creating opportunity for families: a two-generation Approach

2015 Student Parent Support Symposium
May 27, 2015
Our Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Creating Opportunities for Families
  – The Data and Challenge
  – The Approach and Goals
• AECF’s Investment Strategies
  – Youth Build
  – Family-Centered Community Change (FCCC) Columbus
• Core Principles
• Small Group Discussion
• Closing Remarks
Today’s Objectives

• Gain a deeper understanding of two-generation approaches as strategies to increasing opportunity for families

• Share examples of how two-generation approaches can be applied across different platforms with parents in different life circumstances

• Discuss the promise and potential challenges to this approach and what it means for your work with student parents
• **Problem:** Nearly half of young children – 17 million – are growing up in low-income families.

• We need to ensure these kids have a shot at the American dream.

• Today, too many programs address the needs of parents and children separately and in isolation.

• What we need is a new approach that recognizes kids succeed when families succeed — a two-generation approach.
Families Are Struggling to Make Ends Meet

- 10 million low-income families with children age 8 and under
- Limited skills, low wages, inflexible work schedules:
  - Only half with full-time work
  - Nearly 80 percent lack postsecondary degree
  - Nearly five times more likely to have difficulty speaking English
Low-Income Families Face Greater Barriers to Success

45% are single-parent families

17% of low-income parents reported child care significantly affected their ability to get and keep a job

31% of children in low-income families have parents with concerns about their development
The Challenge Today

Many programs and policies operate in isolation

- Adult programs treat children as barriers to employment
- Child programs often do not help parents who are struggling with day-to-day stress of providing for their family
Our Two-Generation Approach: Three Simultaneous Interventions

Family Economic Success Strategies
- Workforce and career development
- Access to income and work support benefits
- Financial coaching and education; access to affordable financial products

Capacity Building for Parents, Caregivers and Agencies
- Creating a continuum of accessible resources and partners to engage families
- Enhanced parent voice, advocacy and networks
- Addressing family stress and trauma
- Ensuring agency staff are culturally competent and see parents as assets

Early Care, Education and Quality Experiences
- High-quality early education programs (center- or home-based)
- Successful transition to elementary school
- High-quality elementary school experiences

Influencing Policy and Systems
Our Goal: Better Outcomes for Families

PARENT OUTCOMES
Less parental stress
Stronger parenting skills
Parent confidence as child’s first teacher and best advocate
Recognition of parents as leaders and experts on caring for their kids

CHILD OUTCOMES
More positive, high-quality interactions with parents
Improved social-emotional development
Readiness for school
Ability to meet school and life milestones

FAMILY ECONOMIC OUTCOMES
Ability to meet basic needs
Greater income and financial stability
Ability to achieve major economic outcomes
Housing stability
AECF’s Two-Generation Portfolio 2014: Four Key Strategies

1. Translating Research into Practice
   Goal: Increasing children and parent/caregiver outcomes together
   Performance Measures:
   - Improved family stability as measured by: increased parent education, employment and household income
   - Improved parent-child relationships
   - Child academic and social-emotional outcomes

2. Demonstrating Two-Generation Practice and Building Evidence

3. Promoting Parent Engagement

4. Influencing Policy and Systems
• Released a Two-Generation policy report in November with input from over 65 experts from policy and practice.
• Used communications lessons on how to frame two-generation issues.
• Developed key systems and program reform ideas to help advance the knowledge base around outcomes.
• Access the report at www.aecf.org.
Policy Recommendations

- Create policies that equip parents and children with the income, tools and skills for success.
- Make government policies and programs more family friendly.
- Build evidence on promising programs and platforms focusing on parents and children together.
Schools and early-education, home-visiting and job-training programs are some of the platforms that offer opportunities to create partnerships that address the needs of parents and children together.
Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms: Innovation and Research Partners

Housing: Jeremiah Program
Building evidence with Jeremiah Program’s replication with Boston Housing Authority, ABCD Head Start and Endicott College.

Community Schools and FES: United Way of the Bay Area
Working with community schools, United Way is linking parents with financial coaching, job-readiness assistance and other tools and skill-development opportunities.

Early Care and Coaching: Crittenton Women’s Union
Testing a Two-Gen design pilot with Crittenton Women’s Union, Nurtury and Frontiers of Innovation.

Home Visiting: Children’s Home Society In Washington
Children’s Home Society is training its home visiting staff in the area of financial coaching so they can help new mothers and fathers develop financial empowerment skills.
Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms: YouthBuild and Student Parents

- Peer learning and support group for parents
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and texting
- Postsecondary retention grants for student parents
  - Childcare, Transportation, Educational, Housing
- Financial capability training for students
  - Customized curriculum
Tracking Success and Persistence

- Parenting survey
- Program data
- Financial capability pre/post outcomes
- Quantitative and qualitative performance measures and targets (e.g. student parent placement, retention & completion)
THE FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS- EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS
(Educational Alliance, Garrett Co. CAP, Atlanta Civic Site and CAP Tulsa)

GOAL
Programs **simultaneously** combine family economic supports to parents, parent capacity building and high-quality early care and education for kids to significantly improve outcomes for parents, children and families.

STRATEGIES
1) Assist four diverse sites to strengthen their two-generation approaches.
2) Document and evaluate implementation to support continuous improvement and to identify potential scalable models for the field.
FAMILY-CENTERED COMMUNITY CHANGE

GOAL
Programs *simultaneously* combine family economic supports to parents, parent capacity building and high-quality early care and education for kids.

STRATEGY
Participate as a strategic co-investor, bringing two-generation approaches into three established, local community development initiatives to strengthen their efforts.
Our long-term goal is to strengthen young families through a two-generation approach, as children and families do better when they both have every opportunity to succeed in school, in work and as parents.

Over the next 5 years, we plan to:

- **demonstrate** effective two-generation practices by building evidence of on-the-ground models and initiatives.

- **identify** 2-3 funding partners and 3-5 key states to adopt our approach through lead agencies, public officials and collaborative partners focused on strengthening family outcomes.

- **change** 2-3 federal polices to integrate both child and parent services for two-generation outcomes.
Core Principles and a Call To Action

- Parent voice is critical. Partner with families in creating solutions and decision making.
- Poverty disproportionately affects children of color. Prioritize equity for all families.
- Government can’t do this alone. Engage a full range of public and private partners.
Let’s hear your perspectives….

• What helps parents persist in school and work?
• What barriers do you see in your work that uniquely face student-parents?
• Where does more intentional two-generation integration hold promise for building on what works or eliminating barriers to success for student-parents and their children? How might we do business differently?
Developing solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities

www.aecf.org