

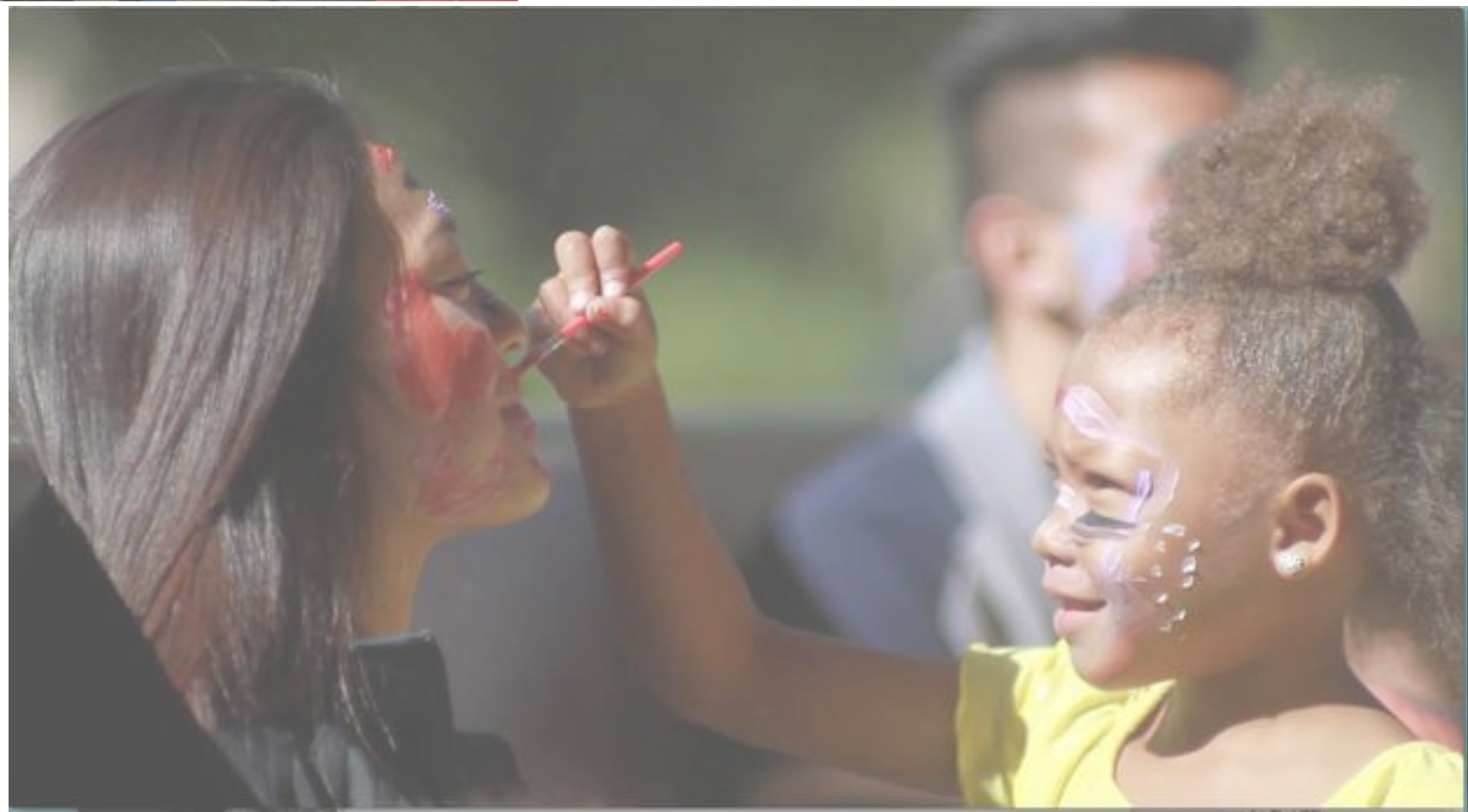


**Family  
Independence  
Initiative**



*Trust and Invest In  
families.*

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## 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%

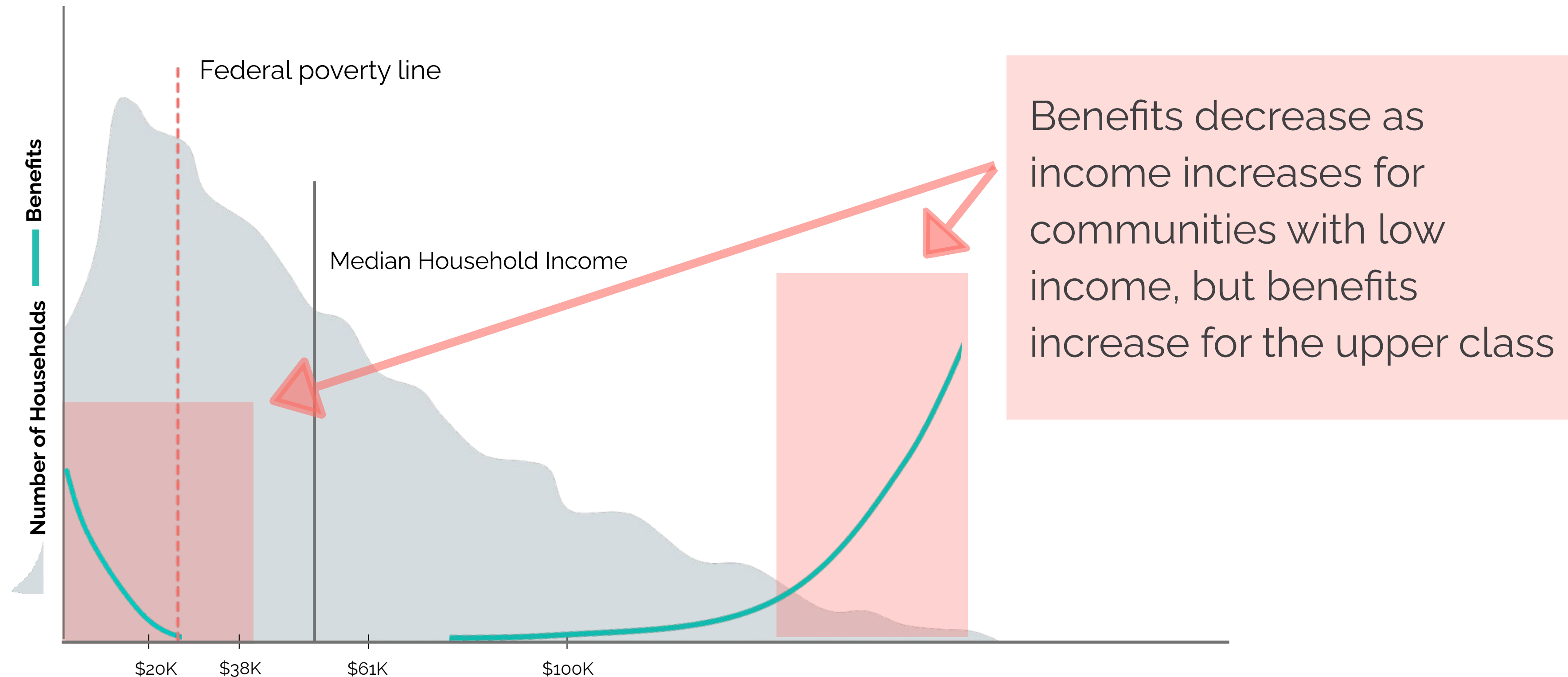
do not access  
Federal Subsidies

50%

fall back under the  
poverty line in 5  
years



# What contributes to this *system of inequality*?





# Our approach



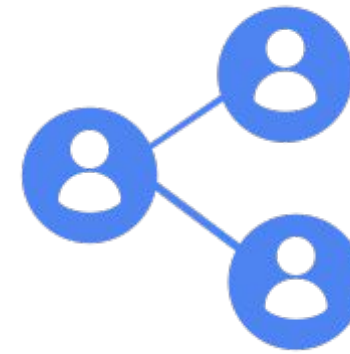


# Strength-Based Approach



## 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.



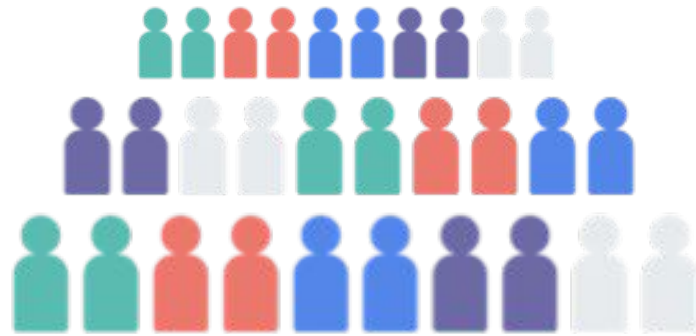


# UpTogether

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





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## How Systems *See Me*

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

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## 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.

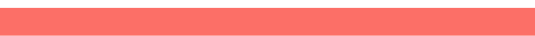
Just as the Move Baby, Move exercise program was gaining recognition, resident and fitness specialist Aaron Palmer was shaken after his co-founder's death.

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 is lifting low-income families by giving them direct access to funds. The program'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



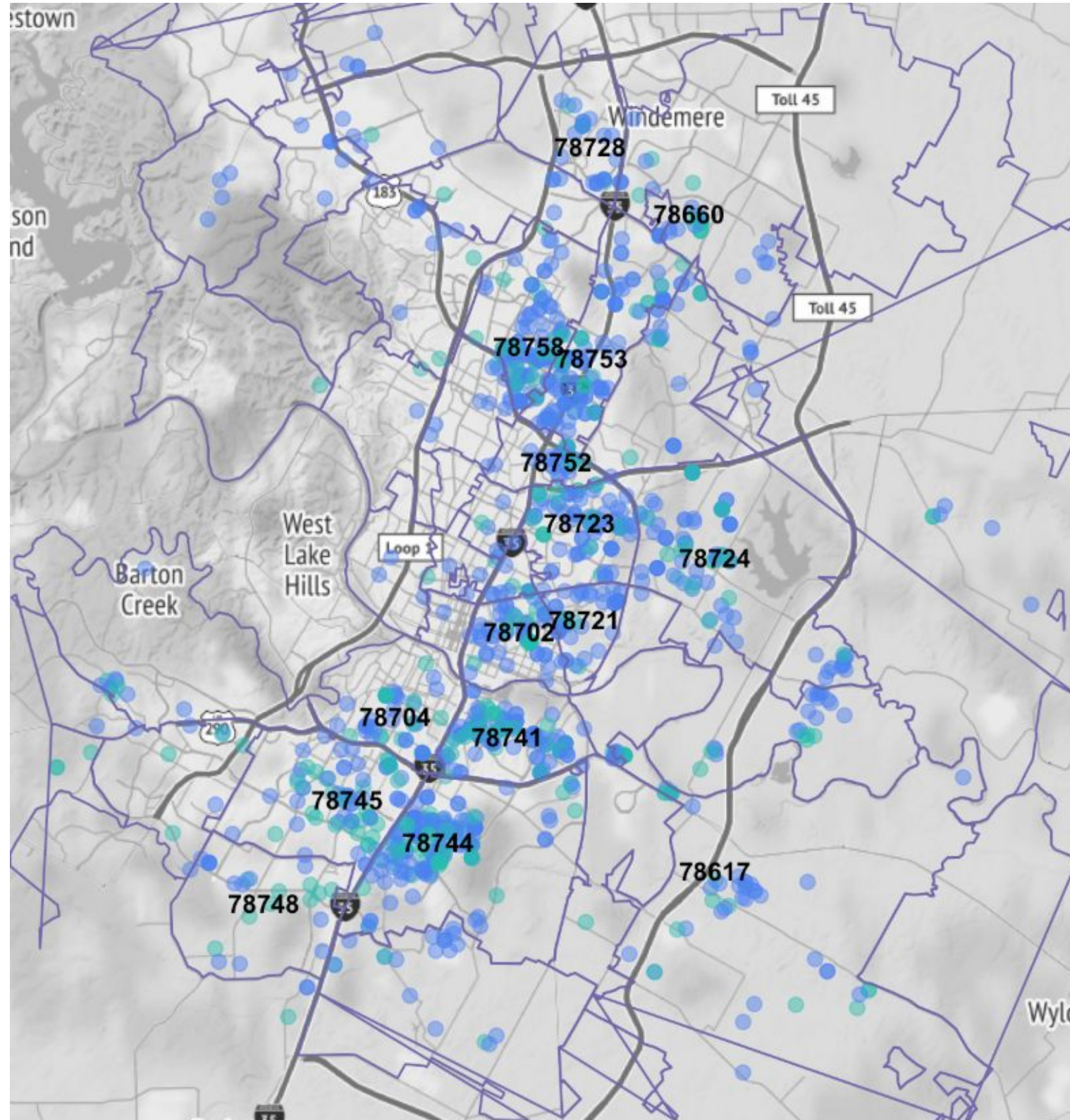
97% of funds are going to families

| 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

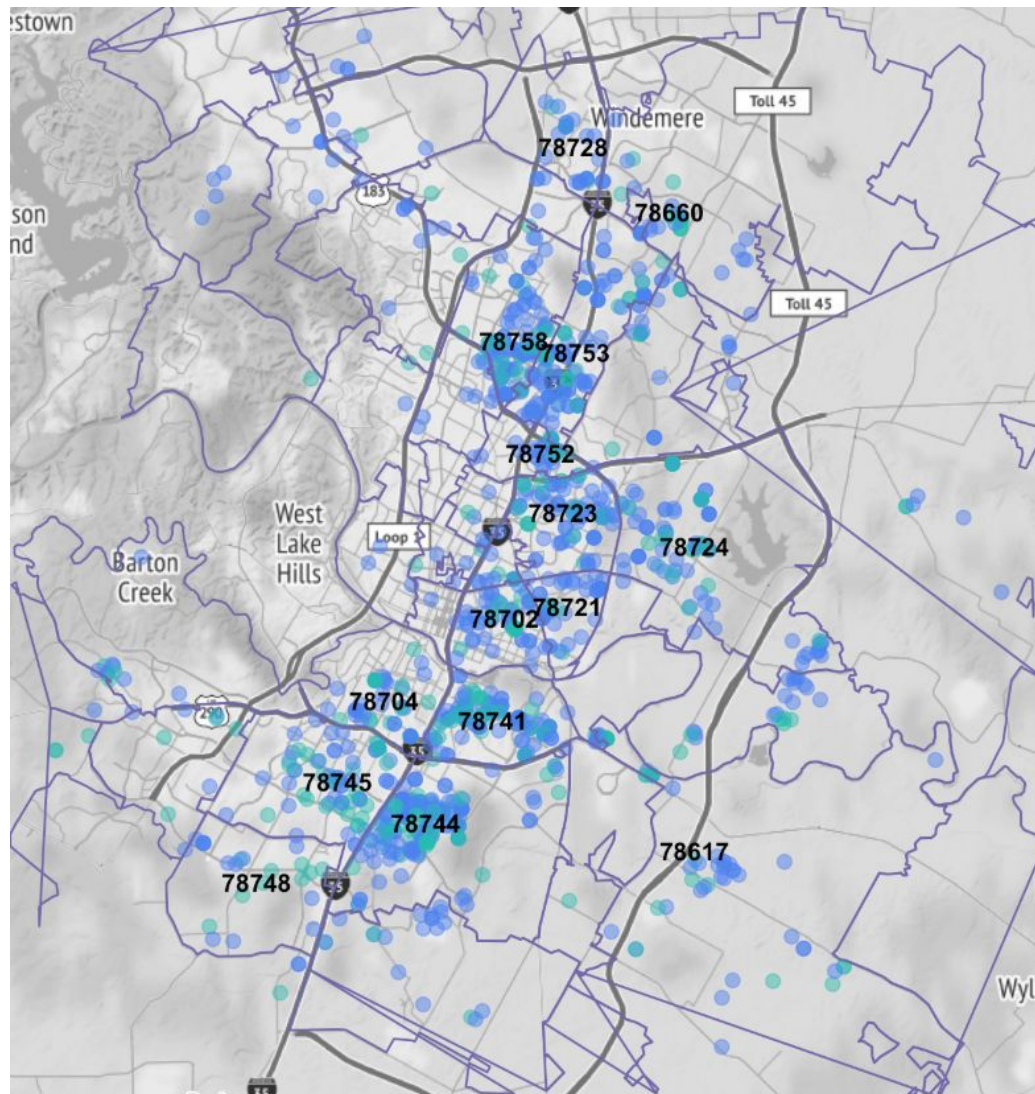
## Populations:

- 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)