OUR GOAL

The goal of The Lavine Family Innovation Fund is to accelerate LIFT’s efforts to drive economic and social mobility for families, and most importantly children, by supporting innovative direct service pilots and demonstrations; evaluation, research, and learning from on-the-ground work; and dissemination of findings and solutions to achieve sector-level systems change. Founded by a desire to level the playing field for families from all walks of life, The Lavine Family Innovation Fund is dedicated to designing and scaling solutions that empower families to achieve economic and social mobility.

Through the Fund, Year One of the four-year strategic plan has set the stage for establishing LIFT as an innovation lab for the anti-poverty field, seen the launch of on the ground innovation, and exceeded our goals for member impact. This year, LIFT directly supported 2,075 people, helping develop individualized goal plans and connect members to the right resources at the right time to break the cycle of poverty for their families and generations to come.

IMPACT

- 94% of families showed progress on income, debt, savings, or educational/employment attainment
  - Average income increase: $8,000
  - Average debt decrease: $1,500
  - Average savings increase: $950
- 72% persisted in or improved education or employment
- 60% decreased stress
- 86% increased social capital

Members connected to opportunities and resources, as well as benefiting from the cognitive relief of feeling like someone is “in their corner”

BREAKING THE CYCLE: AMINATA DIARRA’S STORY

Aminata arrived in the U.S. from Mali in 2013 after leaving an abusive husband. From the moment she set foot in LIFT-DC’s office, her determination to create a better life for her and her son, Mohamed, was clear. After working with a coach to secure a passport for her son so he could join her in the U.S., Aminata’s coach helped her enroll in English classes, find a job, and access a high quality school for Mohamed. Through LIFT-DC’s partnership with Trinity University, Aminata secured a scholarship for women with young children and received support from LIFT donors to purchase a new laptop and textbooks. This May, Aminata graduated—cum laude!—with her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. Of the support she’s received from LIFT, Aminata says, “Before, I felt like I was alone. Since finding LIFT, I know I’m not alone. We’re working together to help me accomplish my dreams.”

WHAT OUR MEMBERS SAY ABOUT LIFT

- 100% of members report that their coach is a good listener
- 97% of members report that they get very useful information at LIFT
- 95% of members report that their coach is knowledgeable and well-prepared
- 93% of members report that LIFT helps them with their most important needs
- 86% of members would strongly recommend LIFT to a friend or relative
- 85% of members feel they are making substantial progress on their goals
LA VINE FUND YEAR ONE UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WORKFORCE READINESS AND CAREER PATHWAYS
LIFT launched its newly expanded career coaching model, helping parents draw a path to family-sustaining employment. Through Career Exploration Workshops, members examine their professional interests and strengths, identify potential career paths, and learn what it takes to achieve their employment goals. Members learn about fast growing industries and careers based on market research conducted in conjunction with Deloitte. Coaches use the Career Pathways Toolkit, a one-stop-shop for resources, to help members along the path towards sustainable careers.

MAKING THE HEALTH-WEALTH CONNECTION
LIFT conducted a study in partnership with the UCLA Department of Pediatrics, which found that members randomized to receive LIFT’s model of financial coaching showed larger improvements in self-reported physical and mental health than the control group. This novel study demonstrates LIFT’s ability to improve health outcomes through social and financial interventions. Few organizations are making this health-wealth connection, and LIFT is currently seeking avenues to share this research with the broader anti-poverty field.

LIFTOPOLIS WITH COMMUNITY PROGRESS MAKERS
On November 15th, LIFT transformed the Watergate Hotel in Washington, DC into the living breathing city of LIFTopolis, filled with citizens, social service providers, and businesses. Through the empathy-building simulation, over a hundred national leaders in the social sector stepped into the shoes of LIFT parents and worked to accomplish the goals assigned to them, such as securing citizenship, getting a driver’s license, and finding childcare. Participants joined the debrief feeling frustrated and confused by the complexity of the system and left feeling fired up and ready to continue the conversation of change, each making commitments to how they can improve the system.

DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE
Our cash assistance program provides direct funds to members in the form of $150 cash transfers every three months up to $600/year for members consistently meeting with a coach. This process was standardized across all regions this year, and members received nearly $50,000 to use on expenses towards reaching their goals, such as textbooks for classes or saving for a down payment.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE
This year, we have upgraded our case management system to Salesforce, increasing and improving functionality. This faster, more user-friendly system will result in improved data collection and quality. The flexibility within the system to create customized reports will allow us to better understand our members and the progress they are making.

RESOURCING THE STRATEGIC PLAN
The Lavine Family Innovation Fund directly catalyzed several major commitments. Notably, LIFT’s credibility was bolstered when the president of the Prudential Foundation heard Jonathan Lavine speak about their gift at LIFT’s September Champion’s Reception. Afterwards, the Prudential Foundation agreed to a three-year, $1,500,000 partnership to scale our two-generational model and build out our evidence base in a way that could offer insights to the field. Similarly, the Kresge Foundation pledged $500,000 to further fund LIFT’s commitment to innovation, citing a track record of securing investments to take thoughtful risks and push the field to evolve. Looking ahead, a foundation is very actively vetting LIFT for a multi-year $2.5 million investment, propelled to “go big” by learning about the Lavine’s gift.

SPOTLIGHT: PARTNERSHIP WITH U.S. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
LIFT seeks to improve the lives of 500,000 parents and children living in poverty in the U.S. via systems change. Our movement towards this goal is evident in our invitation to participate in a Health and Human Services Department evaluation that will help the HHS Administration for Children and Families assess if and how coaching can better support parents—particularly those receiving TANF—in reaching their economic security goals. Mathematica Policy Research, in partnership with Abt Associates, is conducting the evaluation; the purpose of which is two-pronged: (1) it will examine the effectiveness of coaching interventions in helping people find and keep jobs and obtain economic security and (2) document the design and implementation of coaching interventions so that others can replicate and enhance the most effective aspects of coaching.

Launching this fall, this is an exciting opportunity for LIFT to have broad sector influence by elevating coaching as a meaningful investment, alongside the biggest social service provider in the U.S., the federal government. Further, by participating in this randomized control study, starting in July 2018 and going through 2021, we have an incredible opportunity to test our program model and course correct based on lessons from the evaluation, encouraging greater depth of impact over the long-run. By building and testing new program prototypes that are uniquely focused on driving parent outcomes, LIFT seeks to fill an important gap in the evidence base required for broader system-wide adoption of two-generation approaches.
Since the launch of the Lavine Family Innovation Fund last fall, LIFT has leveraged that momentum to raise our organization’s visibility and impact in new and exciting ways. In the past year:

- LIFT was featured as the cover story of The Chronicle of Philanthropy’s March 2018 issue on diversity
- CEO & Co-Founder Kirsten Lodal was named a University of Chicago Institute of Politics Pritzker Fellow
- Chief Cities Officer Michelle Rhone-Collins joined the Senior Fellows Leadership Program at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs; spoke as a panelist at The United State of Women Summit on what women in poverty need to succeed
- Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the Obama Foundation, hosted a panel discussion at LIFT-Chicago’s upLIFTing fundraiser with our inaugural Parent Leadership Institute
- Congressman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Deputy Mayor HyeSook Chung of DC’s Health and Human Services Department welcome LIFT-DC in a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the newly combined LIFT national & LIFT-DC headquarters
- LIFT-Los Angeles hosted its largest-ever Holiday Fiesta for hundreds of Angeleno families; partnered with The Honest Co. & Honest Beauty to celebrate LIFT mothers

**ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

Since the launch of the Lavine Family Innovation Fund, we have reached across the country with our message of hope and opportunity. Here are some of the key milestones we have achieved:

- **2370 page views** across all Lavine Family Innovation Fund content on LIFT website
- **230 media pickups** from PR Newswire, including announcement in Chronicle of Philanthropy
- **Thoughtful interaction and engagement** between LIFT and Lavine accounts on Twitter – contributing to LIFT’s **220,800 impressions** since the launch of the fund.