

Local Success, National Impact

While our mission of working alongside residents of federally subsidized housing as they pursue their goals in life, work, and school, is based in Jackson, Mississippi, Springboard to Opportunities continues to grow our state and national network and serves as a **model for community-driven approaches to poverty eradication**.

The work we did on the ground throughout 2024 continued to be recognized as best practices, shaping narratives, policies, and programs at a national level.

The Highlights

Released our [holistic prosperity framework](#) detailing best practices for community-driven cash-disbursement programs and policy based in resident voice and six years of leadership in the field.

Our CEO, Aisha Nyandoro, received the [Heinz Award for the Economy](#) and was named a [TIME100 Next](#) honoree for her leadership in the guaranteed income movement and work to shift the narrative on poverty, ensuring all families are seen as worthy of dignity and trust.

The evaluation report for the 5th MMT Cohort featured [case studies](#), providing deeper context and personal stories to previous data and evaluations and was the first to directly feature **children's voices**, demonstrating how guaranteed income supports whole families.



DEEPENING RESIDENT RELATIONSHIPS

Strong community relationships are at the heart of all we do. We had **600 attendees** at our community block parties, **450 children** received backpacks and school supplies at back-to-school time, and staff strengthened relationships through **annual resident meetings**, **goal-setting coaching**, and being a **consistent on-site support** and presence.

STRENGTHENING SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING

We completed the 5th cohort of The Magnolia Mother's Trust, the **longest-running guaranteed income program** in the country, and piloted a [summer cash disbursement program](#) to support with food expenses after Mississippi opted-out of the new USDA SUN Bucks program. In total, we distributed **\$1,205,000 in direct cash assistance**.

EXPANDING FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCES

Residents engaged in Springboard's three policy and advocacy fellowships and participated in **local and regional advocacy events** – like school board meetings, legislative sessions, and community meetings. We introduced **fellowship trips**, giving fellows opportunities to travel to places like Little Rock, Arkansas and the Whitney Plantation in Louisiana to learn more about Black history and advocacy, and even took our first international trip, bringing **9 of our fellows to Bogotá, Colombia** where they learned about Colombian culture and history, developed their own business plans, and connected with entrepreneurs from around Colombia.

GROWING ADVOCACY AND NARRATIVE INFLUENCE

Our policy platform continued to shape our strategy. We **co-led a state-wide coalition** with the [Southern Economic Advancement Project](#) (SEAP) to push state leaders to opt-in to the SUN Bucks program in future years. We released **two white papers** – [It Takes a Nation](#) and [Holistic Prosperity](#), authored **several national op-eds**, and presented at multiple **national conferences** and convenings about our work. We relaunched our [Front + Center series](#) with Ms. and continued our annual [Night of Storytelling](#) allowing residents to share their expertise and challenges on diverse topics such as caregiving, healthcare, and other social safety net benefits.