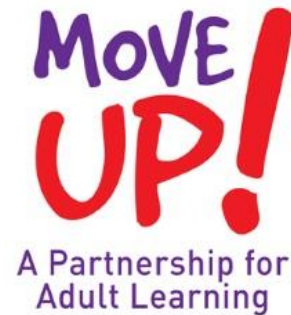


# TWO-GENERATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SCHOOL & WORKFORCE READINESS

## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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CAACE Conference  
April 1, 2016

# AGENDA

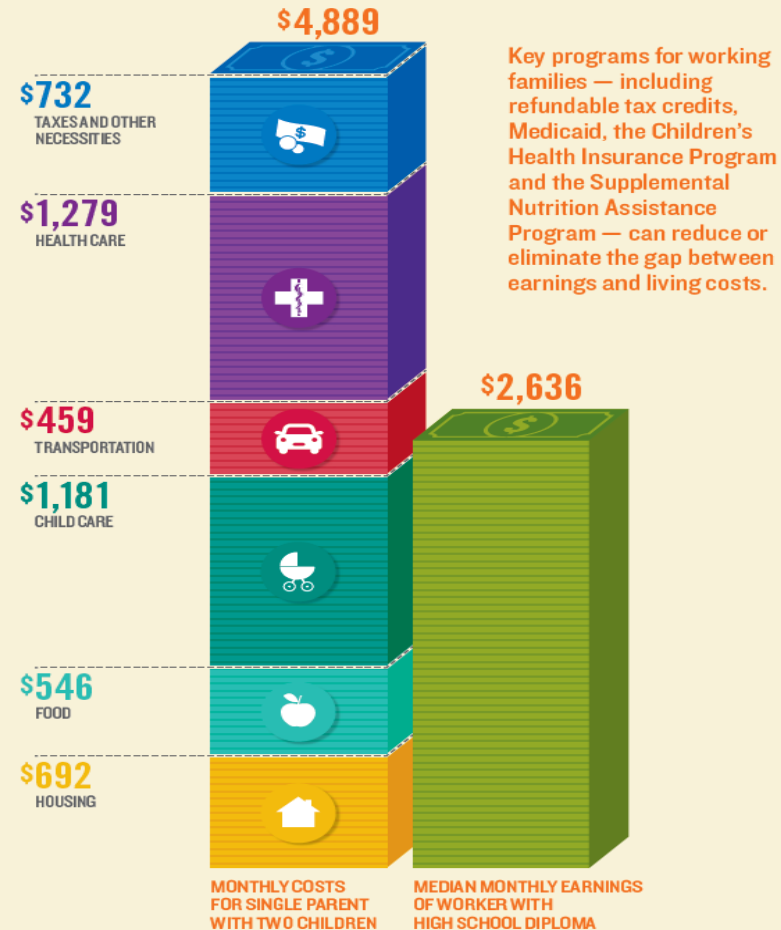
- I. Economic Reality for CT's Families
- II. CT's Two-Generational Model & Pilot Project
- III. Roundtable Discussion
  1. Program, Policy, Systems Shifts
  2. Advocacy for those Shifts

A Single Mother with Two Children in Connecticut would need to earn an annual income of \$58,668

FIGURE 2

### What It Takes to Raise a Family

Many low-income families are headed by a single parent with no more than a high school diploma whose median monthly earnings cover just over half the basic costs of raising children.



SOURCES The Annie E. Casey Foundation's analysis of Economic Policy Institute, Family Budget Calculator, Topeka, Kansas (median). Retrieved from [www.epi.org/resources/budget\\_and](http://www.epi.org/resources/budget_and). Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release, Nov. 1, 2013. Retrieved from [www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/wkyeng\\_11012013.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/wkyeng_11012013.htm)

“Where you begin life has a lot to do  
with where you end up.”

-Distressed Communities Index Report  
January 2016

# THE ECONOMIC REALITY for CT's LOW INCOME FAMILIES

- CT has 80,000 low-income families with children ages 8 and under.
- 60% of those families have no parent employed in full-time, year-round employment.
- 80% of those families have less than an Associate's Degree
- Approximately 38% of all CT residents hold only a high school diploma or less
- By the year 2025, roughly 70% of jobs in CT will require some level of post-secondary education or training

## THE PROBLEM FOR FAMILIES

# ALICE<sup>®</sup>

ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED, EMPLOYED

# ALICE

## According to the United Way's 2014 ALICE Report:

- There are 474,445 ALICE households in Connecticut, which is approximately 35% of our population.
- Most cities and towns in CT have more than 20% of households living below the ALICE threshold.
- Connecticut's high cost of living is beyond what most jobs in the state can provide to working households.
- The annual Household Survival Budget for the average Connecticut family of four is \$64,689 and for a single adult is \$21,944.

# What does “2GEN” Mean in CT?

- CT’s Two Generational model is about intentionally working with the parent and child together so that the child is **ready for school success and the parents are ready to succeed in jobs that pay family-sustaining wages.**
- *Not* a program alone, but an approach that builds efficacy and capacity for child, parent and community, *together.*
- Paradigm shift includes policy, program and systems change.
- 2 Gen is an anti-poverty strategy - It changes how policy and systems are assembled to better influence the most important outcomes for Connecticut’s vulnerable families -- *a reduction in chronic, multi-generational family poverty.*



# Core 2-Gen Components

## **I. Quality Early Childhood Education**

- Infant-toddler care
- Preschool

## **II. Adult Education & Job Training**

- Adult Education/ESL
- Postsecondary education
- Career Readiness & Job Training

## **III. Critical Family Development/Support Services**

- Home visiting
- Family Literacy Activities
- Financial education
- Removal of transportation & childcare barriers
- Health and Mental Health Services

## **IV. Peer Learning Community**

- Parent Engagement & Leadership at all Levels
- Networking & Developing Social Capital

# 2-Gen Approach

## Two Gen Strategy



# Core 2-Gen Principles

- 1. Focus on low-income families**
- 2. Create a common portal for entry that is open to both parent and child**
- 3. See the family as the unit.**
- 4. Address learning, work and family strength**
- 5. Prioritize service effectiveness and resource efficiency for the family**
- 6. Offer dignity and authentic commitment to diversity**
- 7. Provide ample context for peer to peer learning**
- 8. Support both fathers and mothers**
- 9. Value the family over standard protocols**

# STATEWIDE INITIATIVE

- CT's Two Generational model is about intentionally working with the parent and child together so that the child is **ready for school success and the parents are ready to succeed in jobs that pay family-sustaining wages.**
- In June, 2015, the CGA Allocated \$4M in Implementer's Bill to fund 6 Two-Generational pilot sites:
  - Bridgeport
  - Colchester
  - Meriden
  - New Haven
  - Norwalk
  - **Greater Hartford** (defined as East Hartford, Hartford, West Hartford)
- Funding has since been cut to \$2.8M

# SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

- Common intake & assessment process
- Development of “middleware” to communicate with the multitude of databases used by providers
- Collect, analyze, and report on common data
- Statewide learning community to understand best practices & collective impact
- Development of the 2Gen brand that indicates quality, family-centered, culturally competent, 2 generational approach

# ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Educational Attainment
- Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Job Placement/Retention/Wage Increase
- Family Development Milestones
- Child Development Milestones

# POLICY OBSTACLES & GOALS

Key issues include:

- Advocating for policies that support dads as well as moms,
- Loosening restrictions on the cash assistance/subsidies that prevent participation,
- Structuring TANF and other public benefits in a way that enables families to retain subsidies as they participate in adult education or training, or reenter the workforce, and eliminates geographic restrictions.
- As many public schools in municipalities with high poverty rates now offer free lunch to all students, we are losing a key data element that helps us better- understand the intersection of poverty and school success.

# How Does Adult Education fit with 2GEN?

1. What are the programmatic, systemic or policy issues that create barriers for your students?
2. What opportunities are there for adult education providers to improve or enhance the statewide initiative and what opportunities are there for the Statewide initiative to benefit adult education?
3. Is there a way that we can use the State's interest and investment in 2Gen to help us boost enrollment?
4. How can we address some of those issues?
5. What questions do you have about the CT's 2-Gen initiative?



# TWO GEN RESOURCES

[www.moveupct.org](http://www.moveupct.org)

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/coc/two-generation.htm>

<http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/>



MOVE  
UP!

A Partnership for  
Adult Learning

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