



August 29, 2024

A joint statement regarding the launch of Upward Momentum:

In collaboration, Clever Little Girl Foundation, James S. McDonnell Foundation, and Missouri Foundation for Health are proud to be the foundational investors in Upward Momentum.

This initiative is born out of a belief in the power of and commitment to fostering collaboration between philanthropic dollars and community organizations to improve lives throughout Missouri. This work began four years ago as those involved started conversations to understand what people in our state need most and how we could work together to bring opportunity back to Missouri. We have talked to community leaders, explored the data, and gained insights from across the state of Missouri to prepare to bridge divides and overcome barriers preventing economic mobility for all in our state.

We have identified a unique opportunity through an innovative approach to match philanthropists willing to make big bets with community-based organizations and leaders developing solutions through good work underway.

This collaboration, and the related long-term investments, will drive transformation in economic mobility – the freedom to achieve economic success, power and autonomy, and belonging regardless of race, gender, geography, or background – now and for continued generations.

We welcome and encourage others to join us.

Sue McCollum

Clever Little Girl Foundation
Founder

Jason Purnell

James S. McDonnell Foundation
President

Dr. Dwayne Proctor

Missouri Foundation for Health
CEO