SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND
GRANTEE CONVENING

AUGUST 1-3, 2017

WASHINGTON, DC
The Big Lift: Transforming Early Learning
Achieving 3rd grade reading proficiency is one of the most powerful actions to change a child’s lifetime trajectory.
• Up to 3rd grade, children learn to read. After 3rd grade, they must read to learn.

• Children who don’t read proficiently by 3rd grade, are 4x more likely to drop out of high school.
The Challenge

- In San Mateo County, only 50% of children read proficiently at 3rd grade.
- Only 27% of Latino, African-American and Asian Pacific Islander children read proficiently at the 3rd grade benchmark.
The Big Lift Goal

80% of San Mateo County children reading proficiently by 3rd grade.
The Big Lift Model

Provide children with the early boosts they need to read and succeed.

Boost #1
Family Engagement
Partner with families to support kids’ learning.

Boost #2
High Quality Preschool
Provide two years of quality preschool.

Boost #3
Inspiring Summers
Provide three years of inspiring summers.

Boost #4
Attendance
Help families support regular attendance.

Our Goal
80% reading proficiently by 3rd grade.
The Big Lift Solution

We are piloting an emerging national model with premier partners.

Family Engagement
- Raising A Reader
- Stanford Graduate School of Education

Quality Preschool
- CA Quality Rating & Improvement System
- First 5 San Mateo County

Inspiring Summers
- BELL / SMC Libraries
- Bay Area Discovery Museum
- Google

Attendance
- Harvard Kennedy School
- Attendance Works

Results evaluated by RAND Corporation.
The Big Lift Numbers

- **2,000** children attend high-quality preschool programs
- **2,000** parents in family engagement programs
- **1,500** children in summer learning program
- **7,600** families receive attendance messages
The Big Lift Outcomes

• Big Lift preschoolers are more prepared for Kindergarten than children who don’t attend preschool. (RAND, 2017)
• Parents spend 50% more time reading with their children. (RAND, 2017)
• Children in summer programs gain one to two months of reading skills. (BELL, 2016)
• Positive messages about school attendance resulted in a 15% reduction in chronic absenteeism. (Harvard Kennedy School, 2016)
Yajaira Morales is a single parent of four-year-old Lara. “The passion of the teachers to work with children on an individual basis has helped Lara to learn so much. I know the program is helping Lara to achieve and become successful later in life.”
SIF provided the opportunity to:

• Build & test a model of integrated interventions
• Scale these interventions to achieve systemic change across a region
• The potential for replication in any community across the country.
What is next for The Big Lift?

We are entering year three of a five year proof of concept phase

- **2012-2014**: Phase 1 - Start-Up
- **2015-2020**: Phase 2 - Proof of Concept
- **2020-2022**: Phase 3 - Expansion
- **2022+**: Phase 4 - Countywide
What is next for The Big Lift?

We have raised $28.2 million dollars, but with the loss of SIF funding, we need to raise $14.2 million to complete the final two years in the proof of concept phase (2018-2020).
What is next for The Big Lift?

We have momentum.
Seven communities serving thousands of children with quality preschool, summer, family engagement and attendance interventions alongside the support of leading education investors.