OUR MISSION

Move to PROSPER improves life outcomes for children and their families by creating opportunities for residential and financial stability. We provide temporary rental support and comprehensive coaching to facilitate individual and family success in their transition to higher opportunity communities.
OUR FAMILIES

Move to PROSPER uniquely serves single mother households. All of the participants have some college education. Three participants have either a college degree, associate’s degree, or vocational college diploma. Upon entering the program, more than half of the participants had more than $50,000 of debt; student loans contributed to the majority of the debt. All participants had credit scores below 580.

The program’s families are illustrative of a broader segment of the Central Ohio population — economically vulnerable and living in challenging environments, but receiving limited or no public assistance due to either a lack of available funding or to the benefit cliff associated with various programs.

Participants include 10 single-female-headed households not currently participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program and residing in low-opportunity neighborhoods or experiencing housing instability. Their household income ranges from $23,000 to $37,500. The charts below provide a few key demographic statistics about the participants.

**RACE**

- White: 1
- Latina: 5
- African American: 4
- Asian: 3

**NUMBER OF CHILDREN**

- 1 Child: 7
- 2 Children: 4
- 3 Children: 3

**AGE**

- 25 - 29: 3
- 30 - 39: 5
- 40 - 49: 1
- 50 - 59: 1

RELOCATING

More than 300 families applied to participate in Move to PROSPER. Of the 10 families selected, the majority moved to apartment complexes close to their previous neighborhoods. Nine of the 10 participants moved from areas of Columbus, Ohio that are considered “low” to “very low” on the Kirwan Opportunity Index. All participants now live in communities considered “moderate” or “high.”

The map to the left identifies the locations of the properties participating in the Move to PROSPER pilot.

IT’S WORKING

When asked if only one thing mattered, all but one interview participant said it is the combination of one-on-one coaching and programs, rental support, the move to a safer, higher resourced neighborhood and relational support together are all critical and can not be separated.

The combination of these attributes makes Move to PROSPER a successful program that has the potential to become the new model for elevating lower-income families in Ohio and America.

“Before (it) was kind of like, we were just trying to survive. You know, now (it) is like we don’t have to just survive. We can do better than that. It’s actually...amazing.”

- Mother

MOVETOPROSPER.ORG
NEIGHBORHOOD SATISFACTION
Mean neighborhood satisfaction scores (scored 1 to 5) in old neighborhood vs. new neighborhood

IMPACT ON YOUTH

- Very Negative/Negative Change
- No Change/Neutral
- Positive or Very Positive Change

It’s been (an) equally amazing transformation for them. They get excited to go to school. My daughter doesn’t come home with marks and bruises and you know I don’t have to, I’m not in the principal’s office or trying to figure out what is going on. My son is actually socializing, and engaging again. His grades going up, he is not isolating like he was. It’s definitely been healthy change for us. All the way around.” - Mother

IMPACT ON FINANCES AND HEALTH
COACHING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Participants have worked with Move to PROSPER coaching staff to focus on goals. Five out of nine participants surveyed indicated they had already achieved some initial goals due to coaching. Goals were primarily related to budgeting/financial management, educational advancement and parenting (school advocacy) skills. In interviews, eight out of nine participants indicated coaching has been very positive with benefits including enhanced skills, greater socialization, relationship building with other participants, accountability.

"Coaching has been really helpful. Very insightful… kind of gives me a foundation to build on so that I can be successful and probability to stay where I am at.” - Mother

IMPACT ON PROPERTIES AND COMMUNITIES

According to representatives of the property owners, there has been positive impacts on the properties and their companies. They are participating because, as they said, they “are willing to take a risk to make a good impact on people’s lives.” One property representative stated that this “has also had a positive impact on their employees as they see their company helping others.” Another stated that this will have a positive impact on their company as more people hear about the program. All seven property managers noted no changes to their respective communities as a whole.

FROM PROPERTY MANAGERS: INTERACTIONS WITH PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

"We are pleasantly surprised with how successful the program has been.” - Property Representative

LOOKING FORWARD

Our immediate next steps are to continue building out our model. This evaluation is important as it enables us to continue refining the program to meet the needs of the participants. We are now exploring funding for the 100 family Demonstration Project. We need to expand the project to test the impact on the participants. Longer term, we will explore sources for permanent funding of time-limited rental support and coaching programs so that more families can prosper.

To read the full Prosperity Report, visit www.MovetoPROSPER.org/ProsperityBrief2019