



# Poverty to Prosperity Goal

- Reduce the poverty rate in Newaygo County below national average within the next 10+ years.

# Priorities

Where we plan to focus our funding:

- **Self-sufficiency**  
Develop efficient pathways to increase the level of self-sufficiency of individuals with potential by building on strengths
- **Asset development**  
Develop efficient pathways to help individuals build personal assets
- **Social capital/empowerment**  
Increase opportunities for individuals to build social networks, supportive relationships, and self-esteem

# Outcomes

## Desired results:

- **Self-sufficiency**
  - Improved wraparound services provided to struggling individuals
  - Improved collaborative services to reach more young adults
  - Increased percentage of individuals receiving support and guidance for self-improvement, independence, and self-efficacy
  - Increased number of individuals that become independent from assistance, or level of self-sufficiency
  - Decreased total dollar amount of direct basic assistance individuals are receiving
- **Asset development**
  - Built financial capital\*/assets of individuals
  - Built physical capital\*/assets of individuals
  - Built human capital\*/assets of individuals
  - Improved budgeting skills and financial literacy
  - Improved credit scores and access to credit
- **Social capital\*/empowerment**
  - Increased mentoring and relational support
  - Improved connections and support individuals feel in their communities, strengthen relationships
  - Increased self-esteem and sense of empowerment among struggling individuals to make positive life changes

\***Financial capital:** monetary resources (savings, credit, loan capital, emergency funds, investments)

\***Physical capital:** property (housing/home ownership, vehicles, business property)

\***Human capital:** knowledge, skills and abilities of individuals or groups (educational degrees/certificates, training, life skills)

\***Social capital:** the networks of relationships and social connections among people who live in a particular community which enable them to function effectively and encourage social cooperation

# Benchmarks

<sup>1</sup>Short-term: (6 months–1 year)

<sup>2</sup>Intermediate term: (1-3 years)

<sup>3</sup>Long-term: (2-5 years)

\*Extended term: (track up to 10+ years)

## Possible indicators that our community is making progress:

- **Self-sufficiency**

- <sup>1</sup>Establish clear roadmap for self-sufficiency through agency collaboration
- <sup>1</sup>Number of individuals receiving self-sufficiency services
- <sup>2</sup>Average self-sufficiency level
- <sup>2</sup>Average income, employment status, level of education
- <sup>3</sup>Number of individuals moved off direct assistance (reach self-sufficiency)
- <sup>3</sup>Dollar amount spent on direct assistance for basic needs

- **Asset development**

- <sup>1</sup>Number of individuals that receive financial education/home ownership counseling
- <sup>1</sup>Number of individuals that receive low-interest loan/start saving
- <sup>2</sup>Number/percentage of individuals that successfully repay loan
- <sup>2</sup>Level of financial literacy/credit score
- <sup>2</sup>Level of savings/improvement in savings behavior
- <sup>2</sup>Number/percentage of individuals that meet savings goal & acquire asset

- **Social capital/empowerment**

- <sup>1</sup>Number of events held and/or new methods developed for individuals to build supportive relationships
- <sup>1</sup>Number of individuals taking advantage of mentoring/advocacy services
- <sup>2</sup>Level of connection/how supported individuals feel
- <sup>2</sup>Level of community engagement
- <sup>3</sup>Level of self-esteem/confidence/sense of empowerment among individuals

# Strategies

## Some suggestions for community partners:

- **Self-sufficiency**
  - Provide wrap-around services to meet basic needs *plus* tailored personal development coaching/support (e.g. food trucks + counseling to address barriers and set goals)
  - Encourage individuals to invest in their long-term personal success (e.g. provide flexible zero-interest microloans for immediate needs paired with long-term savings guidance)
  - Infrastructure to support poverty reduction (e.g. transportation)
- **Asset development**
  - Personal asset-building network with financial counseling (e.g. Individual Development Accounts)
  - Microloans for individuals to meet basic needs while building savings
- **Social capital/empowerment**
  - Build peer support/social networks to increase sense of community and strengthen relationships
  - Build mentoring network with personal advocates to build on strengths and provide guidance and relational support
  - Engage residents to increase their voice, community participation, leadership, ownership of community assets, and to learn from them

## Priorities

Where we plan to focus our funding:

- Self-sufficiency
- Asset development
- Social capital/empowerment

## Outcomes

Desired results:

- Improved wraparound services
- Increased self-sufficiency (average level, # served)
- Built personal assets (financial, physical, human, social)
- Increased mentoring, relational support, social networks
- Strengthened relationships, increase self-esteem/empowerment
- Improved collaborative services to reach more young adults

## Benchmarks

Possible indicators that our community is making progress:

- Number reaching self-sufficiency level, average self-sufficiency level
- Level of financial literacy/level of savings/credit score/number acquiring asset
- Level of self-esteem/sense of empowerment/engagement
- Money spent on direct basic needs assistance

## Strategies

Some suggestions for community partners:

- Wraparound services (e.g. food trucks) + personal development coaching
- Infrastructure (e.g. transportation)
- Personal asset-building network + financial counseling + microloans
- Mentoring network w/personal advocates and relational support
- Peer support network
- Resident engagement

Reduce local poverty rate below national average within 10+ years