

The Morning Meeting

Groundwork OHIO

Jamie Sager

Program Director

Families Flourish

November 5, 2026

9:30 am

Groundwork OHIO

STATEMENT

Groundwork OHIO

"Groundwork Ohio congratulates Governor-Elect Amy Acton on her historic victory as Ohio's first woman elected governor."



"We look forward to working with her administration and the next General Assembly to put young children and working families at the forefront of Ohio's future. Together, we can expand access to affordable, high-quality child care, advance a refundable state child tax credit, and strengthen maternal and infant health. We stand ready to work across party lines to make Ohio the best place to be a young child and raise a family."

- Lynanne Gutierrez, President & CEO

Groundwork OHIO



"I am incredibly proud of the work I did with Governor DeWine, and I look forward to continuing his work and steadfast commitment to fight for Ohio's kids."

- Governor-Elect Amy Acton



"When I'm governor, Ohio will once again have the best health outcomes in the country."

- Dr. Amy Acton

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ELECTION RESULTS

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New statewide leadership:
Dr. Amy Acton (D) elected governor; Ohio's first Democratic governor in 20 years.

Ohio House supermajority broken:
Republicans retain control but are projected to hold 56 seats, down from 65.

Turnover in the House:
Democrats flipped five Republican-held seats and won four previously Republican-held open seats.

Ohio Senate remains Republican-controlled:
Democrats flipped two seats, but Republicans retain their supermajority.

Congressional delegation shifts:
Sherrod Brown won the U.S. Senate race; Democrats flipped three Republican-held U.S. House seats.

Local investments:
19 of 35 local levies reviewed passed, supporting areas including children's services, developmental disabilities, mental health, and public health.

Navigating A New Era: Groundwork Ohio's Policy Roadmap for Young Children





Thursday, December 3, 2026
9:30 am

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FAMILIES™
FLOURISH
Empowering generations for change.

Our Mission

Families Flourish offers a 3-year program that transforms the lives of low-wage working families and their children by providing a comprehensive path to economic mobility and wellness.

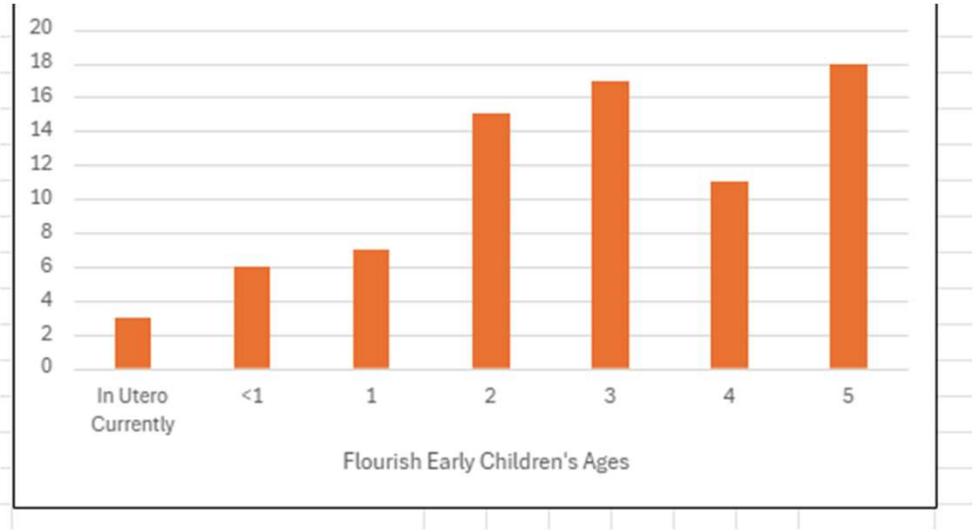
This is accomplished through life coaching, rent support and monthly required programs that promote housing and economic stability, career advancement, and generational change for their children.

Family Snapshot

- Average age at entry: 29
- 98% are single mothers
- Average income at entry: $37,807 (the most recent group is $43,006)
- 44% are homeless or doubled up at entry
- We screen for motivation, stability and readiness

Family Snapshot

- About half of our children are 5 and under. About 160 kids at a given time.
- Average age is 4.5



What We Do

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Our Partnering Landlords

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Programmatic Pillars



Coaching Relationship

- Trust building
- Visioning
- Goal setting
- Teaching and skill building
- Shared decision-making
- Navigating crises



Eligibility Criteria



- Are a single parent, or couple, with both adults jointly raising the child(ren)
- Adults are at least 18 years old
- All adults at least 30 hours per week
- Have 1-3 children, ages 13 and under (with a household size of up to four people)

Eligibility Criteria

- Household income between:
  - $35,000 - $49,704 for a family of 2
  - $35,000 - $55,917 for a family of 3
  - $37,000 - $62,130 for a family of 4
- Are currently experiencing housing insecurity in central Ohio
- Have personal transportation or can demonstrate ability to access a job, etc. without a car
- Have custody of child(ren)

Eligibility Criteria



Willing to…

- meet monthly with a life coach for three years for all adults in the household
- attend monthly evening programs (primarily virtually) on Tuesday or Thursday evenings for three years for all adults in the household
- move to a community with a participating landlord

Who is a good applicant?



- Ability to commit
- Desire for growth
- Some stability in place
- Desire for partnership & community
- Financially and mentally ready to move to a new community

Application

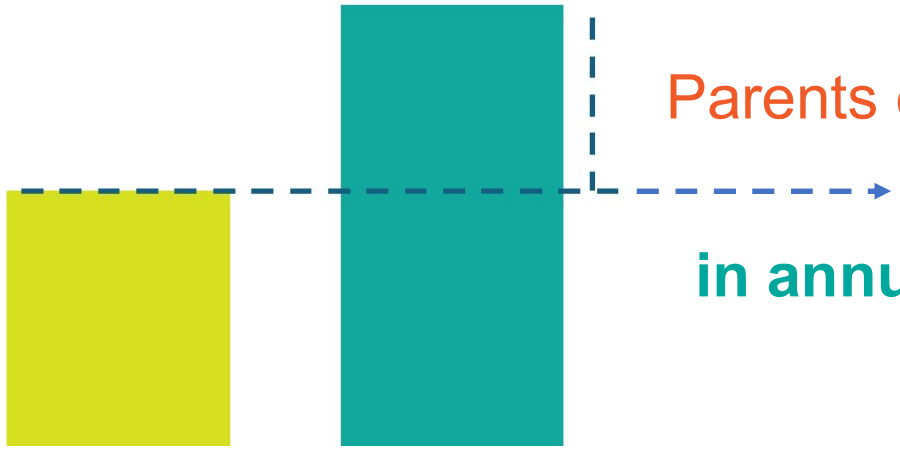


The Most Common Reasons for Denial

- Owing a balance to a landlord or utility company
- Unemployment or not meeting income requirements
- Working less than 30 hours per week
- Family size is larger than four people
- Errors on Application
- Unable to provide proof of income for the last 60 days

Group 1 Income Increases

Median Annual Income – Group 1



Aug. 2022
$33,306 /med.

Sept. 2025
$47,394/med.

Parents experienced a **median increase of**

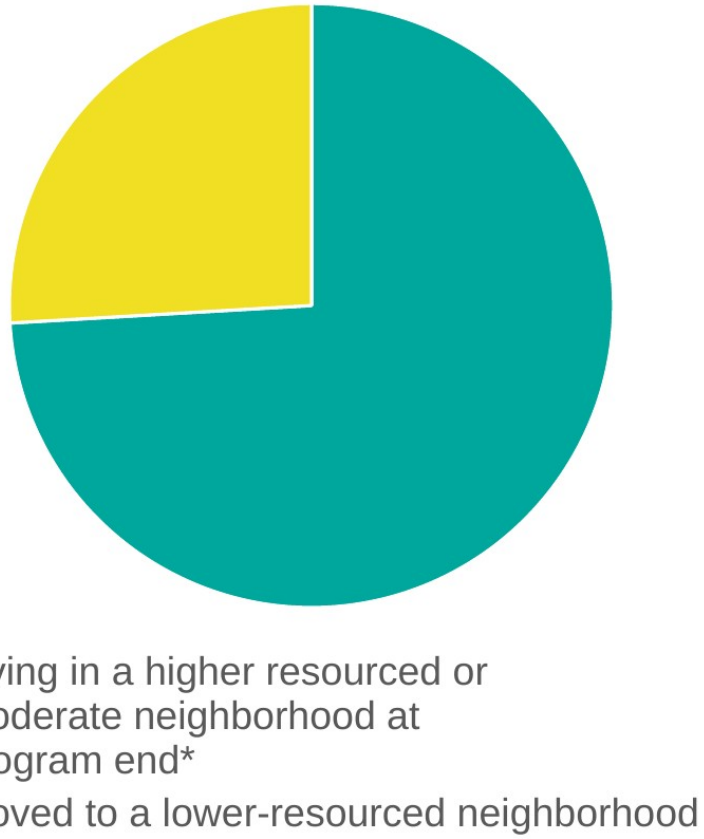
47.2%

in annual income* since joining Flourish!

$13,868/med. income increase

*of those employed at graduation

Group 1 Housing Results



*6 stayed in their Families Flourish unit

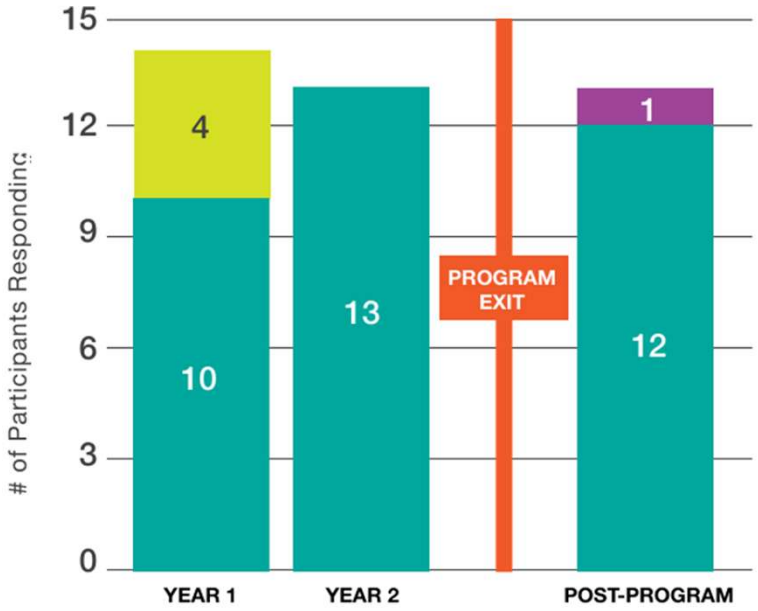
Group 1 Mental Health Gains

The most profound outcome for Families Flourish households is the reduction in chronic stress. The **improvements in mental health are foundational** to the other educational and economic benefits that follow.

How has your mental health changed since relocating?

(Year 1 n=14; Year 2 n=13; Post-Program n=13)

- Positive/Very Positive Change
- Negative/Very Negative Change
- No Change
- No Response



Group 1 Education Gains



- **100%** of graduates completed *additional education* while in the program
- **9/13** (69%) received one or more *promotions*
- **0%** of parents reported children's grades dropping in their new schools – 5/8 said the *grades rose*

THANK YOU!

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