



## Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT): Two-Generation (2Gen) State Plan

### Background

The National Governors Association ([NGA](#)) and the Center for Law and Social Policy ([CLASP](#)) developed a technical assistance and peer networking grant to help states create a two-generation (2Gen) plan to better meet the needs of low-income families. In 2016, Oregon, along with four other states, was selected for the grant.

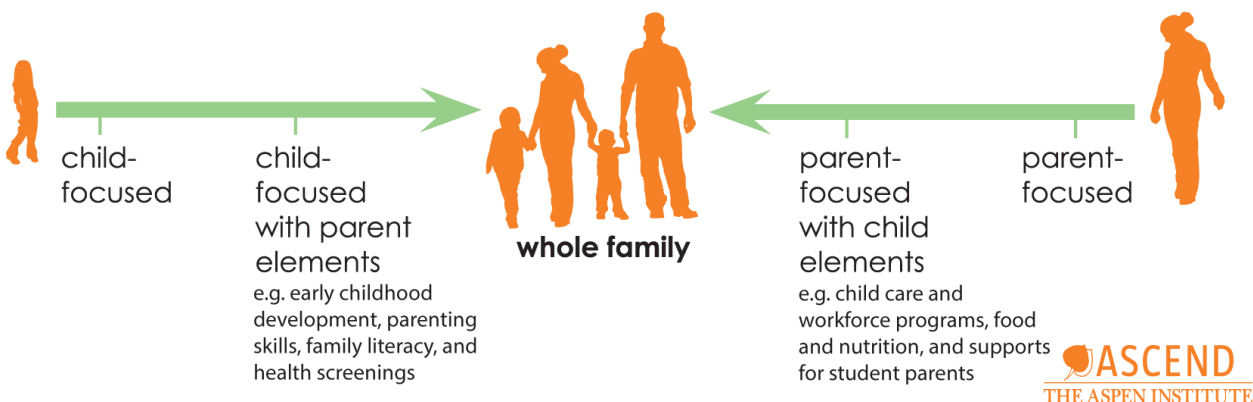
Oregon’s 2Gen plan aligns efforts across human services, workforce, and education policy areas to improve the lives of Oregon families. The plan leverages current initiatives in the state - including the Oregon Department of Education’s Statewide Education Plan - and proposes additional strategies, all with the goal of improving outcomes for low-income families by:

- raising the school attendance rates of the most disadvantaged children and youth,
- helping their parents achieve economic security, and
- supporting the parents’ role as caregivers.

### What is the 2Gen Approach?

The 2Gen approach focuses on creating opportunities for, and addressing the needs of, both children and the adults in their lives together. The approach recognizes families come in all different shapes and sizes and families define themselves. This whole-family approach focuses equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for the child and the adults in their lives. It articulates and tracks outcomes for both children and adults simultaneously.

### The Two-Generation Continuum



## Consultation with Families and Communities

A team consulted with five communities in the state using [human-centered design](#) (HCD), which begins with the end-users at the heart of the process by involving them as co-creators of meaningful solutions tailor made to suit their needs. The five communities were selected using criteria including unemployment rates, poverty level, urbanicity, school attendance rates, graduation rates, geography, and the diversity of their racial/ethnic composition. The areas are:

- Riddle (in Douglas County),
- Jefferson County,
- Lincoln County,
- Multnomah County, and
- Umatilla City (in Umatilla County)

Families living in the above communities shared that to thrive:

1. Families must be able to meet their basic needs;
2. They want to be connected to their communities in ways that allow them to give and receive support;
3. They need equitable access to quality opportunities to learn, earn, participate, and contribute in their communities;
4. They want to be taken seriously and be treated fairly – thriving requires equity and racial justice across all communities; and
5. They need safe communities and schools – places where they can live, work and learn free from discrimination and harassment.

## Key Action Recommendations

Based on the learning from communities and this technical assistance effort, key actions are recommended in the following five areas:

- 1. Incorporate family and community voices on a systematic and ongoing basis**
  - Add participants with lived experiences to the commission that advises the DHS Self-Sufficiency Programs Director regarding programs and policies.
  - Leverage WorkSource Oregon customer feedback loops and use opportunity to act on customer feedback.
  - Engage families at the local level using family engagement best practices to inform local policies.
- 2. Support safe communities and schools**
  - Make equity a practice.
    - Equity Plans for all DHS programs in 2019.
  - Align efforts to create trauma informed agencies.
  - Protect private information of children and families, including immigrant families, using best practices.
- 3. Support efforts that promote community, create opportunity, and create social capital**
  - Pilot the a scalable [Family Independence Initiative](#) model which provides a platform for community building and social capital, in two areas of the state.
  - Provide families with wrap-around supports, including high quality child care for parents in apprenticeships, career, technical, and other education programs.
  - Expand Oregon Parenting Education programming to reach more families by adding partner agencies.

**4. Support school attendance efforts**

- Support full-family case planning in DHS Self-Sufficiency Programs, which supports children's student goals.
- Support co-location of DHS Self-Sufficiency Programs family coaches in schools (or other locations) in areas of the state where it makes sense.
- Support the Oregon Education Department's Statewide Education Plan created via HB 4002 (2016) and associated Every Day Matters campaign.

**5. Align 2Gen efforts and promote local 2Gen strategies**

- Align poverty reduction work through inter-agency/community Poverty Roundtable using a 2Gen lens
- Create a 2Gen advisory committee to coordinate the work at the local and state level.
- Produce an Oregon 2Gen guide, similar to "The Colorado Guide to 2Gen", for local communities and the state to support alignment along the 2Gen continuum.

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