



VICTOR IVERSON, COMMISSION CHAIR | ZACHARY RENSTROM, COMMISSIONER | DEAN COX, COMMISSIONER

May 31, 2017

Tracy Gruber
Director of the Office of Child Care
Senior Advisor of the Intergenerational Poverty Initiative
Department of Workforce Services

Dear Tracy:

Washington County, charged by the Lt. Governor to develop an Intergenerational Poverty plan, brought together key players in the community to form an Intergenerational Poverty Planning Committee. The Committee then met on a monthly basis to develop a plan unique to Washington County. The Committee identified current resources and programs already in place and determined ways to bridge gaps. One of the greatest successes to this process was connecting individuals within the community, who now work collaboratively on a regular basis and have joined resources and ideas to complete grants for future programs.

Washington County's Intergenerational Poverty Grant is a broad scope of the County's five and ten year goals to tackling Intergenerational Poverty. Moving forward, the Committee has broken into smaller focus groups that will continue to meet on a monthly basis, along with a quarterly meeting with the committee as a whole to allow collaborative efforts that will continue to keep the momentum moving forward and informed of the individual committees' progress.

The intention of the committee is to take the current plan and narrow the scope into smaller action plans and goals that will meet the five and ten year goals, with continual focus on the theme developed by Washington County's Intergenerational Poverty Committee, which is:

Washington County's Community Collaboration on Intergenerational Poverty supports each family's progression out of poverty.

Sincerely,

Victor Iverson, Commission Chair
Washington County

Washington County Goals to address Intergenerational Poverty



Hundreds of Washington County Families are living in intergenerational poverty, a situation of poverty and public assistance use that continues from one generation to the next. As part of the Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission and Workforce Service, the County is working with multiple agencies within the County and other key partners to understand intergenerational poverty and reduce the number of children who remain in this situation as adults.

Some information from Workforce Services show the following:

- 45% of children are at risk of remaining in poverty as adults
- 4% of adults are experiencing intergenerational poverty (children 7%)
- Employment among IGP adults
 - 34% are employed all 4 quarters
 - 27% employed sometimes
 - 39% not employed
- 22% of youth ages 10 – 17 experiencing IGP have involvement with the Juvenile Justice System

The following recommendations are designed to allow the State of Utah and Washington County to focus on the four areas of child well-being that were developed by the state:

- Early Childhood Development
- Education
- Health
- Family Economic Stability

The overall Goal for the County is the same as the State of Utah: Measurably reducing the number of families in the cycle of poverty, thereby improving their quality of life and helping them become economically stable.

Washington County's Community Collaboration on Intergenerational Poverty supports each Family's Progression out of Poverty

Moving Forward

Immediately, the Washington County School District provides a free Summer Meals Program to all kids up to the age of 18. We will be at the Washington City Veterans Park during this time to talk with families about participation in the program.

The County will expand the Pillars Program over the next ten years to provide individual towns with the program. We have chosen to start the 2017-18 school year with Washington City being our first expanded area. This allows IGP families to connect with the town resources and allies.

As part of Washington County's 10-year plan to address intergenerational poverty, the committee has determined that subcommittees or "pillars" will be responsible for determining the specific data

measurement, creating logic models, and identifying who will collect, report, and store data to and on behalf of Washington County. Within the framework of the plan submitted to the Intergenerational Poverty Commission, group members in each “pillar” will submit and report back to Washington County no less than annually and no more than monthly. In order to prepare for the upcoming school year, and by establishing performance measures, goals will be more dynamic, have more ownership within a greater number of agencies, and will be re-evaluated on an annual basis.

Early Childhood Development



Many poor children grow up with parents whose own experiences of childhood included harsh parenting, trauma, or abuse. There is a real urgency for family support that directly combat this inter-generational cycle of poverty and stress that directly impacts health and development

1. Support Parents as First Teachers
 - a. Increase knowledge among parents on parenting practices, including prenatal education
 - b. Evidence Home Based visitation programs to targeted populations

2. Continued Investment in improving early childhood program quality
 - a. Increase slots in WCSD preschool and Head Start
 - b. Increase participation in high quality preschool and childcare
 - c. Increase community awareness about what services our community provides
 - d. Increase participation of ASQ (Ages & Stages questionnaire – Developmental screening)

COUNTY GOALS

5 Year

Increase participation and awareness of preschool and childcare training.

10 Year

Children are well prepared both emotionally, cognitively and developmentally to go to Kindergarten.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Best-Practice science for child rearing, and implement the practices
- Increase enrollment and improve test scores in Kindergarten and elementary schools

Education



One of the best ways to avoid being poor as an adult is to obtain a good education. Individuals with higher academic achievement and more years of schooling earn more than those with lower levels of human capital. This is not surprising given that we believe that schooling makes people more productive, allowing them to command higher wages in the labor market.

1. Promote Culture that supports consistent school attendance
 - a. Training private and commercial Pre-care and Daycare to prepare the children to be ready to enter kindergarten
 - b. Focus on afterschool programs
 - c. Connect pods to after-school programs
2. Ensure students are supported to achieve academic success
 - a. To focus of after school programs like the STEM program
 - b. Incorporate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)
3. Support High school students to post-secondary readiness

COUNTY GOALS

5 Year

To track the effects of a new STEM grant to fund an afterschool program in every Title 1 school that focuses on Computer Science.

10 Year

There will be big demands in Computer Science for the next 10 to 15 years and the STEM program should be a big success for the students.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Private and Commercial Pre-care and Daycare are trained in preparing children for kindergarten
- To improve afterschool programs for the families
- Ensure that students understand how to achieve academic success

Family Economic Stability



The primary source of support for most adults comes from their employment and earnings. Hence, understanding the availability of jobs and the wages paid to less-educated workers is key to understanding changes in the well-being of low-income populations.

Engaging with peers through productive and supportive community-led activities, such as social events, participation in learning circles, support groups, and healthy activities, promotes healthy living, provides emotional support, builds trust, creates social cohesion, builds leaders, and encourages positive engagement in the community.

1. Family is at the center of economic stability
2. Mentoring Coaching Program
 - a. Existing resources available
3. Transportation
 - a. Gas Vouchers
 - b. Expand current pantry
 - c. Expanding transportation access
4. Stability economics
 - a. Scholarships
 - b. Housing

COUNTY GOALS

5 Year

Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in stable families able to meet their basic needs, are educated and able to access resources, are involved in mentoring programs and are participation in pods help in identified settings.

10 Year

Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in families that are self-sufficient / reliant and have the support of allies within their community.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Employment in a high-demand field paying a wage sufficient to meet basic needs of the family
- Students experiencing intergenerational poverty will have access and support to post-secondary education
- Encourages the development of job skills in high-demand occupations
- Improved child wellbeing and employment outcomes for parents leading to self-reliance
- Increase self-reliance of IGP adults who are working

Health



Poor health is the single most widespread hazard affecting children growing up in intergenerational poverty. Many are not receiving health care, dental care or mental health care. Many of the children have health care access through Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); however, utilization of these services is low.

1. Add a new child psychiatrist to Washington County
2. Increase wellness activities in the school
 - a. Participation by identified population
 - b. Reduce Obesity
 - c. Increase enrollment in CHIP
3. Create assertive healthcare teams
 - a. Reduced inpatient ER visits
 - b. Increased enrollment in CHIP
 - c. Increase dental care
 - d. Improved health status

COUNTY GOALS

5 Year

Children in Washington County experiencing intergenerational poverty will be enrolled with health insurance coverage and have improved access to wellness activities within their schools, quality physical health, mental health and dental care, regardless of where their family resides in the County.

10 Year

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES

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- Increase enrollment in CHIP
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- Improved health status