

Springboard to Opportunities

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



While 2025 brought with it a flurry of challenges – like devastating policy decisions and increased financial insecurity for many families – at Springboard to Opportunities, we knew our most important job this year was to double down on what we do best: **centering community needs and voices**. We grew our economic security programs, expanded our policy and advocacy fellowships, and ensured our families' voices and stories were heard by policymakers and leaders at every level.



STRENGTHENING RESIDENT RELATIONSHIPS

Resident relationships remain the backbone of Springboard's work and mission. In 2025, we had **1,603 attendees** at our community events; **440 children** received new backpacks and school supplies as the school year began; and we provided **3,613 meals and food boxes** to families struggling with food security. Staff continued to provide **on-site coaching, goal-setting support, and connections** to community partners and resources to ensure all residents were able to meet their needs.

ADVANCING SOCIOECONOMIC WELL-BEING

We had over 100 participants in our **6th cohort of The Magnolia Mother's Trust**, the longest running guaranteed income program in the country. Additionally, we provided **emergency cash disbursements** for crisis situations and, for the second year, to support with summer food expenses. In total, we **disbursed \$1,398,250** in cash to families. We also **eliminated over \$2,300,000 in medical debt** for 1,689 individuals through

a partnership with Undue Medical Debt and negotiating direct payoffs as well as launched our first **Lending Circles** in partnership with Mission Asset Fund, who provides zero-interest, social loans to help participants build their credit and access more financial opportunities.

GROWING SPRINGBOARD FELLOWSHIPS

91 fellows participated in our policy and advocacy fellowship programs this year. We added a new **youth fellowship** connecting high school residents to Mississippi Civil Rights history and training them to be advocates even at a young age. Fellows took **group trips** to Washington, D.C., Louisiana, Alabama, and Puerto Rico to deepen their learning and make connections between their experiences, historical events, and community advocacy. Fellows **shared their expertise** across local, state, and national platforms on Mississippi's Child Protective Services Parent Advisory Council; during the Southern Poverty Law Center National Poverty Tour; and at community meetings, focus groups, and listening tours for local and national partners.

STANDING FIRM IN POLICY & ADVOCACY

In 2025, we hosted our first **Capitol Advocacy Day** at the Mississippi state capitol, sharing information with legislators and their staff about implementing a SUN Bucks program to support families with summer food expenses. We simultaneously released a **new report, Filling the Gap**, with data from our summer cash disbursement program and making the case for a SUN Bucks program in Mississippi. We also launched new **town hall meetings** and distributed communications throughout communities to help residents understand the effects of H.R. 1, the drastic cuts to the federal budget, and significant state policy issues -- like cut funding for child care vouchers -- while supporting them in advocating for change. Fellows shared their stories and concerns directly with state and federal representatives and senators in Mississippi and D.C. throughout the year.

FURTHERING NEW NARRATIVES

We continued to ensure our families had more opportunities to share their stories across a variety of platforms, countering false beliefs with the real stories of low-income families. We continued our partnership with *Ms.* and our **Front & Center column**, including short videos to accompany each story this year. We hosted our **5th Annual Night of Storytelling**, featuring four of our mothers as storytellers and **Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom** as the moderator. Our CEO, Aisha Nyandoro, became a **monthly contributor to Forbes** – expanding our national audience – and our work and the voices of our families continued to be highlighted in both local and national media.

