

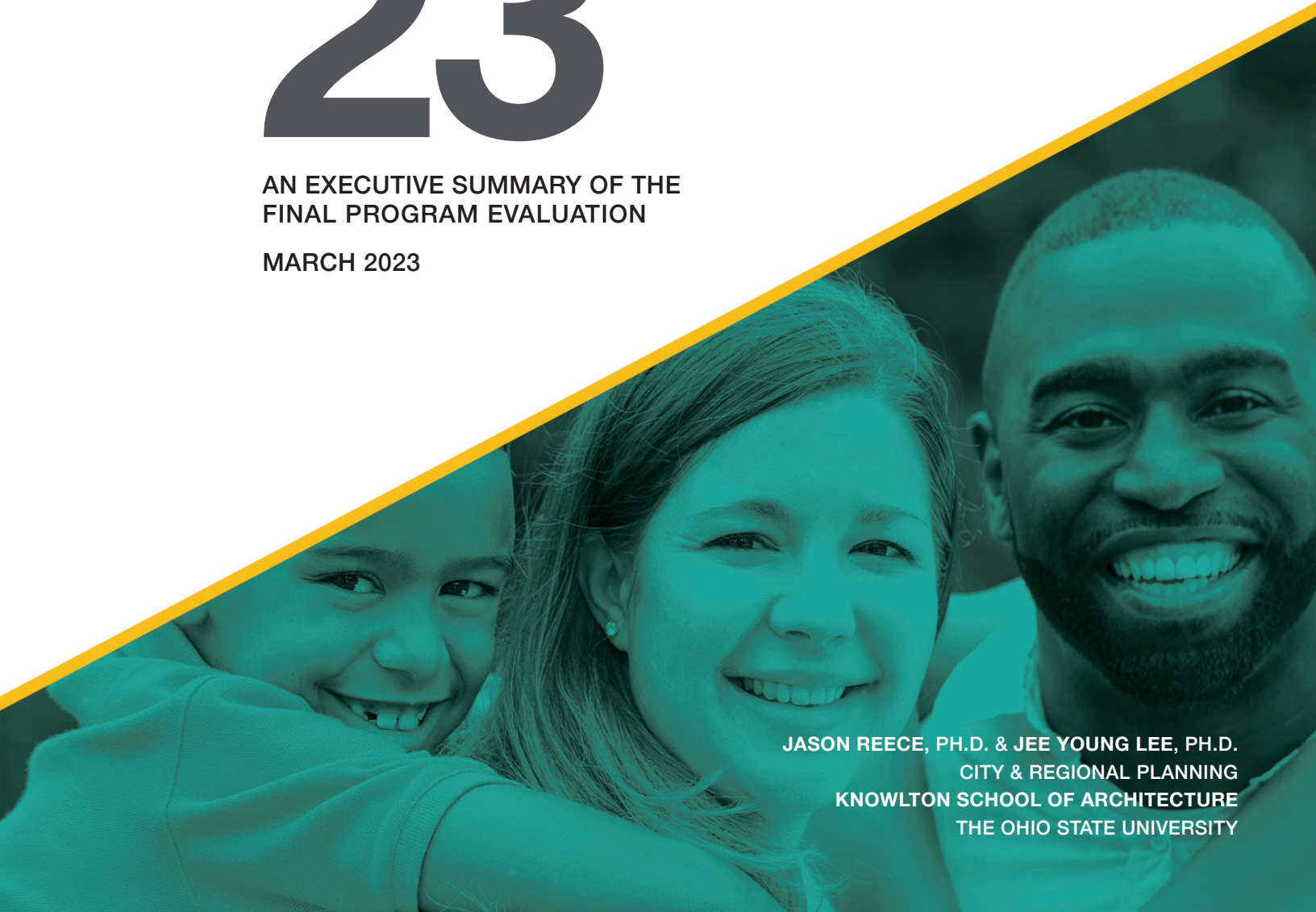


# PROSPERITY REPORT SUMMARY

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AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE  
FINAL PROGRAM EVALUATION

MARCH 2023



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CITY & REGIONAL PLANNING  
KNOWLTON SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

# INTRODUCTION FROM MOVE TO PROSPER

“It’s the peace. Once I was able to clear my mind, gain clarity, and all my needs were met, **I was able to focus on my goals and begin accomplishing them.**”

- BESSIE JACKSON, PILOT MOM

Safety is critical to change. You can’t disconnect living in a safe, higher-resourced neighborhood from a family’s ability to gain financial literacy, improve their physical and mental health, parent better, and ultimately reach their dreams.

Bessie’s quote captures that perfectly, and it is also the message of this - our final summary of the report on the Move to PROSPER (MTP) pilot. What we have learned from this evaluation - and what we are now embarking on - is that this approach works and needs to be scaled to serve more families.

We ask for your support as we go to scale. MTP was built to give more Central Ohio children the chance to grow up in ZIP codes with endless possibilities. And we see from the response of the pilot families just how much the move has helped both the children and the adults thrive.

*“It (MTP program) just allows me to restart, close off one chapter, and start anew, so (this is) my fresh ground. So yes, it was the best thing that happened to me,”* another mom told our OSU evaluators.

More families deserve this chance to create stability and find a pathway to economic mobility. That’s why we are currently welcoming two classes of 15-20 families twice a year for three years in a row - to prove we can scale. After that, we will continue this program locally and seek to scale it with other communities.

The pages ahead are a summary from The Ohio State University evaluators’ final report on the pilot, which took place from August 1, 2018–July 31, 2022. Unlike our earlier status reports, which looked back at the previous 12 months, this report looks back over the results of the entire pilot.

## DR. JASON REECE PROVIDED THIS OUTLINE OF HIS WORK

(see the full report at [MoveToPROSPER.org/movetoprosperefinalreport2023](https://MoveToPROSPER.org/movetoprosperefinalreport2023)):

### Housing First:

Secure, stable, healthy, and affordable housing is essential as a building block for family well-being, personal growth and prosperity.

### Neighborhoods Matter:

Improved neighborhood safety and access to highly resourced schools placed children in a position to thrive.

### Stability Enables Growth:

As families achieved new personal goals, increased confidence enabled parents to strive for more ambitious goals.

### Relationships Matter:

Relationships in MTP included the bonds built between MTP families and the relationship among coaches and families.

### Change Takes Time:

We have found that three years in the MTP program helps families build their skills, gain confidence and self-sufficiency, and then set and achieve higher and higher goals during the program.

You have been a catalyst to this work and now for our growth. We appreciate you, and we look to you to continue to be our advocates as we serve more and more families.



Rachel Kleit: Co-founder and Chair of MTP’s Original Steering Committee

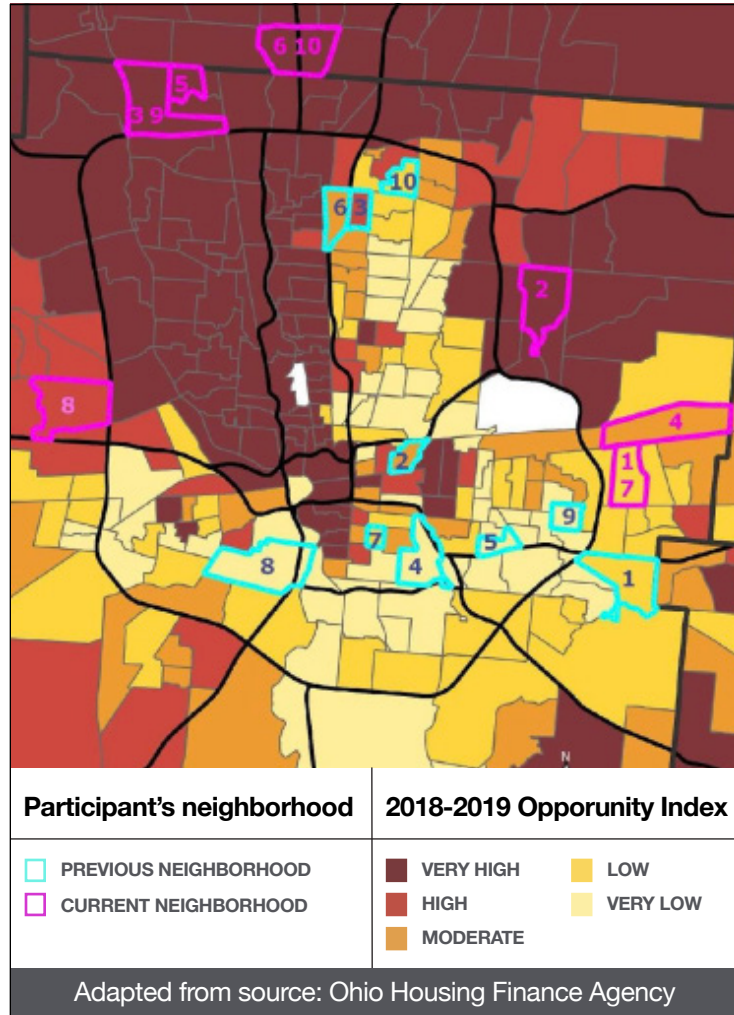


Amy Klaben: Co-founder, President and CEO



Lori Ann Feibel, MTP Board Chair





## MAPPING THE JOURNEY

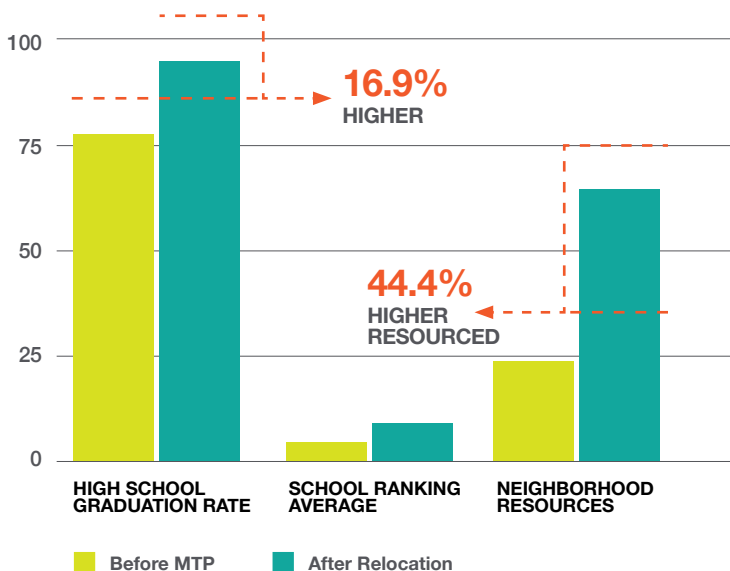
ZIP codes matter, the research shows again and again. When 10 pilot families entered the MTP program in 2018, two resided in core urban neighborhoods prior to the program, the remainder were located in older Columbus neighborhoods. The map displays the MTP participants' previous and current (as of June 2020), residential locations. Residential location data overlays the opportunity index map (from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency) for census tracts in Franklin County. As you can see, the move only had to cover a handful of ZIP codes to make a massive leap in opportunity.

*The pilot program began with initial program applications in the spring of 2018. Out of more than 300 applicants, ten participants were selected and began program activities in late spring 2018. One participant left the program in 2020. Nine of the original families remain in MTP with one new family joining and two exiting prior to July 2020. Due to the economic and educational impacts of the COVID pandemic, participants were provided a fourth year of program participation, with the pilot coming to an end in July 2022. All of the participants have some college education. Three participants have a college degree, associate degree or vocational college diploma.*



Children relocating to higher-resourced neighborhoods\* have **\$302,000** higher average lifetime earnings resulting in **\$5.4 million higher lifetime earnings** for Move to PROSPER pilot children.

\* Chetty, R., Hendren, N., & Katz, L. F. (2016)



Here's a snapshot of what opportunity means. In their previous neighborhoods, high school graduation rates were nearly 17 percent lower than in their new neighborhoods; Great Schools ratings (a 10-point scale) were 40% lower; and the opportunity index was more than 44% lower.

Safer neighborhoods in Central Ohio tend to be equipped with higher-resourced schools, and our pilot children thrived with those supports. Being surrounded by peers who not only expect to finish high school, but to go on to college or trade school or the military, has a tremendous effect on the way children view their own futures.

Great Schools rankings – based on a 10-point scale

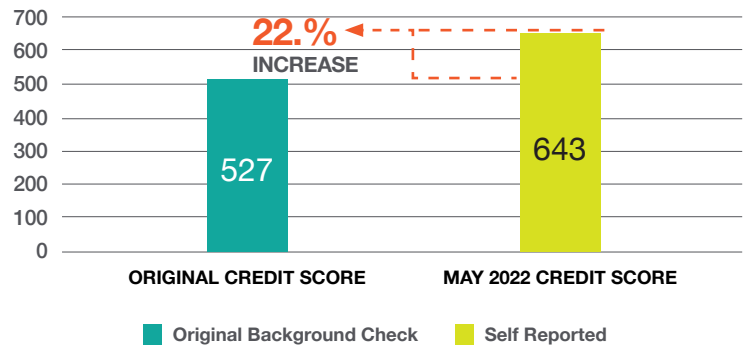
## INCOMES INCREASED

First things first. We originally set out to help children gain economic security, but what we learned through the pilot is that our moms - through work with their coaches - achieved more than we dreamed. First came a focus on financial literacy and health & wellness, followed by education and job changes. Supplemental surveys conducted by MTP found the four-year increase in **income among all participants to average 58% or \$17,000 per family**. Income increased from promotions, shifting into higher paying/higher skill positions or changing career paths.

Two key ways our families showed economic gains were in their job changes and the improvement in their credit scores. The path each took to get to a new, higher-paying job – or open a business – was as unique as each of them.



**Average of Responses:**  
116 point increase

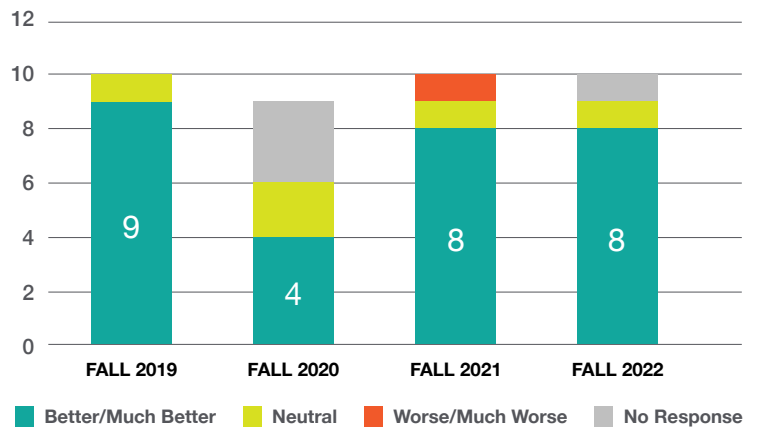


“I am at the same employer and have received **several promotions.**”

- MTP PILOT MOM



How would you describe **changes in your income** compared to when you started?



\*One participant selected two responses to this question in 2021.



“**The staff at MTP is invested in each family,** which is a huge difference and makes for no cookie-cutter approach.”

## HOUSING & HEALTH FIRST

Secure, stable, healthy, and affordable housing is essential as a building block for family wellbeing, personal growth and prosperity. Unhealthy, unsafe housing that MTP families lived in prior to joining MTP created and exacerbated chronic stress. Once a healthy and stable housing unit was provided to these families along with rent support to make housing in higher-resourced neighborhoods affordable, parental stress levels declined, children’s respiratory health quickly improved, and parents and children experienced improved physical and mental health.

The majority of participants rated their current neighborhood as “Much Better” than the neighborhood they lived in prior to joining the program. Participant perspectives on the quality of their current neighborhood has improved since the start of the program and leveled out over time. Two participants indicated their current neighborhood was “About the Same” in the fall of 2022.



We conservatively estimate that **at least 50 ER visits were avoided in the four-year duration of MTP.**  
**Estimated savings \$75,000**, based on average cost for ER admission for asthma at \$1,500.\*

\*ER cost estimate from: Wang, T., Srebotnjak, T., Brownell, J., & Hsia, R. Y. (2014). Emergency department charges for asthma-related outpatient visits by insurance status. Journal of health care for the poor and underserved, 25(1), 396–405. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2014.0051>

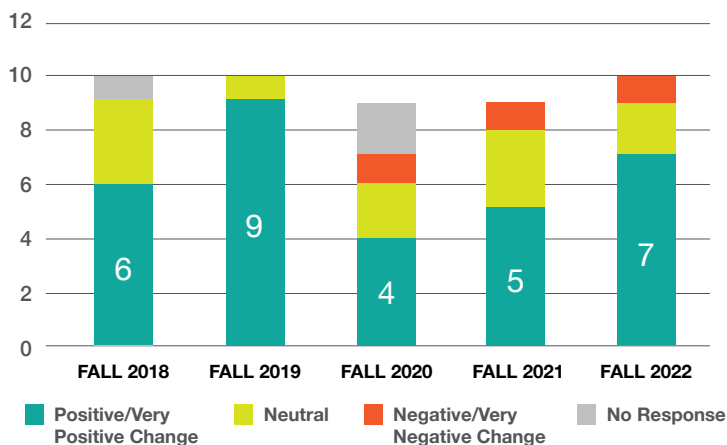
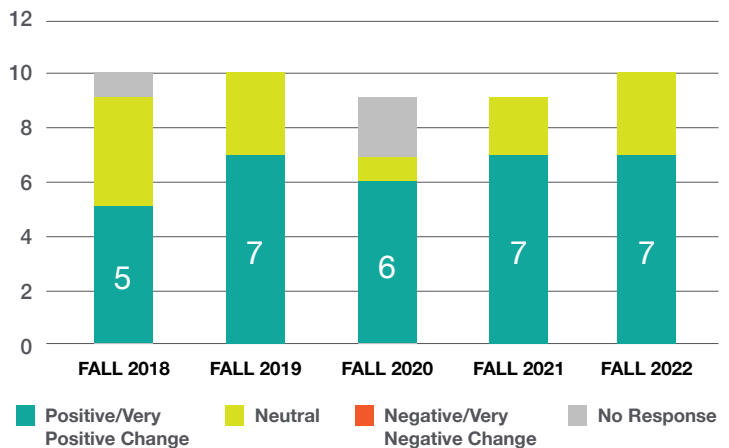


“The difference is night and day. My old area was becoming unsafe. We did not feel comfortable sitting on the porch at night. We (now) have a patio we can sit out on in the evening and enjoy it. **We feel safe.**”

- MTP PILOT MOM



Has your **mental health changed** after participating in MTP?



How has your **level of stress changed** after participating in MTP?

## NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER

The move to higher-resourced communities helped the pilot moms feel safe – many for the first time – to let their children play outdoors, and to join extracurricular activities at school. The majority of participants said the experience in their new neighborhood was very positive, and the moms spoke often of the improved quality of their housing and the improved safety of their neighborhoods as the most important benefits of their new housing.



Participating landlords estimate **saving \$800 - \$2,000** annually in turnover costs.

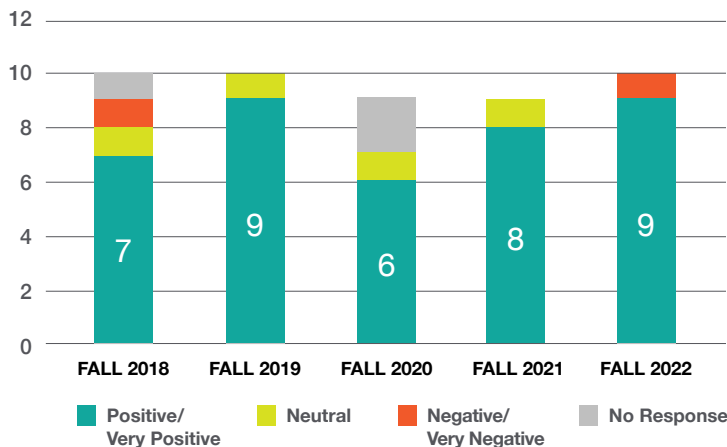
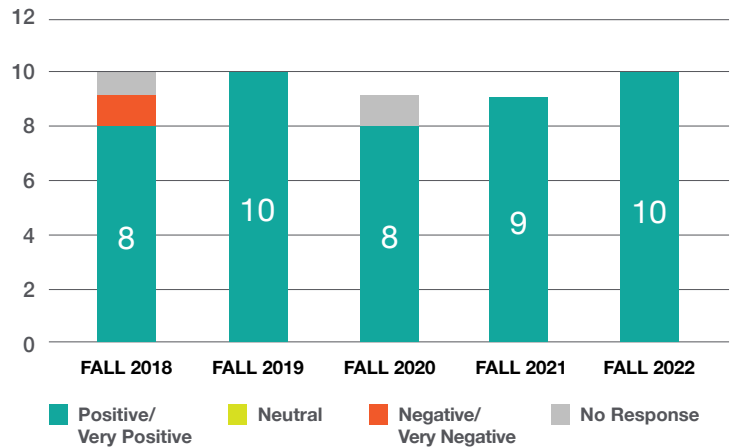


“I think having longer-term residents can have an impact on providing more of a community. Residents get to know each other and want to continue living with friends/neighbors. There can also be a savings with marketing and advertising expenses if you have a **lower turnover rate.**”

- MTP PROGRAM PROPERTY OWNER, ON THE BENEFITS TO HAVING STABLE TENANTS FOR 3 YEARS



How would you describe your **current housing?**



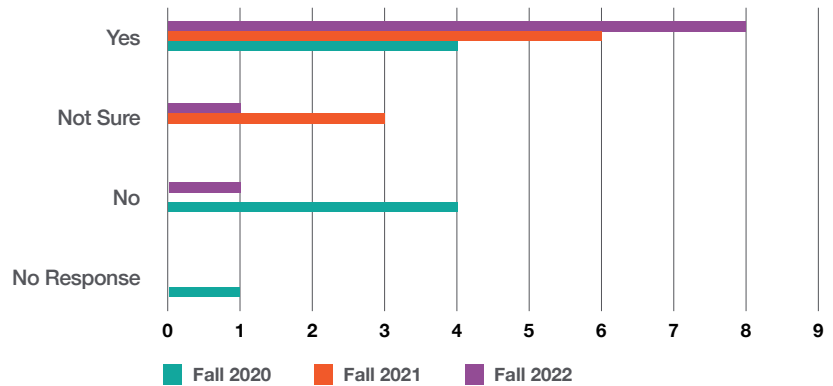
How would you describe your interactions **with neighbors, other tenants, and property management staff?**

## STABILITY ENABLES GROWTH

Once the pilot parents were able to reduce their toxic stress, they began to fully engage with the coaching and go after their dreams. First, they gained confidence that they could set and achieve small goals. Throughout Covid, they relied on the new-found resilience they were building. As the program ended, the moms were setting higher and higher goals to keep moving up the economic ladder.



### Has MTP helped you achieve goals?



“My financial goals, the implementation of a budget and emergency fund, etc. **The importance of self care** and the role it plays in your life.”

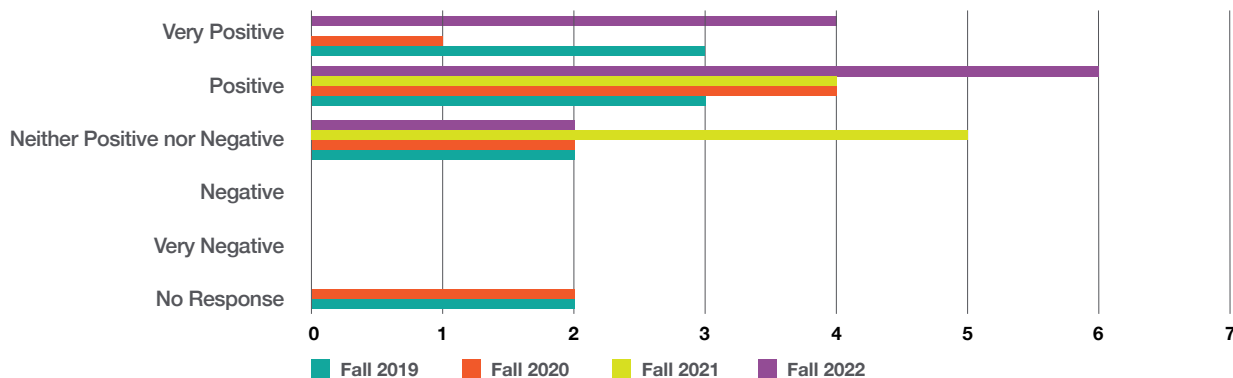
- MTP PILOT MOM

## RELATIONSHIPS MATTER

The bonds built among the pilot families, and between each family and their coach, were cited over and over as key to the program’s success. Monthly program sessions were held with participants to provide education, create opportunities for relationship building and allow participants to share skills or resources. Monthly program sessions were quickly moved to a virtual format in the Spring of 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Overall satisfaction scores for the monthly program showed noticeable improvement from the fall of 2021 to the fall of 2022.

Participants acknowledged that transitioning monthly meetings to a virtual format was logistically easier to accommodate for families. Travel times, work conflicts and childcare or extracurricular activities were identified as stressors to attending monthly meetings in the past. Several participants noted, however, that they missed the in-person interactions among families.

### How would you describe your experience with the MTP monthly programs?



\*Two participants selected two responses (i.e., “Positive” and “Very Positive”) to this question in 2022.

## CHANGE TAKES TIME

Perhaps most important to recognize is that change takes time. Many of us have attended a training or a conference - sure that we can go home and change our habits or try a new tactic after that one lesson. But it often doesn't stick, and we don't have a partner or coach to help us fail and try again, or to hold us accountable to the change. We have found that three years in the MTP program helps families build their skills, gain confidence and self-sufficiency, and then set and achieve bigger goals during the program.

The coaches provide the steady guidance, the hand to hold, the accountability partnership to help participants move forward.

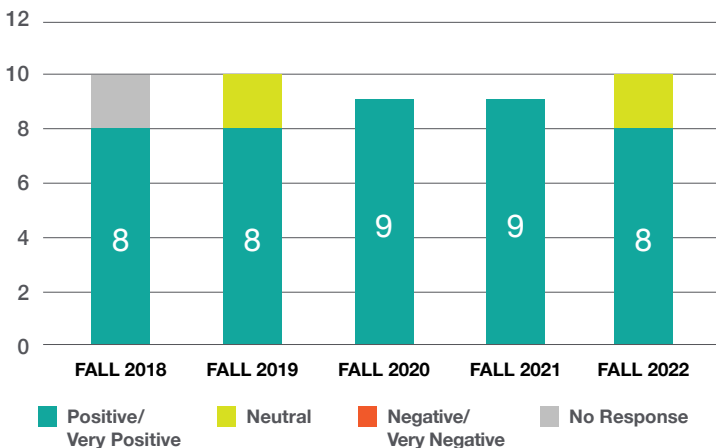


“In my opinion, the ongoing coaching for the moms is a game-changer, because it **helps them to adapt to their new situations** while also enabling them to set and achieve goals consistent with the goals they set for themselves and their children.”

- MTP COACH



Moms experienced an average **increase of \$17,000 or 58%** in annual income since joining Move to PROSPER.



\*One response, "Positive and once negative," was considered to be positive.



How would you describe your experience with your **MTP coach?**

“**MTP doesn't just offer families a chance**, it puts a thumb on the scale to help ensure their success. Each family in the program receives three years of meaningful rent subsidies and life skills coaching that have been shown to dramatically increase the positive outcomes for these women and for their children.”



## THRIVING AT SCHOOL

Higher-resourced schools meant different resources for each of the pilot families. For some, it meant getting the support needed to get a child to grade-level performance. For others, it meant more challenging classes and more extracurricular choices. Three children tested as gifted and were placed in programs to match their ability. Health outcomes improved, educational opportunities increased, and many participants noted in comments with their surveys the positive changes in their children’s lives.

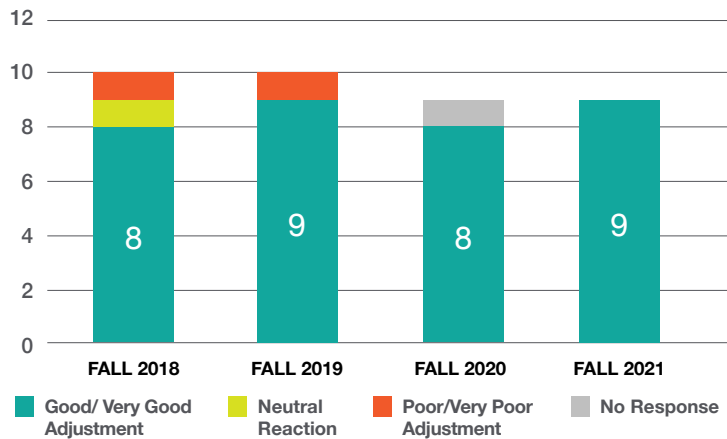
Over half of the participants who responded (six out of nine) indicated that their children’s academic outcomes improved either positively or very positively in 2021.

“The school gave her opportunities she would not have otherwise had.”

- MTP PILOT MOM



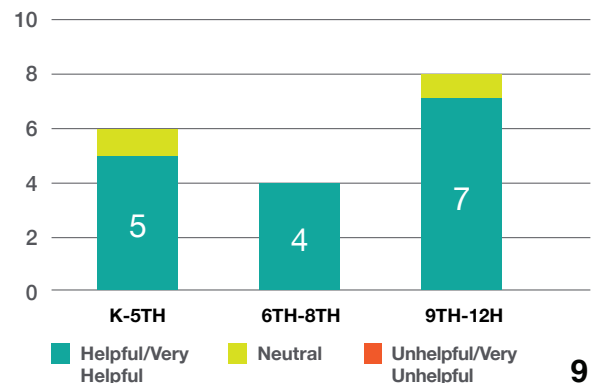
How has your child’s (or children’s) grades changed since enrolling in MTP?



Overall how helpful has the program been to your child?



How has your child adjusted (or reacted) to their school?



# WHAT COMES NEXT

MTP serves families who do not have access to the many resources Central Ohio has to offer, who are challenged by housing instability, who are concerned about neighborhood safety, and who do not have access to healthy neighborhood environments. In our region, that constitutes a lot of families.

MTP's model is new and innovative, creating affordable and mixed-income housing opportunities while enabling working parents to become self-sufficient. This model is based upon enabling families to move into quality housing in higher-resourced neighborhoods, along with coaching support, with access to needed resources, so that MTP families experience increased housing stability, improved financial position, improved physical and mental health, and improved children's educational behavior. MTP's long-term goal is to assist children from very low-wage families to transition to self-sufficiency for themselves and future generations.

The results of the final evaluation of the pilot makes us certain that we need to scale this program. And we are. On Sept. 13, 2022, we welcomed the first cohort in our expansion. Over the next three years, we will onboard two cohorts of 15-20 families each year. Continuing our partnership with OSU, we will continue to evaluate the next 100 families so that we can show why this program should be expanded and duplicated.

This program can be scaled by serving more families in Central Ohio and by other organizations utilizing the MTP model. The materials have been created and copyrighted, so others can use them.



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