

PROSPERITY REPORT SUMMARY

20 26

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE OHIO
STATE UNIVERSITY'S INTERIM PROGRAM
EVALUATION OF FAMILIES FLOURISH.

MAY 2026

Families Flourish, from 2018-2022, was an initiative of Ohio State University's City & Regional Planning Program and community partners, aimed at developing a nationally replicable model for improving the residential and financial stability of low-income families with children ages 13 and under.

The program seeks to support inclusive mixed-income communities in Central Ohio by providing life coaching to encourage success in higher-resourced neighborhoods and improve access to opportunities. The program provides three years of rental support and life coaching to enable families to move to safer neighborhoods with strong schools. The coaching revolves around four key pillars: housing stability, financial literacy, education and career, and health and wellness. The goal of the program is to improve academic performance for children, financial well-being, and physical and mental wellness for families. Now an independent 501(c)(3), Families Flourish continues to partner with OSU to evaluate outcomes.

INTRODUCTION FROM FAMILIES FLOURISH

“It’s been very helpful for my family. ... I was fearful of instability, and finding this program has **provided that foundation and the ability for us to be stable** in one location for three continuous years, which has been so helpful to my children.”

- FAMILIES FLOURISH PARTICIPANT

“You are having a profound impact on your families and their children.”

That’s what lead evaluator for Families Flourish Dr. Jason Reece told our team as he was finishing the 2026 Interim Evaluation Report. These pages are a summary of that report so we may highlight some of the most pertinent data points.

What this report does not include, because of the timing of our Group 1 graduation, is comprehensive data on those 13 families – our first graduates since the Pilot in 2022, which had 10 families.

Here, the individual stories shine:

- One mom TRIPLED her income while in the program while raising her credit score 74 points.
- One mom, who joined the program homeless with her young children, was able to provide her family a stable home for three years, something that had not been attainable to her.
- One mom opened a daycare center.

But the group data is not as clear-cut as it was in 2022. The nature of the current families is quite different from the Pilot. Overall, they are younger parents with much younger children, which comes with a different set of daily burdens than raising school- aged children. And based on research on the developing brain from birth to age 5, we are having a substantial impact on young children. By living in safer neighborhoods and having parents that are less stressed, we know from research that we are having a substantial impact.

Additionally, the program itself changed in two key ways that influence the outcomes of the Pilot versus Group 1:

1) The requirement that children be in school was removed after the Pilot, resulting in the average age of children dropping from 9 to 4.5, which adds significant parenting burdens resulting in younger parents with less time to have educational and employment history and experience;

2) the Pilot families – because of the pandemic – enjoyed four years in the program which is designed to be three years.

Preliminary outcome data from Group 1, who graduated the 3-year program in September 2025, shows that **10 of 13** have been able to choose housing that suits their needs after graduation (6 stayed in their same units, 4 moved). Two remaining families returned to living with relatives; reasons include health limitations and prioritizing returning to school. The final family is living independently in a lower-resourced neighborhood.

Group 1 saw 87% of families complete the full 3-year program.

Three families left the program without income – with one now working, another seeking employment after obtaining a certification, and one who is finishing school. With one family not reporting, the income of the 9 remaining graduates **grew more than \$14,000, or 43%**. The 3-year growth trend is in line with the income growth realized by the Pilot families, who had four years in the program.

Group 1 invested in their economic security while in the program: **54% finished or started a degree or certification** program while in Families Flourish; 46% were still in school when they exited the program.

The transformations each family experiences is undeniable. As your read on, we invite you to recommit your treasure, time and talent to help this work continue.

We create a future where our families are empowered to unleash their talents and pursue their goals and aspirations.



Amy Klaben,
President and CEO



Kate Giller,
Board Chair

OUR FAMILIES

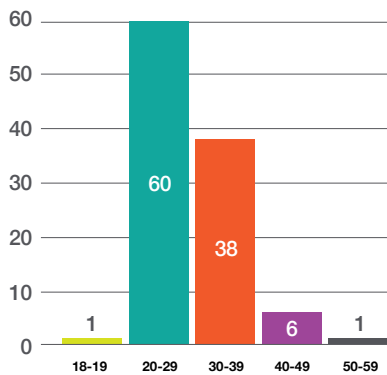
Beginning in September 2022, 15 families joined Group 1 of the program. In 2023, 16 families joined Group 2, and 17 families joined Group 3. In 2024, 16 families joined Group 4, and 17 families joined Group 5. In 2025, 22 families joined Group 6. Currently, 14 families are participating in Group 2, 12 in Group 3, 14 in Group 4, 17 in Group 5, and 21 in Group 6. Participating families relocated to apartment complexes located within the Bexley, Columbus, Dublin, Gahanna-Jefferson, Hamilton, Hilliard, New Albany, Olentangy, Pickerington, South Western, Westerville, and Worthington school districts. To date, 13 families in Group 1 have graduated from the program, and 12 families exited the program early, out of an initial total of 103 participant families.

The program’s families are illustrative of a broader segment of the Central Ohio population—economically vulnerable, living in challenging environments, and receiving limited or no public assistance due to a lack of available funding or benefits cliff issues. Participants in Groups 1 through 6 include 100 single female-headed households and three couple households—totaling 103 participant households and 106 adults—not currently participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program and who had previously resided in low-opportunity* neighborhoods, experienced housing instability, or experienced periods of homelessness.

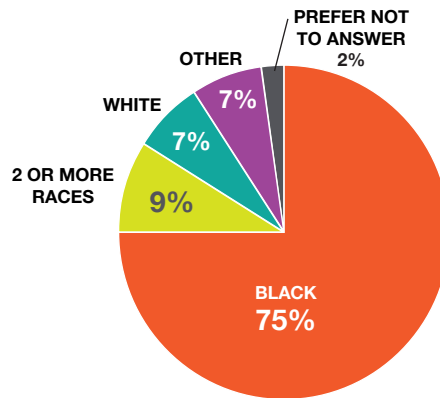
**This term is used in the Ohio Housing Finance Agency Opportunity Index.*

The charts below present key demographic information for the 103 participant households (106 adults) at program entry:

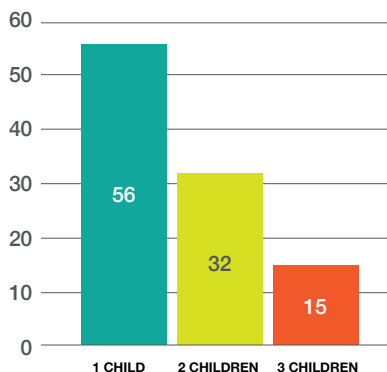
Age of Adults (N=106)



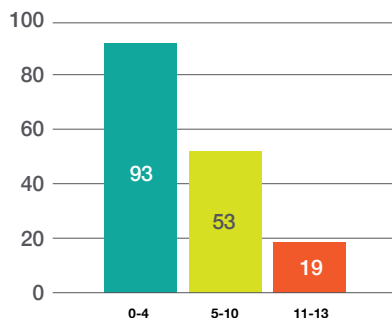
Race of Adults (N=106)



Number of Children Per Household



Age of Children (N=165)



“Families Flourish, I love them. They’re like second family to me.”

- FAMILIES FLOURISH PARTICIPANT



OUR VALUES:

1. Driving Prosperity
2. Passionate
3. Kind
4. Collaborative
5. Authentic



“Relocating was amazing! [I] found a secure, nourishing and beautiful environment for my kids to grow up safely. [Our] property manager is understanding and helpful!”

- FAMILIES FLOURISH PARTICIPANT

EVERY FAMILY, ONE GOAL: ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY

Not every neighborhood has the same access or amenities — a fact Dr. Reece called “forgotten neighborhoods” in an early report on the Families Flourish Pilot program. The neighborhoods that do have a higher quality of life are a major piece of how our program stabilizes families in their housing so they can concentrate on setting and achieve economic goals.

ECONOMIC OUTCOME SUMMARY

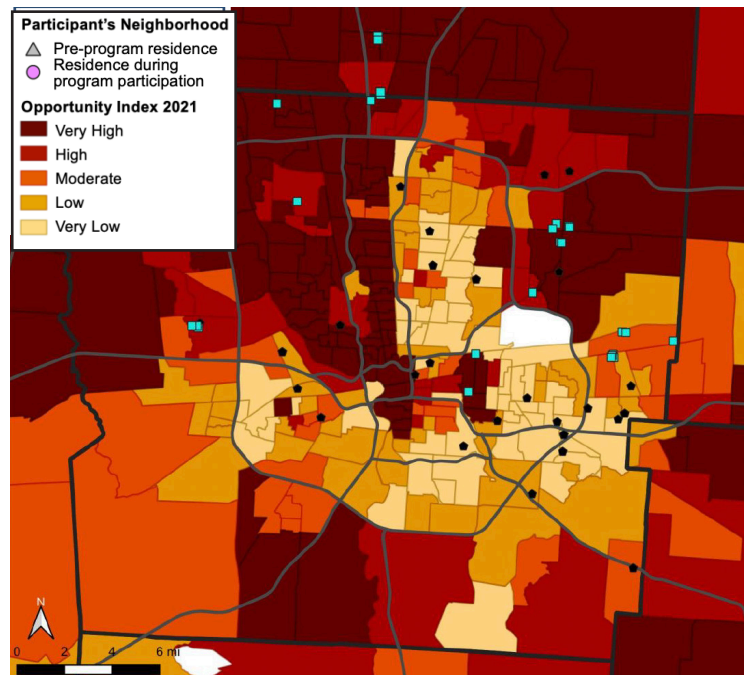
As observed very early in the Families Flourish evaluation by Dr. Jason Reece, economic improvements often come AFTER 6-12 months of working with a coach. First, the relationship to the program and to the new community has to develop. Often, more confidence and clarity are gained through coaching and THEN families can act on asking for the raise, training for new skills, or moving jobs entirely.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHANGE

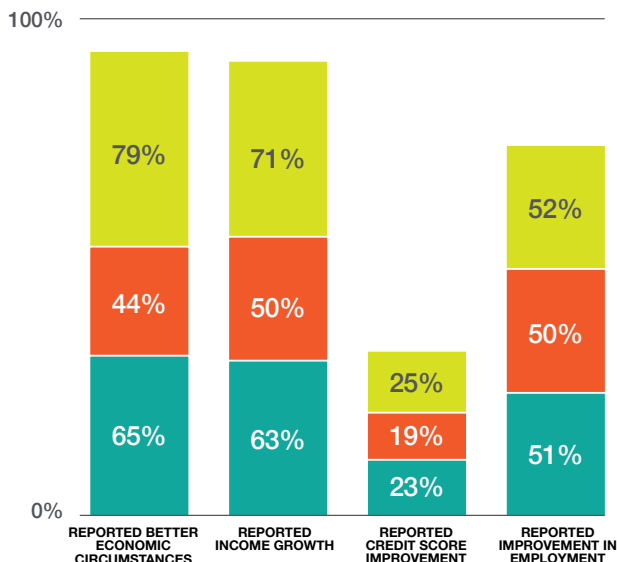
Pre-Program and During-Program Neighborhoods of Participants Who Were Not Homeless or Doubled Up (Groups 1-6)

This map represents 56% of families who were not homeless when they entered the program.

When entering Families Flourish, 44% of families did not have their own address and are not represented by this map. Many families moved to neighborhoods offering better opportunities, while several families relocated to neighborhoods with the same or lower opportunity levels as their previous ones, as they had been previously doubled up and were living in moderate, high- or very high-opportunity areas.



Summary of Economic Outcomes (Groups 3-5)



- Positive response rates for economic circumstances differed across participation stages, with higher rates among Year 2 participants than Year 1 participants.
- A majority of participants in Year 2 of the program reported improved economic circumstances, income growth, and better employment conditions, while nearly half of Year 1 participants reported similar improvements.
- Credit score improvements were less frequently reported across groups.
- Inflation pressures were commonly referenced as external factors affecting family economic circumstances. In addition, some participants reported layoffs or job termination, while others indicated that they were primarily enrolled in school, completing a training or degree program.

■ All Participants ■ Participants at 1yr ■ Participants at 2yrs

FINANCIAL WELL-BEING

Employment Changes

In Year 1, half of participants in Group 5 reported an improvement in employment since relocating. Seven participants reported no significant change, and one reported a worsening of employment. Six participants indicated receiving one or more promotions since enrolling in the program. In Year 2, half of participants in Groups 3 and 4 who responded (12 out of 23) reported an improvement in employment since relocating, while eight participants reported no significant change, and three reported a worsening of employment. Ten participants indicated receiving one or more promotions since enrolling in the program.

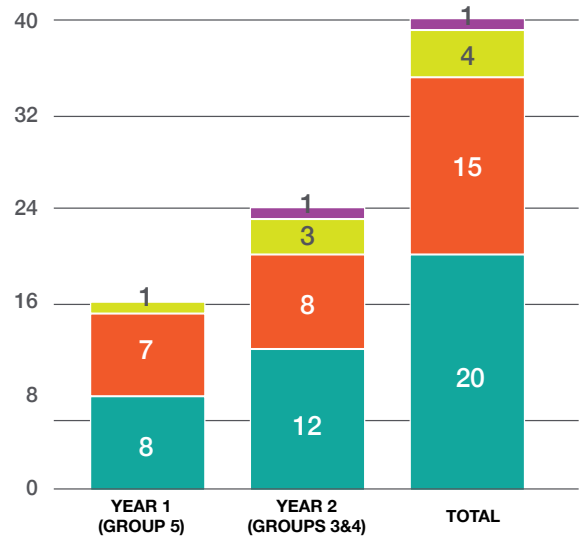
In the last 12 months, of the 39 participants who responded, 15 participants (38.5%; 3 from Group 5; 12 from Groups 3 and 4) reported participating in job or career training, and 17 participants (43.6%; 7 from Group 5; 10 from Groups 3 and 4) reported completing additional education, such as taking the GED, enrolling in college, or taking classes to learn new skills.



How would you describe changes to your employment since enrolling in Flourish?

■ Better/Much Better ■ Neutral
■ Worse/Much Worse ■ No Response

(Groups 3&4 N=24;
Group 5 N=16)



Credit Score Changes

In Year 1, three participants in Group 5 reported an improvement in their credit scores since enrolling in the program. The majority of participants (12 out of 16) indicated no change in their credit scores, while one reported a decline. In Year 2, one-fourth of participants in Groups 3 and 4 (6 out of 24) reported an improvement in their credit scores since enrolling in the program. Eleven participants indicated no change in their credit scores, while seven reported a decline.

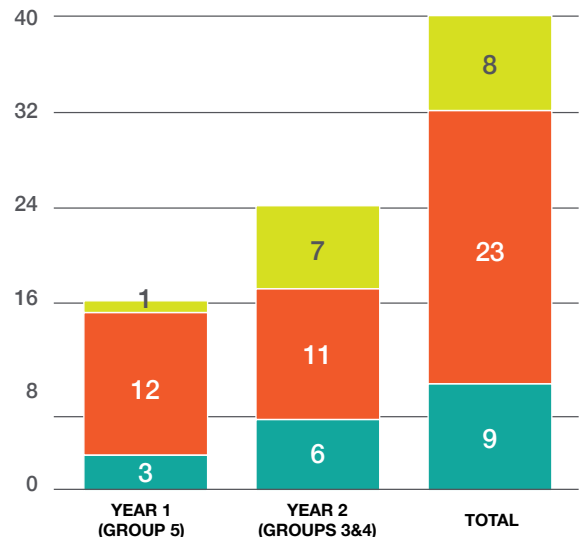
Inflation pressures were commonly referenced as external factors affecting family economic circumstances. In addition, some participants reported layoffs or job termination, while others indicated that they were primarily enrolled in school, completing a training or degree program.



How would you describe changes to your credit score since enrolling in Flourish?

■ Better/Much Better ■ Neutral
■ Worse/Much Worse ■ No Response

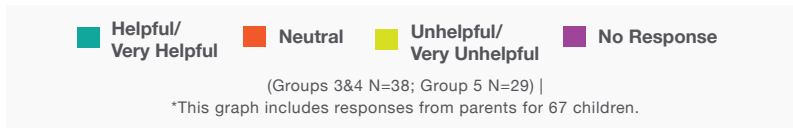
(Groups 3&4 N=24;
Group 5 N=16)



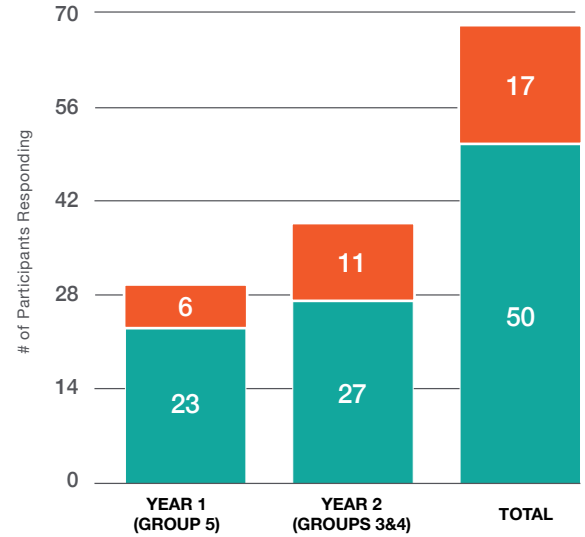
IMPACT OF FLOURISH ON CHILDREN

This section includes responses for 67 children: 38 from Groups 3 and 4, and 29 from Group 5. Of these, 37 are preschool-age or younger, and 30 are in K–12th grade. Out of 43 current female adult participants in Groups 3 through 5, 40 participants provided responses for each of their children.

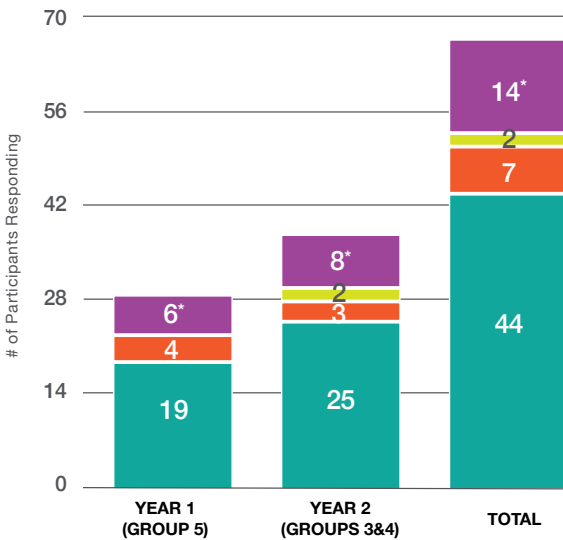
Participants (parents) rated the overall helpfulness of the program for their child(ren). In Year 1, participants in Group 5 rated the program as “Helpful” or “Very helpful” for 23 out of 29 children, and gave neutral responses (“Neither helpful nor unhelpful”) for six children. In Year 2, participants in Groups 3 and 4 rated the program as “Helpful” or “Very helpful” for 27 out of 38 children, and gave neutral responses for eleven children. Neutral responses should not be viewed negatively.



Overall, how helpful has the program been to your child?

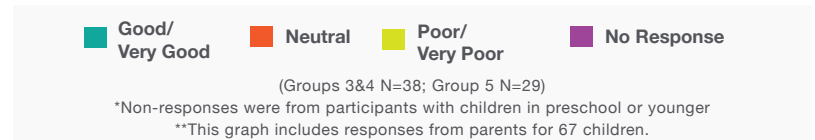


How has your child adjusted (or reacted) to their new school?



ADJUSTMENT TO NEW SCHOOL

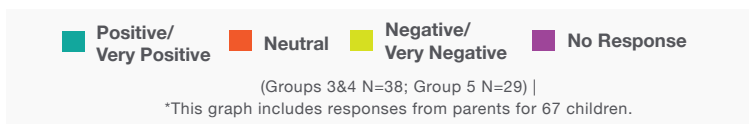
In Year 1, participants in Group 5 reported that 19 of 23 children (excluding six with no response) had a good or very good adjustment to their new school (including daycare and preschool), while four had a neutral adjustment. Since enrolling in Flourish, academic outcomes improved for 9 of 12 K–12 children (rated as “Positive” or “Very positive”), while three showed no change. In Year 2, participants in Groups 3 and 4 reported that 25 of 30 children (excluding eight with no response) had a good or very good adjustment to their new school (including daycare and preschool). Three children had a neutral adjustment, and two had a poor or very poor adjustment.



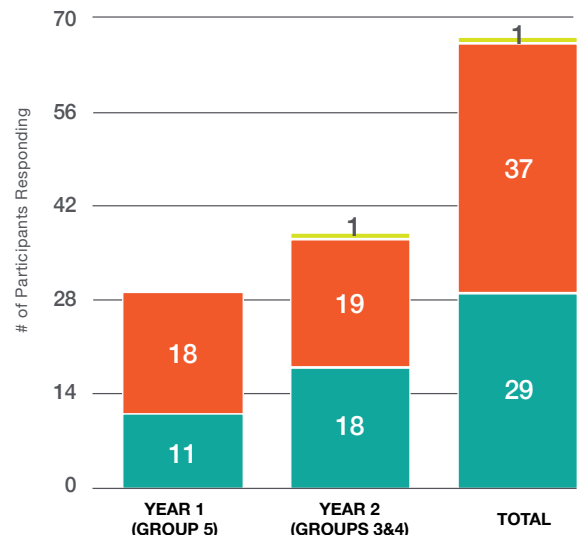
CHANGES IN CHILDREN’S PHYSICAL HEALTH

In Year 1, participants in Group 5 observed positive or very positive physical health changes in 11 out of 29 children since relocating, with 18 showing no change. In Year 2, participants in Groups 3 and 4 observed positive or very positive physical health changes in 18 out of 37 children (excluding one with no response) since relocating, with 19 showing no change.

No change in a child’s physical health should not be interpreted negatively. For children who began the program in very good or excellent health, maintaining their health status can be considered a positive outcome.



How has your child’s physical health changed since relocating?

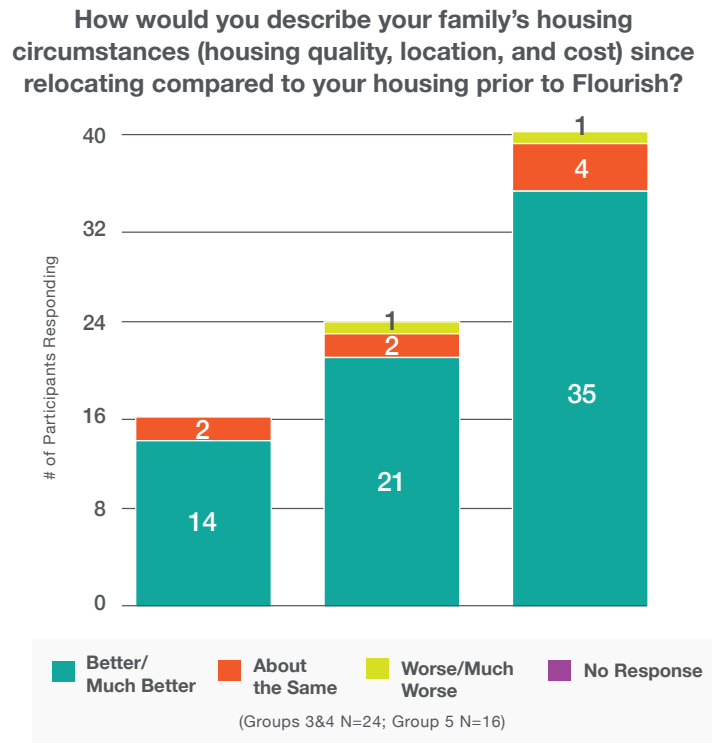
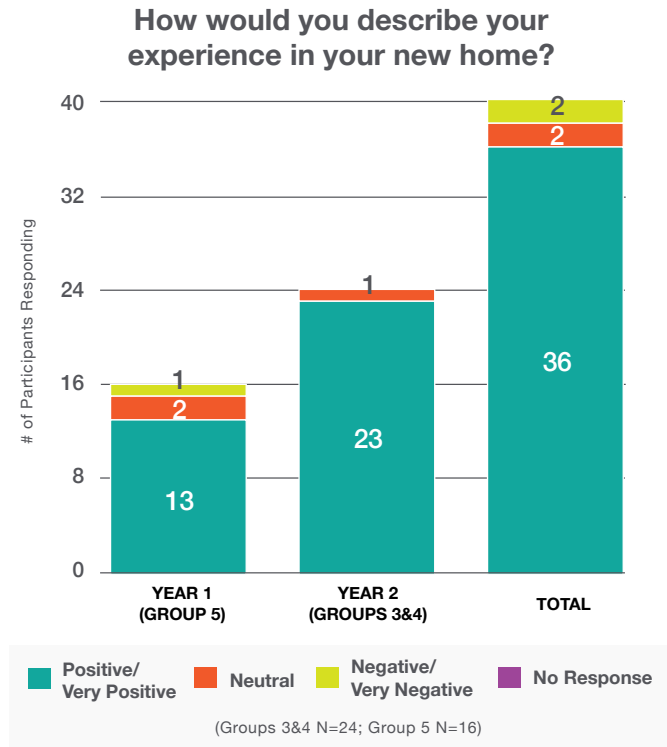


NEIGHBORHOODS MATTER

Housing Experience

In Year 1, the vast majority of participants in Group 5 (13 out of 16) reported a positive experience (“Very positive” or “Positive”) with their new housing, two rated it as neutral, and one rated it as negative. Similarly, 14 out of 16 participants described their housing circumstances as “Better” or “Much better” compared to their housing prior to Flourish, while two rated it as “About the same.”

In Year 2, all but one participant in Groups 3 and 4 (23 out of 24) reported a positive experience (“Very positive” or “Positive”) with their current housing, while one rated it as negative. Most participants (21 out of 24) described their housing circumstances as “Better” or “Much better” compared to their housing prior to Flourish, while two rated it as “About the same,” and one rated it as “Worse.”

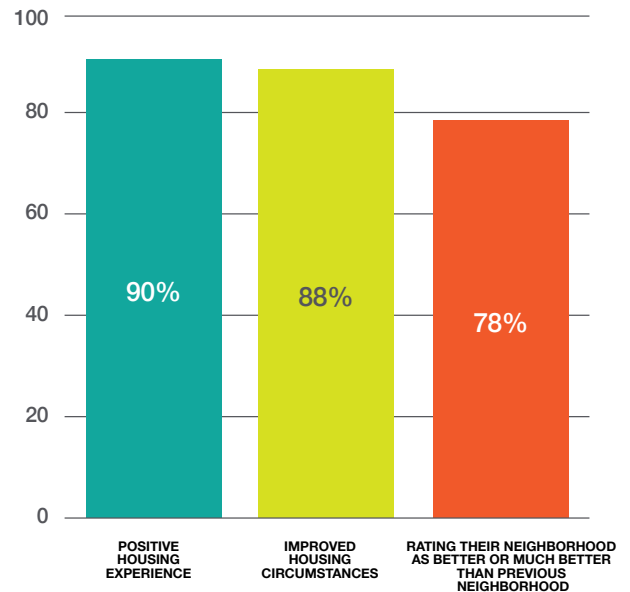


HOUSING SATISFACTION

The findings underscore the importance of housing stability as a foundation for broader family outcomes. By enabling relocation to safer, higher-opportunity neighborhoods and pairing this move with sustained coaching and rental support, Flourish creates conditions that allow families to focus on longer-term goals related to education, employment, and wellness.

- The vast majority of participants reported a positive experience with their current housing, indicating that their housing circumstances had improved since joining the program and rating their current neighborhood as better or much better than their previous neighborhood.
- Only two participants reported dissatisfaction with their housing; the remaining participants reported neutral responses, which should not be interpreted as negative responses. Only one participant reported that their housing conditions had declined, while the remainder indicated that conditions were about the same.
- Two participants reported that their current neighborhood was worse or much worse, while the remainder reported that their neighborhood was about the same.

Summary of Housing and Neighborhood Outcomes (Groups 3-5 N=40)

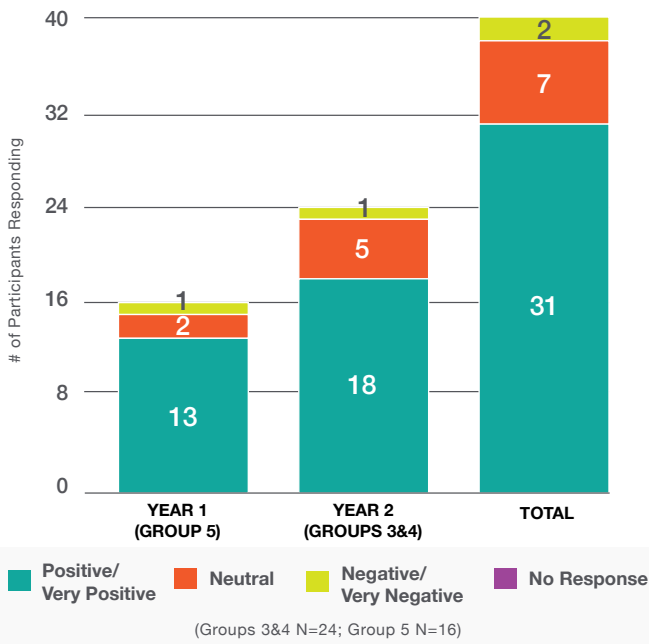


PROPERTY INTERACTIONS

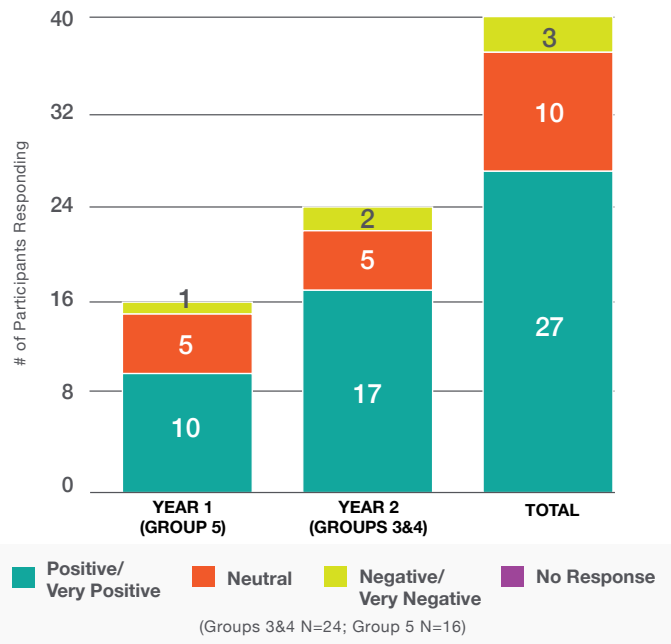
Property Management and Interactions with Neighbors and Staff

In Year 1, most participants in Group 5 (13 out of 16) rated their experience with property management as “Positive” or “Very positive.” Two rated it as neutral, and one had a “Negative” or “Very negative” experience. The majority of participants (10 out of 16) indicated positive interactions with their neighbors, other tenants, and property management staff, while five had neutral interactions and one had negative interactions. In Year 2, most participants in Groups 3 and 4 (18 out of 24) rated their experience with property management as “Positive” or “Very positive.” Five rated it as neutral, and one had a “Negative” or “Very negative” experience. Most participants (17 out of 24) indicated positive interactions with their neighbors, other tenants, and property management staff, while five had neutral interactions and two had negative interactions. Neutral responses to these questions should not be viewed as a negative response.

How would you describe your experience with property management?



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



Landlord Satisfaction with Families Flourish

Landlords participating with Families Flourish are overall satisfied, with 89% rating the quality of their experience with Families Flourish as good or excellent (n = 9, m = 3.2). Most landlord survey respondents for program Year three agreed that Families Flourish staff are responsive (89%), that they are satisfied with both the Families Flourish participants as tenants (78%), and their impact on tenants (67%). When asked about the benefits Families Flourish has brought to their business, one landlord highlighted the ability to help keep a family in their home, and another said: “Glad we are able to help these families get back on their feet.”

Source: Measurement Resources Annual Program Evaluation Report Cohorts 1-5, July 2024-June 2025.

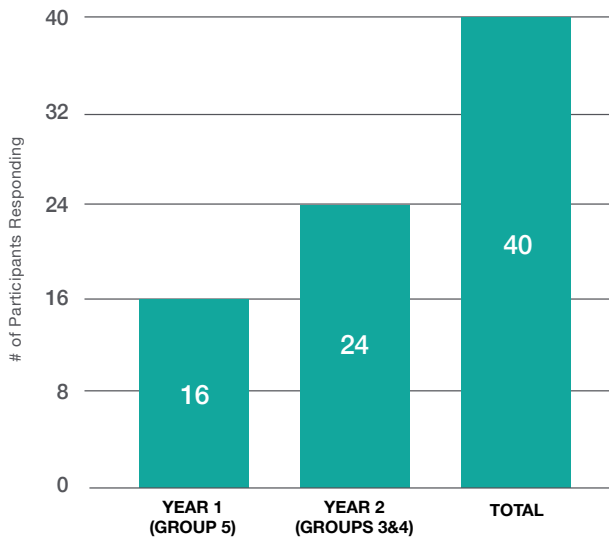
OUR LANDLORD PARTNERS

- Andrew and Michelle Tucker
- CASTO Communities
- Eric and Nikki Ransom
- Fourth Street Residential
- Gay Street Realty Co.
- Homestead America Ltd LLC
- JBM Development
- Myers Real Estate
- Oakwood Management Co.
- Oxford Commercial Real Estate
- P&E Real Estate
- Realize Property Management
- Schottenstein Property Group
- Stonehenge Company Inc.
- T&R Properties
- The Daimler Company
- Thomas H. Lurie & Associates
- Thrive
- True North Realty
- Vann-Oocumma, LLC.
- Wallace F. Ackley Co.
- Westwood Collective

COACHING

Participant satisfaction with Flourish coaching and monthly programming was exceptionally high across all groups. Nearly all participants rated their coaching experience positively, and qualitative feedback consistently emphasized the value of supportive, individualized relationships with coaches. Participants described coaching as instrumental in goal setting, financial management, emotional support, and navigating complex systems related to housing, employment, and education.

How would you describe your experience with the Flourish coach?



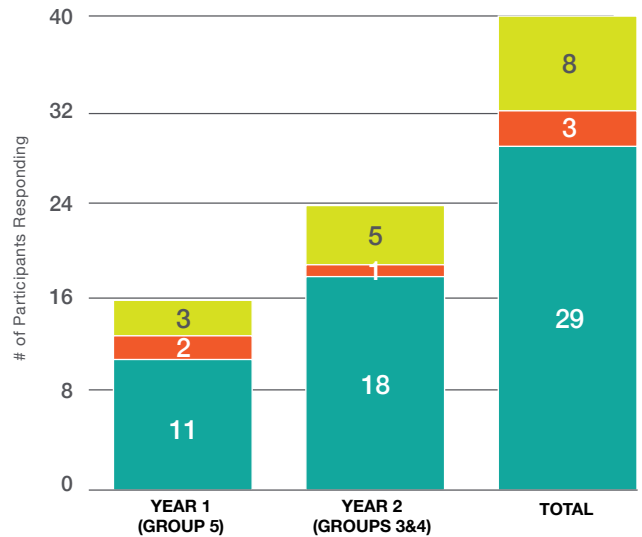
■ Positive/Very Positive
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Negative/Very Negative
 (Groups 3&4 N=24; Group 5 N=16)

Impact of Coaching Program

Participants were generally satisfied with the Flourish coaching program. In Year 1, all participants in Group 5 described the coaching program as either “Positive” or “Very positive,” with 11 rating it as “Very positive.”

In Year 2, all participants in Groups 3 and 4 described the coaching program as “Positive” or “Very positive,” with 19 rating it as “Very positive.”

Has Flourish helped you achieve new goals?



■ Yes
 ■ No
 ■ Not Sure
 (Groups 3&4 N=24; Group 5 N=16)

Goal Setting and Achievement

The coaching activities focused on setting personal goals and developing plans to achieve them, with goals covering topics such as finance, career development, and education. In Year 1, the majority of participants in Group 5 (11 out of 16) indicated that Flourish helped them achieve their goals, while two participants provided a negative response.

In Year 2, most participants in Groups 3 and 4 (18 out of 24) indicated that Flourish helped them achieve their goals, while one participant provided a negative response.



WHAT OUR FAMILIES SAY...

“I love the monthly coaching. I have learned so much. My coach motivated me and yes, I got the job I wanted for so long.”

“This program has been nothing short of a blessing for myself and my children.”

“Helped me make a smart decision financially by saving money for my children in a 529 and custodial account, a retirement account for myself, and eliminating a car payment, and purchasing a used car.”

- FAMILIES FLOURISH PARTICIPANTS



WELLNESS IMPROVEMENTS

Changes in Participant Physical Health

In Year 1, the majority of participants in Group 5 (10 out of 16) reported improvements in physical health since relocating; three noted no changes, and three experienced negative changes.

In Year 2, nearly half of the participants in Groups 3 and 4 (11 out of 24) reported improvements in physical health since relocating; 12 noted no changes, and one experienced negative changes. The negative changes may be associated with pregnancy, related medical restrictions or illness.

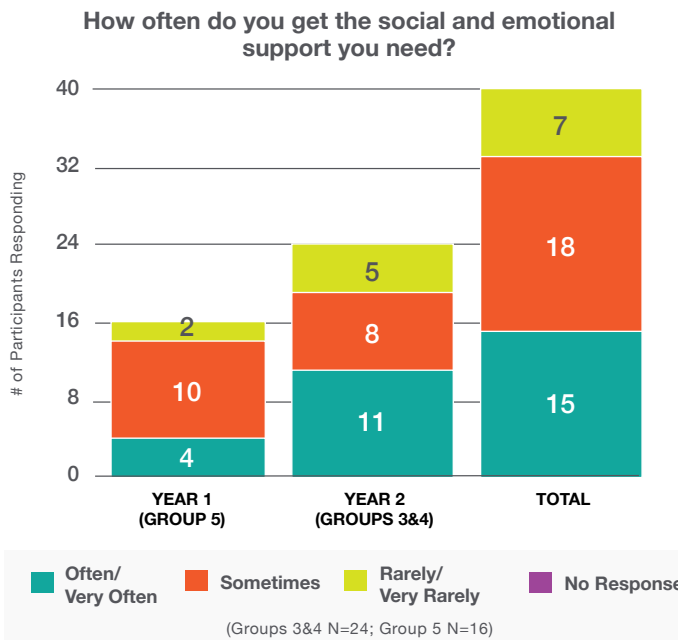
Changes in Participant Mental Health

In Year 1, the majority of participants in Group 5 (11 out of 16) reported improvements in mental health since relocating, three noted no changes, and two experienced negative changes.

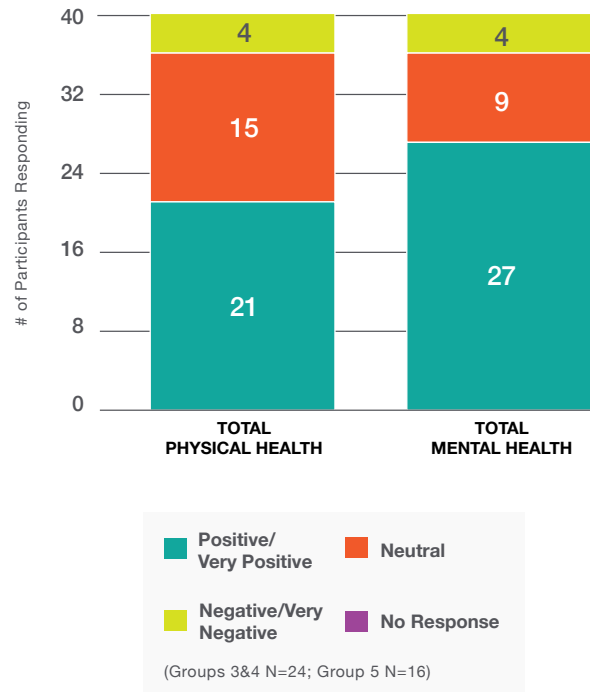
In Year 2, two-thirds of participants in Groups 3 and 4 (16 out of 24) reported improvements in mental health since relocating, six noted no changes, and two experienced negative changes. The negative changes may be associated with employment disruption.

Stress Levels and Social and Emotional Support

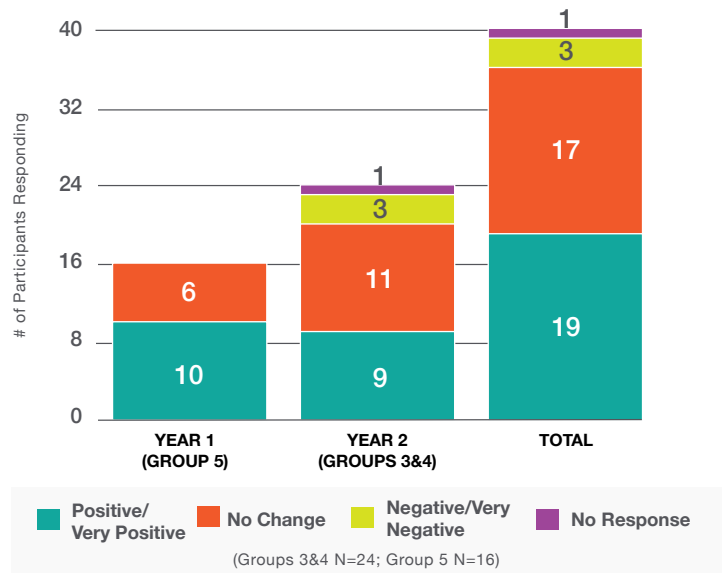
In Year 1, the majority of participants in Group 5 (10 out of 16) reported a positive or very positive change in stress levels since relocating, while six noted no change. Regarding social and emotional needs, four participants reported their needs were met “Often” or “Very often,” 10 indicated “Sometimes,” and two indicated “Rarely” or “Very rarely.”



How has your physical & mental health changed since relocating?



How has your stress changed since relocating?



In Year 2, over one-third of participants in Groups 3 and 4 (9 out of 23, excluding one with no response) reported a positive or very positive change in stress levels since relocating, while 11 noted no change and three reported a negative change. Regarding social and emotional needs, 11 participants reported that their needs were met “Often” or “Very often,” eight indicated “Sometimes,” and five indicated “Rarely” or “Very rarely.”

ANALYSIS & CONCLUSIONS

Overall, this third interim evaluation provides compelling evidence that Families Flourish is making meaningful progress toward its mission of supporting low-wage working families on a path toward stability, opportunity, and well-being. Across domains of housing, neighborhood quality, health, child development, and program satisfaction, participants reported substantial improvements compared to their pre-program circumstances.

The findings underscore the importance of housing stability as a foundation for broader family outcomes. By enabling relocation to safer, higher-opportunity neighborhoods and pairing this move with sustained coaching and rental support, Flourish creates conditions that **allow families to focus on longer-term goals related to education, employment, and wellness**. While economic gains are uneven and influenced by external conditions, evidence suggests that many families are gradually moving toward greater financial stability, particularly as they advance through the program.

At the same time, the evaluation highlights several ongoing challenges, particularly the ongoing impact of inflation, housing market pressures and changes in the economy. These challenges point to opportunities for further program refinement, such as expanded financial coaching around inflation pressures.

As noted earlier in the participant profile, nearly all families (98%) in Families Flourish are ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) families. **These families are at the forefront of being impacted by rising costs of living and larger disruptions in the economy**. The experience of program families in Families Flourish is reflective of the broader economic challenges and potential opportunities for social mobility for these ALICE families.

As a formative evaluation, this report is not intended to provide definitive conclusions about long-term economic mobility outcomes. Rather, it **documents early and intermediate changes that indicate the program is moving in the intended direction**.

In sum, the Families Flourish program demonstrates **significant promise as a comprehensive intervention** that integrates housing, coaching, and family supports. The positive outcomes documented in this interim evaluation provide a strong foundation for continued investment, learning, and potential replication in other contexts seeking to address housing instability and economic insecurity among working families.



“I learned so many things with the monthly programs. And every time we give suggestions on something, the next month or the following [month], we get someone who comes and talks to us about it.”

FAMILIES FLOURISH PARTICIPANT

“She’s been good. Everything is improving as far as her grades and her behavior..”

FAMILIES FLOURISH PARTICIPANT

The youth at the far right of this photo and his family graduated from the Families Flourish Pilot in 2022, and he will turn his high-school tassel this Spring. In January, his interim report card showed he was ready for graduation a year early! That surprised and delighted his family and everyone around him pulling for this young man. He plans to complete trade school for construction and HVAC.



YOU CAN HELP

The last two years have put governments into a different relationship with many nonprofits as funding priorities shift. But there's no need to fret. Our community is rich in resources – of time, talent AND treasure – and now is not the time to sit on the sidelines. Let's act in word and deed in a way that shows WE support our community and WE support the work of Families Flourish.

EVERY. SINGLE. INVESTMENT. COUNTS.

Start a \$5/month recurring gift. Tell a friend to join you. Host us at your home or office so we can get to know more people. Volunteer.

Because we KNOW we're changing lives – and we don't have to have government support to make it work. Let's be the change we want to see in the world.

Learn more about how to help at familiesflourish.org/support.

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Social Services Manager
& Coach

Linnae Boyer
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Spread the Word

Contact Shiloh Todorov to talk about how to help:

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