday, the St. David’s Foundation, Google.org, and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation announced a \$1.3 million grant that will bring the initiative’s anti-poverty project to Austin.



12 months later...

380 Families across Central Texas

▲ 25% INCREASE in total income

\$800 Families increase their total liquid assets from \$1,290 to \$2,087

\$3,121 Decrease in liabilities from \$25,698-\$22,577

\$1.2M Direct cash transfers



Family Partner Demographics

Age

- 42% Children
- 54% Adults
- 4% Seniors

Race

- 70% Latnix
- 21% African American
- 7% Caucasian
- 2% Other/Multiple Races

Gender

- 54% Female
- 46% Male



Family Impact



UpTogether Fund

After six months, families gain access to funds they use to accelerate their mobility.

Category	Dollars Disbursed	Number of Requests	Average Disbursement
Technology Stipend	\$114,870	384	\$300
Data Stipend	\$147,999	592	\$250
Financial Health	\$146,642	237	\$619
Other	\$92,203	166	\$555
Housing	\$44,246	59	\$750
Transportation	\$27,339	41	\$667
Education	\$ 27,044	39	\$693
Children & Family	\$19,201	35	\$549
Health	\$8,710	11	\$792
Entrepreneurial Activity	\$10,086	17	\$593
Community	\$680	1	\$680
Total	\$639,020	1,582	

COVID-19 Response



GiveTogetherNow

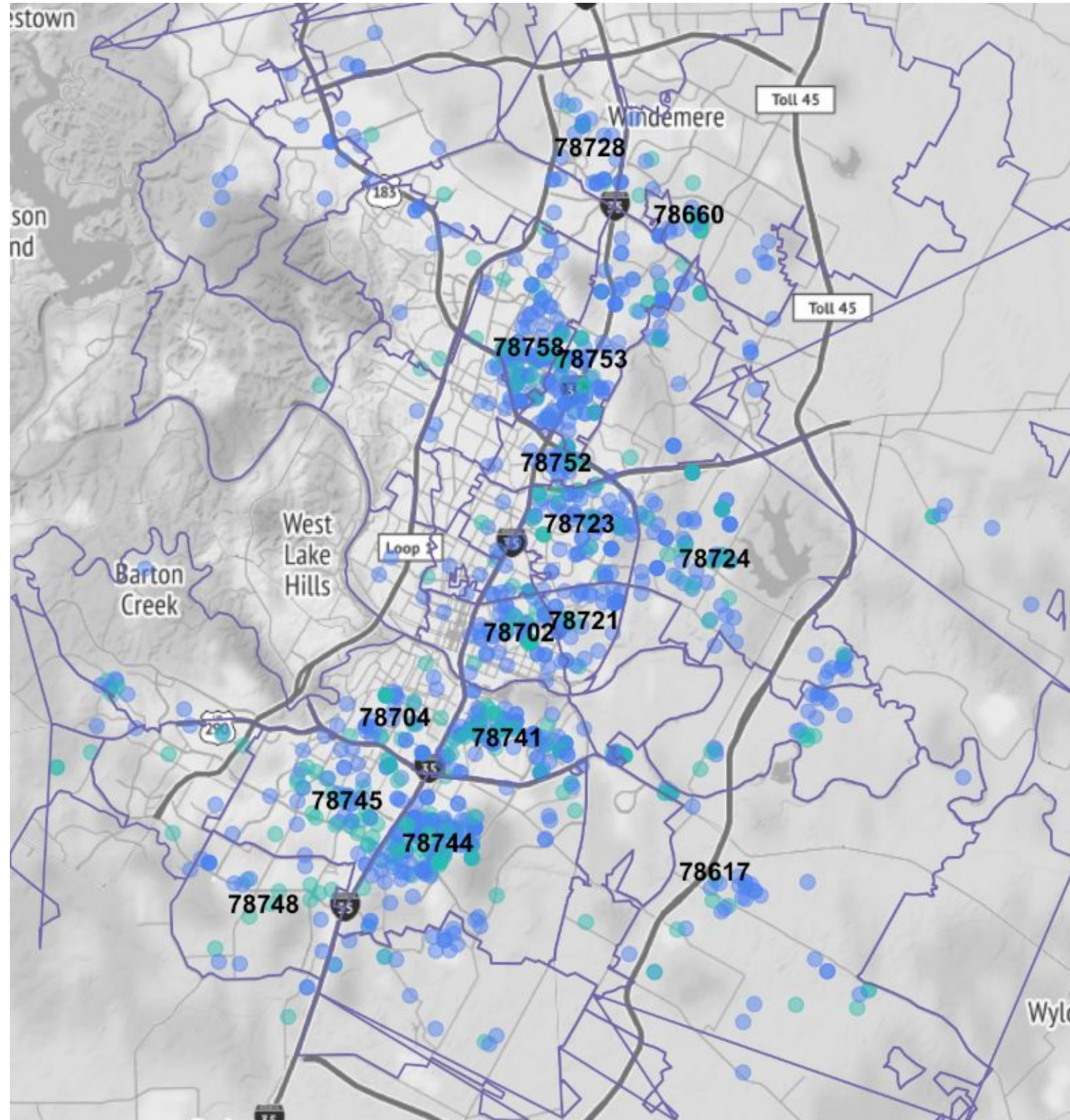


97% of funds are going to families

Geography	Total \$ raised	Total of families
National	\$130 million	260,000
Texas	\$26 million	~ 56,000
Central Texas	\$16 million	+8,000



Covid response in Central Texas



Demographics:

\$16 million

Hispanic/Latino 60%

Black 28%

White 6%

Asian 3%

Usage of funds:

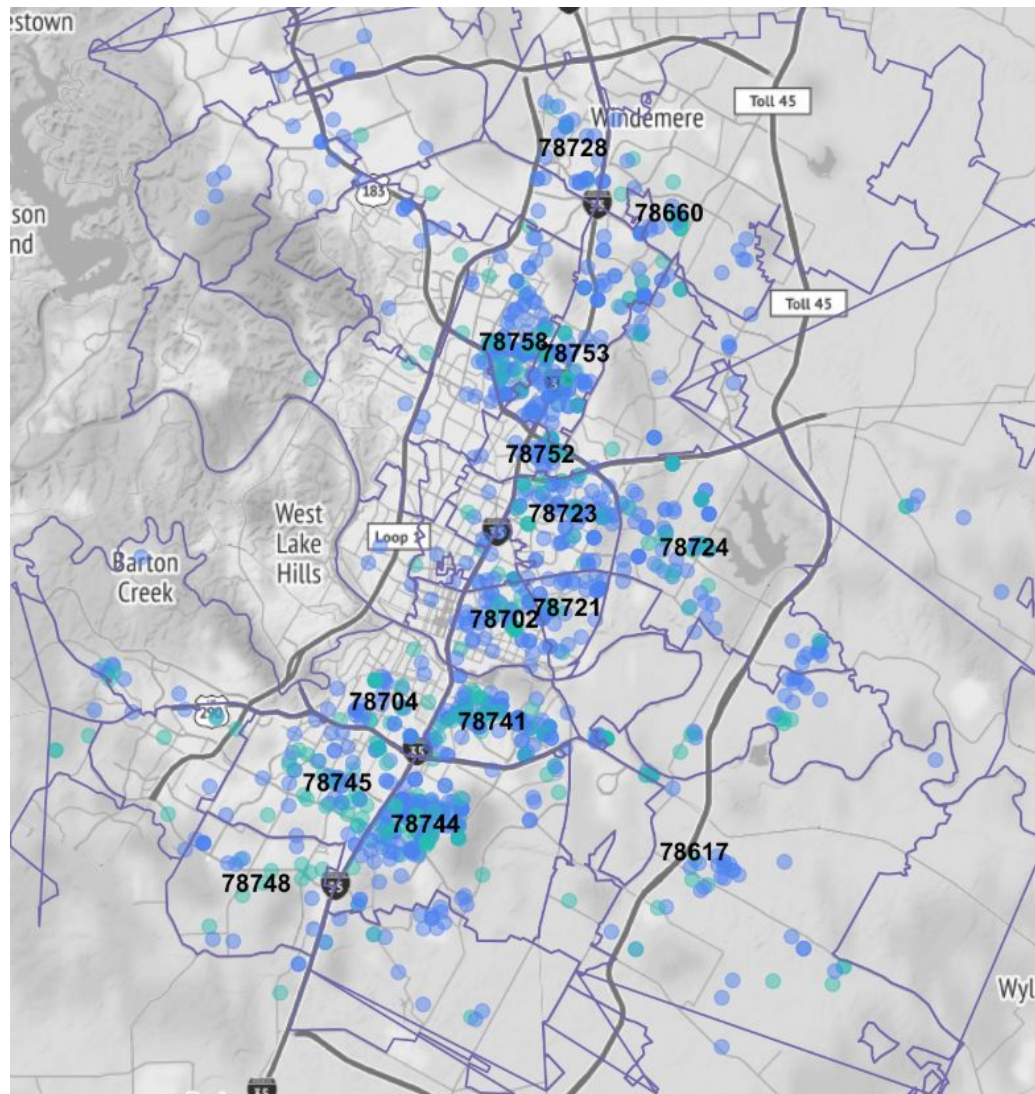
- Shelter and homelessness prevention
- Bills such as utility, electricity, phone, medical, etc
- Food
- Digital needs such as devices, internet fees, etc

Populations:

- Victims of domestic violence
- Formerly incarcerated people
- Immigrants
- LGBTQ+
- Seniors

2021 Efforts in Central Texas

SBA: Community + Unrestricted Capital + Choice



Neighborhood/zip code	Investment	Cadence
St. Johns, Dove Springs and Georgetown	\$1,000	Monthly payments x 12 months

Things that we want to learn

- Relationship between SBA approach and housing stabilization
- The role of community in housing stabilization
- The impact of this approach in policy making/decision making



How to Help



- Challenge assumptions and misconceptions from deficit based views
- Push for policies that incentivise communities
- Push for more investment to be directed to communities
- Believe in community-driven solutions vs top-down solutions

Roadmap to Government Adoption



1. Proof of concept for philanthropy and government:
 - a. 400 families in Central Texas received \$3,200 over two years
 - b. 8,000 families received \$500-\$2,000 during the pandemic
2. Local government adoption:
 - a. Piloting SBA projects (guaranteed income + social capital + choice)
 - b. Lift up evidence + research on SBA
 - c. Looking into internal policies that need to be created
 - d. Looking into internal policies that need to be redesigned
3. State government adoption
 - a. Earned Income Tax Credit
4. Federal government adoption

Privacy and Security



Data security

- All communication is encrypted in transit (same as banking apps)
- All data is encrypted at rest (i.e. when in our databases)
- All servers and database use auto-key rotation (imagine if your passwords changed on their own regularly)

Privacy

- We have tight access controls of who can access what data
- We log data access, such as support reviewing applications
- We don't collect social security numbers *ever*
- We don't share PII with third parties
- Delete photos of government IDs after 30 days

Fraud Prevention

- Users scan government ID and selfie, two images get matched against each other
- One payment per household enforced based on
 - User address
 - Email and/or phone number (based on what used to authenticate)
 - Match of full name
- We monitor IP addresses to
 - Prevent multiple applications from the same IP address
 - Match approximate IP location to reported address to identify fraud (i.e. someone in another country trying to use an Austin address)