



We Invest in Initiative

Family Independence Initiative

is a new approach to ending poverty that harnesses the power of initiative within low-income communities.



Building a
Marketplace for
Community-Driven
Economic and Social
Mobility

How Systems See Me

Single mom
Section 8 housing resident
Food stamp consumer
Underemployed
GED graduate
580 Credit Score

How I See Myself

Mother of three A students
Active member of my community
Participant in a \$10,000 Lending Circle
Entrepreneur paying back a small business loan
FII Scholarship recipient
780 Initiative Score



The most powerful and smartest investment we can make to combat poverty is to learn from families what they're already doing to make progress, and provide dollars to them directly to accelerate.

The Fundamentals of Mobility: Connections, Choice, and Capital

FII is an approach to economic mobility that begins with the assumption that we have overlooked the capacity of families in low-income neighborhoods to improve their own financial and general well-being.

FII leverages this existing capacity, ensuring that families have:

- **Connections:** a local social network to provide support and expand resources
- **Choice:** the ability to set goals and chart a unique path to reach them
- **Capital:** flexible funds to build on strengths and accelerate progress

75% of people living below the poverty line manage to get above it within four years, against difficult odds. 50% of those who rise above poverty fall back into poverty within five years. Normal events—like a sick child, a flat tire, or a late payment—can result in job loss or eviction.

POWERFUL RETURN ON INVESTMENTS



Mauricio and his family

Economic Mobility in Action

Mauricio's FII group encouraged him to expand his "hobby" of teaching saxophone into a business. Today, he teaches 20 students and is planning to launch an orchestra. Matched savings through the FII Resource Hub helped him buy musical instruments to rent out to his students.

Each FII family has different goals and different approaches to using FII's Resource Hub. The results, however, are similar—and remarkable—for all families.



On average, during 2 years of engagement, families report:
21% increase in monthly income
81% decrease in subsidies such as TANF and SNAP

233% increase in monthly business income with 73% of new family owned business activity since participating in FII

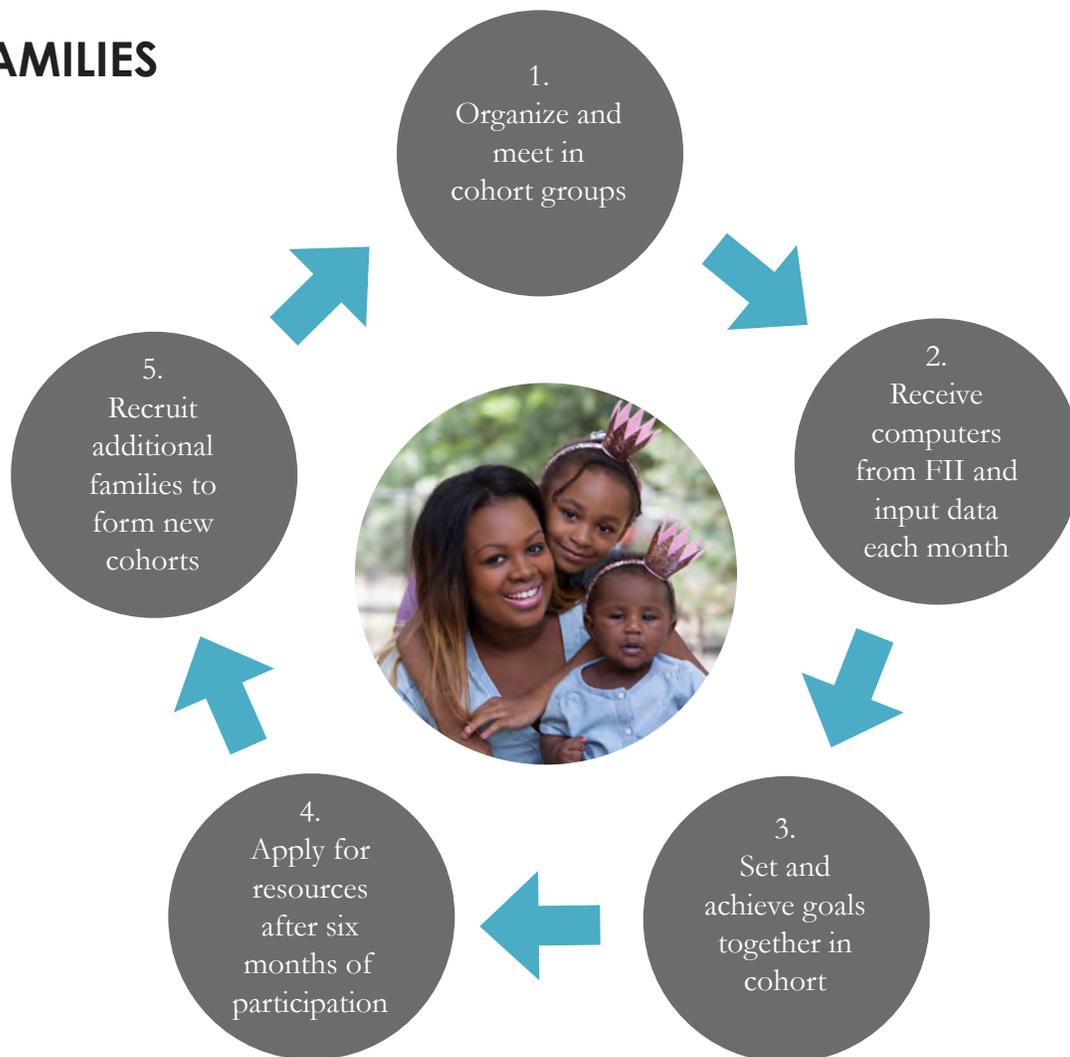
100% of children have excellent, good or improved grades

Upon partnering with FII, 27% of families reported having "a lot of people I can count on."

After involvement with FII, 91% of families report having others they can count on for support and help.

HOW IT WORKS

FII FAMILIES



FII STAFF

- ① Recruits and enrolls families to self-organize and collectively determine their own strategies for improving their lives
- ② Audits and analyzes family data, and rigorously measures results, to provide families with choices backed by data
- ③ Builds Resource Hub for families, which provide access to the flexible capital they need—such as zero-interest loans, matched savings, scholarships, and micro loans—for positive, lasting change
- ④ Shares data and stories with influencers

BE A CHANGE MAKER INVEST IN INITIATIVE

Boston has one of the largest wealth gaps in the country. **FII-Boston** is working to change that. Join us and have a profound effect on the **future of our city.**

DIRECT TO FAMILIES

FII-Boston provides families with financial and other resources they could not otherwise access, without traditional requirements like credit scores and history, mortgages, and financial collateral. FII-Boston Resource Hub provides matched savings, loans, scholarships, lending circles, and other financial products and incentives that strengthen families' efforts to reach their goals.

SCALING CHANGE

FII-Boston and our partners are committed to guiding the progress of Boston's low-income communities by scaling our model.

- 1 EXPANSION:** By working with families and local organizations, we will partner with 10% of Boston's low-income families living in Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury and East Boston by 2020.
- 2 FIELD BUILDING:** We will share findings and insights to help shift nonprofits, philanthropies, and others, in Boston and nationally, away from charity and toward direct investment.
- 3 MOVEMENT BUILDING:** We will continue to support the leadership of FII-Boston families as they create solutions for themselves and their communities.

REAL FAMILIES, REAL CHANGE

Your investment in **FII-Boston** supports our Resource Hub, where families turn for low-interest loans, scholarships, and matched savings to accelerate progress toward their goals.



Liliana and her family



Economic Mobility in Action

Liliana, a mother of four, is an accountant who received a Resource Hub scholarship to pursue IRS certification, which enabled her to expand her business. She's now mentoring another entrepreneur in her FII cohort.

Economic Mobility in Action

Jasmine is a mother of six and a small-business owner. Margins are slim, but her business is growing. She was recruited to FII by a friend, and after meeting with her cohort and talking through her life and business goals, she decided to use FII's matched savings resource to make a down payment on a new car, ensuring that her business deliveries and neighborhood carpools can continue without the risks, costs, and lost opportunities of a vehicle constantly under repair.



Jasmine and her family



FII BOSTON IS GROWING

Today **FII-Boston** has 800 participating families, with 500 families on our waiting list.

By 2020, we will enroll 2,700 families, or 10% of those currently living at or below the poverty line in Boston's most economically fragile neighborhoods (East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury). We believe that 10% may be the tipping point to reduce poverty as families help each other get ahead.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN DO IT.





Chrismaldi Vasquez
Director, FII-Boston

“True leaders in our work focus on the solutions and assets that already exist in the communities we seek to support.”

Chrismaldi Vasquez's knowledge, skills, and experience, along with her deep ties to the Boston community and dedication to harnessing the collective power of low-income families, make her an outstanding and inspirational leader for FII-Boston.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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