Two-Generation Approach and Trauma-Informed Care
Organizational and Programmatic Considerations
Our House

7-acre campus, “one-stop shop”
Serve 1,600 people/year
Serve 200 adults and 300 children each day
Housing for 110 people each night
Licensed, quality-rated children’s programs

Workforce programs
  1,200 served in Career Center
  502 adults employed in full-time work
  314 local employers
Out-of-School Time Program
A Definition

Two-generation strategies intentionally and systematically connect adult/child investments for larger, longer lasting impacts on family economic success.

-Dr. Christopher King
University of Texas
The Two-Generation Continuum

child-focused

child-focused with parent elements e.g., parenting skills or family literacy

whole family

parent-focused with child elements e.g., child care, work supports, and food and nutrition

parent-focused
Why it Works

Activates highest motivation of parents and children, who provide the core “support network” for each other.

Creates sustainable, reinforcing positive dynamic that lasts beyond the “intervention”.
Key Characteristics

Flexible
Holistic
Long-term
Learning

Practice What You Preach
How Do We Do It?
Two-generation case management and partnership building

Systemic thinking

Service philosophy that is strength-based, trauma-informed, solution-focused, and family-centered.

Considers the decision’s impact on each family member when developing the case plan

Honest expectations for clients, team, partners

Communication with partners: relationships are key
Career Center as One-Stop-Shop

- “No wrong point of entry”
- Transportation Assistance
- Benefits Navigation
- Job Training
- Occupational Training
- Adult Education
- Financial Empowerment
- Case Management
“Be Your Child’s Best Advocate”

Equipping parents with the skills to successfully interact with systems on behalf of their children and their family.

Acknowledging parents’ leadership/expertise, which is more empowering, motivating, and sustainable.

Sustainability: equipping parents with the skills they need to tackle whatever life throws their way.
Access to your programs

Efficiency is important. Low-income parents don’t have much spare time.

Make sure your program schedules accommodate parents.

Provide child care. Provide a meal.
Practice What You Preach:

In your own programs, model the importance of empowerment by:

Operating quality programs—and communicating this to your clients.

Listening to your clients—provide for constructive feedback (surveys, focus groups, program evaluations).
Hiring the Right People

Flexibility, creativity, positivity.

Ability to work different schedules that accommodate clients.

Ability to get along with children and adults.
Maintaining a two-generation culture

Regular meetings and other interaction between staff working with children and adults.

Shared training and vocabulary.

Support program staff when they encounter challenges/opportunities: partnerships, policies, EAP and more.

Be prepared to spend money and make changes.