Move to PROSPER (MTP), an initiative of The Ohio State University’s City and Regional Planning program along with community partners, is a new and innovative program to improve life outcomes for children and their mothers by creating opportunities for residential and financial stability through temporary rental support and comprehensive coaching that facilitates successful moves to higher opportunity communities.

The program was created as national research shows that children who live in stable households in high opportunity neighborhoods for even a few years before reaching age 13 have improved long-term life outcomes including:

- 31% higher incomes in early adulthood;
- 32% more likely to attend college;
- $302,000 higher lifetime earnings;
- girls are 26% less likely to be teen mothers; and
- girls have a 70% lower risk of severe anxiety disorders.

MTP’s strategy is to enable very-low income single women in low wage jobs, with children ages 13 and under, at least one of whom is in school, to have access to existing rental housing in higher opportunity communities by providing 3 years of rental support and life coaching. This enables access to social and economic opportunity, which much research has shown benefits all children, especially those from families with lower incomes. Many organizations locally and nationally are advocating for increased funding of rental assistance as this is the most economical and efficient way to create the most affordable housing. This will also lessen the well documented economic segregation in central Ohio.

MTP has created a life coaching model with OSU, as research has shown that coaching builds resiliency, addresses trauma, and helps people learn to navigate systems to solve problems and improve their lives. The coaching revolves around 4 key pillars that need to be addressed for families with children to thrive and prosper:

- housing stability (mobility, moving to a new neighborhood, and tenant responsibilities);
- financial capability and stability;
- Improved health outcomes (physical and mental health as many people suffer from toxic stress); and
- education/career goals (empowering women to navigate their child's school for positive outcomes and coaching for career pathways, if that is desired).

MTP started with a 3 year pilot of 10 families who moved to their new homes in August 2018. After one year, 90% of the families remain in their homes (a new family joined in pilot so there are still 10 families being served). Outcomes to date:

- 90% of families continue our program
- 5 have new jobs/promotions
- 3 returned to school
- 80% paying down debt
- 80% of women had improved mental health and stress levels
- 70% of families saw improvement in child behavior
- 50% of families reported positive youth health changes (fewer ER visits & missed school days)
- All children who are in school are doing well and flourishing in their new environments

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**Next Steps**
The MTP team has raised funds for the Pilot’s 3 years of rental assistance and is now seeking the remaining funding for the pilot, which includes the cost of launching the demonstration project. The MTP team is exploring funding for a 3 year, 100-family, demonstration project.

The coaching program will be replicable and available for use by other organizations. The results of the demonstration project will be used to develop new ways of funding rental support for low income families so they can live in high opportunity neighborhoods in decent, healthy homes, where they and their children can thrive and prosper. The results will also be used to show private sector owners of rental property in high opportunity neighborhoods that they can successfully rent to low income families, thus opening doors to opportunities for these families.

**Project Background:**
**Franklin County 2018-2019 Opportunity Map**

**Housing Location:**
Move to PROSPER has 75 apartments committed in high opportunity neighborhoods for the Demonstration Project. Units are being sought in all very high and high opportunity areas of Franklin County, including the City of Columbus (areas in dark and very dark red on the map).

- Landlords reduce the rent by $100 per month for 3 years for eligible program participants and participate in implicit bias training.

**Participant Program Criteria:**
- Single female, head of household
- 1-3 children, 13 and under, 1 in school
- Insecure housing
- Not in Voucher Program
- Very low family income
- Children eligible for Medicaid
- Have personal transportation

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