

UpTogether Fund Partnership Examples

When your philanthropic organization joins UpTogether as a fund partner, you are making a commitment to adopt our strength-based approach and leverage your learnings to affect systems change in your community and beyond.

Just as we honor the uniqueness of each of our members, we also honor the differing needs of our fund partners. As such, we offer two options: a Community Engagement Fund and a Community Investment Fund.

Here are examples of each fund.

Community Engagement Fund:

Co-design a fund in collaboration with UpTogether members, staff and community leaders.

Austin, Texas

City of Austin Guaranteed Income Pilot

In Spring 2021, UpTogether launched a 12-month pilot in Central Texas to invest \$1,000 per month in 173 households in Austin and Georgetown. Inspired by early findings from the pilot evaluation, the City of Austin passed and funded a resolution to replicate the local pilot in 2022-2023 with \$1.1M in general funds to invest in approximately 85 households. With additional funding from UpTogether partner St. David's Foundation, the number of households for the pilot increased to 135, each receiving \$1,000 per month for 12 months through the UpTogether Community platform. The pilot is focused on those facing housing instability and risk of displacement.

As part of this new pilot, UpTogether is partnering with the Urban Institute to build on previous learnings with a focus on how families use social networks to achieve their goals, especially around housing, and best practices for utilizing unrestricted cash to stabilize housing outcomes. Ultimately, we hope to inform the City of Austin's future policy and budgeting decisions with potential policy recommendations that incorporate a strength-based approach in social support services and programs.

St David's
FOUNDATION

City of Austin's
Equity
office
Critical Love in Practice

Boston, Massachusetts

The Trust+Invest Collaborative

The Trust+Invest Collaborative (TIC) is a partnership between UpTogether, the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance and Harvard University. Its goal is to better understand how access to community, cash and choice improves people's lives and wellbeing and to use that evidence to generate the support needed to change social service systems and policies to better support families. To uncover those learnings, the collaborative is conducting a paid randomized control trial with nearly 1,500 UpTogether members in Boston. Different members have different experiences within the three-year study which ends in 2023. Findings are expected in 2024.



A team of family evaluators, who have deep connections in their community in Boston, designed and co-led the study.

They also supported in recruiting study participants in their community. In addition, the family evaluators work monthly with the UpTogether team and TIC members to problem solve and plan for future advocacy and engagement of TIC members.

In 2023, we will begin capturing stories of individuals and families experiencing financial hardship, and get their recommendations for what needs to be done to change deficit-based systems that make it difficult for them to get ahead. The aim of this narrative change effort is to build momentum for policy change within Massachusetts.

Detroit, Michigan

Kresge Fund

In 2022, UpTogether and the Kresge Foundation partnered to invest in – and learn from – employees of Black and/or Brown-owned businesses based in the city of Detroit. They randomly selected 13 local UpTogether members who worked at Black and/or Brown-owned businesses and asked them to identify and recommend solutions that would help themselves, their community and employees of local businesses. The members were paid \$7,000 for their participation.

After three months of collaborating, that member-led design team shared their recommendations with UpTogether staff. The staff then shared the recommendations the broader UpTogether Detroit membership to learn which of the three policy proposals they supported most and would rally around. Collectively, they decided on Guaranteed Income (GI) as the best solution. Now (2023) they are working on a plan to try to get city officials to implement this policy change.

THE
KRESGE
FOUNDATION

Marin County, California MOMentum

In May 2021, UpTogether and the Marin Community Foundation launched the MOMentum fund to invest in 125 moms of color with children under the age of 18 living in Marin County, California. They are receiving \$1,000 per month for two years.

They will also collaborate on the UpTogether Community platform to support connect with other moms, facilitate networking, develop goals and share information and resources.

This fund is designed to give moms an opportunity for greater independence over their lives, finances and futures, for them and their children.



Community Investment Fund:

Invest in UpTogether members in your city, county or beyond.

Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County, Michigan Thriving Families Fund

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation (AAACF) and United Way of Washtenaw County (UWWC) partnered with UpTogether to create a fund to support families in the Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County region. In collaboration with local nonprofits*, we identified 45 families to receive \$5,000, quarterly, over two years. Families will receive their final payments in April 2024.

*Aid in Milan, Buenos Vecinos, Destiny and Purpose Community Outreach, Faith in Action, Manchester Community Resource Center, Mentor2Youth and Trusted Advisors of the Success by Six Great Start Collaborative.

Oakland, California Restorative Reentry Fund

The Restorative Reentry Fund is a partnership between UpTogether and Community Works West, investing in Oakland residents who have been impacted by the criminal legal system. Through this partnership, 38 Black and Brown individuals are receiving investments of \$1,000 per month for 12 months, followed by \$500 per month for 6 months. This community faces significant barriers and scrutiny when trying to access other supportive services, and we hope to learn from members about how direct, unrestricted cash investments can offer flexible solutions for people impacted by the criminal legal system.



Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation



United Way
of Washtenaw County



Tulsa, Oklahoma UpTogether Tulsa

UpTogether is partnered with the George Kaiser Family Foundation to recognize, invest in and learn from 300 families in historically undervalued communities in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Each family received a total of \$9,000 over 18 months (\$500/month from July 2021-December 2022.) They also had the opportunity to join and create groups on the UpTogether Community website to connect with others, exchange knowledge, skills, and resources, and help each other accomplish their goals.

GEORGE KAISER FAMILY FOUNDATION

A supporting organization of Tulsa Community Foundation



BIRTH THROUGH EIGHT
STRATEGY FOR TULSA

To learn more about partnering with UpTogether, visit uptogether.org/partner.

