

Two-Generation Family Economic Success/Early Childhood Framework

A thinking and action framework to help improve on-the-ground work in communities

Why focus on a Two-Generation approach?

- More and more research shows that the gains made by children and their parents may slip away if you focus on just one generation and not the other.
- By focusing on advancing both generations simultaneously, you can increase the chances that gains will stick – and the chances that children, parents and families will continue to do better and better over time.

What is a “Thinking and Action Framework?”

- It is a tool that can help people working in communities think about and improve their work. It details the things that must become true – or more true – to reach the desired outcomes of improving family economic and early childhood success. In this case, the framework focuses on what it takes to for kids to get off to a **Great Start**, parents to provide their family a **Good Life**, and families to build a **Better Future**.
- Each of the Goals and Key Results in the framework represents one essential condition that helps children, parents and families do better today and over time. As each condition becomes true – or more true – your families will likely do better both today and tomorrow.

How can you use this framework?

- **Coalition Building:** Use the framework to help you think about who you need to have at the table to undertake a Two-Generation approach.
- **Common Grounding:** Use the framework so all those involved in your Two-Generation work share a common understanding of what it takes for families to do better both today and tomorrow.
- **Situation Assessment:** Use the framework like a checklist to help you determine what may be missing or what may need to be strengthened for your families and their children to do better.
- **Priority and Planning:** Use the framework to help surface and select your next-step priorities and to build a plan that will help your community better support children, parents and families.

Great Start

What do young children need in order to grow, develop and thrive?

	Goal	Key Results
A	Children live in supportive home environments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children live in home environments that are safe and stable.2. Children live in home environments that provide emotional security.3. Children live in home environments that stimulate their development.4. Children eat a healthy and nutritious diet.
B	Children live in supportive community environments.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When children are cared for outside the home, it is in safe environments by consistent caring adults.2. Children live in neighborhoods that support their positive development.
C	Children learn, grow and thrive.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children are physically healthy.2. Children experience high quality early learning environments.3. Children demonstrate age-appropriate cognitive development.4. Children demonstrate age-appropriate social and emotional development.

Good Life

What do parents need in order to succeed as parents and earners?

	Goal	Key Results
A	Parents prepare for and obtain employment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents have the soft skills needed to qualify for employment in the region. 2. Parents have the hard skills and credentials to qualify for employment in the region. 3. Parents obtain and keep jobs.
B	Parents have what they need keep a job and maintain their family life.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents are physically and mentally healthy and obtain the nutrition they need. 2. Parents access quality childcare that enables their work and education. 3. Parents have good transportation options to maintain employment and family life. 4. Parents access a support system that helps them address their obstacles and challenges.
C	Parents' financial resources and resourcefulness support a stable family life.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents maximize their combination of earnings, benefits and other income to meet their family financial needs. 2. Parents have ready access to essential goods and services and pay fair and affordable prices for them. 3. Parents make good financial decisions that reduce their debt and increase their credit scores over time. 4. Parents have access to and use fair and affordable financial services and products. 5. Parents have adequate emergency and short-term savings to cushion them from unexpected expenses.
D	Parents advance their children's development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents maintain a healthy balance between their work, education and parenting roles. 2. Parents have the knowledge, skills and resources to make and implement good parenting decisions. 3. Parents have the networks and supports they need to excel in their role as parents. 4. Parents regularly interact with their children in ways that support their development.

Better Future

What do families need to do better over generations?

	Goal	Key Results
A	Children do better over time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children consistently meet developmental milestones as they grow older.2. Children avoid risky behaviors.3. Children succeed in school, consistently achieving or surpassing grade-level performance in all core subjects.4. Children successfully transition as they move through school and into postsecondary education.5. Children have the skills they need to succeed as they enter the workforce.
B	Parents do better over time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Parents work in secure jobs that provide steady and predictable income.2. Parents gain better family-supporting jobs over time.
C	Families do better over time.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Families successfully adapt to the changes that occur when their children enter elementary school.2. Families are confident, hopeful and able to meet life challenges.3. Families have a savings habit and strategy for medium- and long-term for purchases.4. Families accumulate and maintain assets that increase in value over time.5. Families leverage their assets to build wealth and economic stability over time.6. Families contribute time, treasure and talent to civic activities that maintain and improve the quality of life in their community.