

Springboard to Opportunities

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY

Holistic Prosperity

When Springboard to Opportunities families are asked to describe a prosperous life, they do not talk about being rich with big houses, fancy cars, or stock portfolios. Instead, they talk about a life free from chronic stress and worry, free time to spend with their children or on their own interests, a safe and caring community, and being able to pay their bills with a little extra left over to put in savings or spend on a special treat. They have a deeper, richer vision of prosperity. **Holistic prosperity.**

In 2018, Springboard to Opportunities launched The Magnolia Mother's Trust (MMT), a first-of-its-kind guaranteed income initiative supporting 100 Black mothers in subsidized housing with \$1,000 per month for 12 months, no strings attached. Now six years and five cohorts in, MMT is consistently recognized as a leader in the cash disbursement field, and our evaluations have not only shown that cash-based benefits are good for a family's economic security but also lead to an enhanced sense of self-efficacy and agency, which allows families to make their own decisions around work, prioritize their children, and enhance the overall well-being of their family - creating a richer and more prosperous life.



WHAT IS HOLISTIC PROSPERITY?

Holistic prosperity is a framework for guaranteed income and cash-based support programs that recognizes families' own definitions of success, wealth, and prosperity, rather than one-dimensional measures like economic self-sufficiency. Holistic prosperity is based in a deep belief that families know better than anyone else what they need to succeed, and there is no one-size-fits all, silver-bullet solution to poverty. **It also acknowledges that for a family to feel wealthy or believe they are living a prosperous life, it takes far more than just cash.**

As we listened to families and worked to create a shared definition of holistic prosperity, it became clear that all the pieces of the holistic prosperity puzzle are interconnected and interdependent. A mother might be making enough to feel financially stable, but if that means she is working 60 hours per week with no time for rest, her children, or her community, that does not feel like a prosperous life. If she has a steady job with doable hours but does not make enough to pay for her children to be on sports teams or take dance lessons, that also does not feel like a prosperous life.

The definition and vision of holistic prosperity our mothers ultimately created, consisted of four main pieces described on the following page. As cash disbursement programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or other guaranteed income programs consider metrics for success and program implementation, it is our belief that these four elements should guide that process. In doing so, we are working to create policies and programs grounded in dignity, equity, and trust to ensure all families can experience a life of holistic prosperity, as MMT has been doing for years.

Financial Stability

Financial Stability is the ability to meet their family's needs and navigate financial emergencies while still providing opportunities for joy and care for themselves and their families.

When the Covid-19 pandemic first hit and Brandy lost her job, receiving a guaranteed income gave her the breathing room she needed to get her kids settled in virtual learning and stay afloat while she figured out her employment. Having this income floor made what could have been a disastrous situation much smoother and more manageable for her and her children.

Time Autonomy is the ability to make decisions about one's own time and schedule as well as determine who or what they want to be able to prioritize.

Michelle ran her own cleaning business until the loss of clients during the pandemic. She began working for a large corporate cleaning company for far less pay. Receiving a guaranteed income gave her the necessary time to plan for and relaunch her business, where she makes more money and has more control over her time and schedule.

Time Autonomy

Dynamic Well-being

Dynamic Well-being

recognizes physical, mental, and emotional health, rooted in freedom from chronic stress and anxiety.

Kim wanted to get a gym membership and start exercising regularly. With more time and money, she was able to, but the motivation to start came from something deeper than just improving her physical health. As her dreams started to feel more attainable, her mental health improved and motivated her to start caring for and investing in her whole self.

Social Capital – Strong, supportive relationships with family, friends, and community members that support connectedness and social mobility.

Ebony was able to quit her other jobs and start making improvements to her hair salon while she was receiving a guaranteed income. However, it was not just physical improvements. Her connections through Springboard to Opportunities allowed her to bring in more clients, and she also started mentoring other mothers interested in starting their own businesses.

Social Capital