Introduction:
I want you to think about your childhood and the experiences you have had in your life. I am now going to read 20 statements out loud. If the statement applies to you, move your marker, finger or eyes either forward or backwards as instructed.

When I mention, household, I want you to think about your childhood household, what you grew up in, not your current family.

I am going to read these statements pretty fast, so just go with your gut reaction.

Please be honest, we are doing this activity on a worksheet so you are able to keep you answers to yourself. Is everyone ready?

Questions:
1. If you were ever made fun of or bullied for something you could not change or was beyond your control, move one space back.
2. If there were more than 50 books in your house when you grew up, move one space forward.
3. If you were ever ashamed or embarrassed of your clothes, house, car, etc. move one space back.
4. If you ever had to skip a meal or were hungry because there was not enough money to buy food when you were growing up, move one space back.
5. If one or both of your parents have a college degree, move one space forward.
6. If you live in an area with known crime and drug activity, move one space back.
7. If you had a trusted adult you could talk to while growing up, move one space forward.
8. If you were ever discouraged from academics or jobs because of race, class, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, move one space back.
9. If one of your parents was unemployed or laid off, not by choice, move one space back.
10. If you had an individualized education plan or were involved in special education, move one space back.
11. If your family owned the house where you grew up, move one space forward.
12. If you were raised in a single parent household, move one space back.
13. If you had to rely primarily on public transportation, move one space back.
14. If you were ever uncomfortable about a joke related to your race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation but felt unsafe to confront the situation, move one space back.
15. If one or both of your parents were "white collar" professionals: meaning had a professional career or managerial job, move one space forward.
16. If you were encouraged to attend college by your parents, move one space forward.
17. If there was ever substance abuse in your household, move one space back.
18. If someone in your household suffered or suffers from mental illness, move one space back.
19. If English is your first language, move one space forward.
20. If you were involved in out of school time activities such as sports, social clubs, extra-curricular, move one space forward.
Wrap-up:
Take a look at where you are at on this line… success can be found at the end but not everyone starts at the same spot

We all start off life with a lot of predestined facts, such as our biology, heritage, race/ethnicity, families

And as we grow up a lot of things are still out of our control, such as family stability, our household income, where we live, who we know, where we go to school

Maybe you have never thought about these opportunities or how they may have impacted your life

Please know this activity is not meant to comment on anyone’s life as either good or bad, but just different

Rather, this activity is meant to have us look at the profound impact that these opportunities can have on families lives here in our community, especially knowing how diverse our community is growing

**PAUSE** to allow reflection:
  - What were your initial reaction to this activity?
  - Were there any questions you specifically reacted to?
  - Did you end up where you thought you would?

**Call to Action:**
This activity is meant to highlight why it is so important for all opportunities to be open for all children and families to succeed. But that does not happen naturally and some need extra support, services, and interventions.

This is why United Way of Cass-Clay invests in our BOLD Goals with the specific focus of low-income families and children who are at-risk or underserved by programs that would provide these much-needed opportunities so that they are able to lift themselves out of poverty and succeed.

**Encourage participants to:**
- Check out the United Way of Cass-Clay website for more information on our investment strategies, under “How We Help” tab
- Volunteer at one of United Way’s annual events. More information available on the United Way of Cass-Clay website under “Get Involved” tab

Learn more at [www.unitedwaycassclay.org](http://www.unitedwaycassclay.org). PDF files of the “Opportunity Matters” Facilitator Guide and Worksheet are available under the Campaign Tools section on the United Way of Cass-Clay website. For more information, please reach out to the United Way of Cass-Clay team at [unitedway@unitedwaycassclay.org](mailto:unitedway@unitedwaycassclay.org) or 701-237-5050.