



Fact Sheet: Five- and 10-Year Plan for Intergenerational Poverty

Updated 10.2.17

Since its 2015 release, [Utah's Plan for A Stronger Future](#) has led to several changes in policies, programs and agency procedures to address the barriers and challenges of children and their families experiencing intergenerational poverty. This plan provides a roadmap for improving the outcomes for Utah's most vulnerable citizens.

The Five- and 10-Year Plan is designed to allow state and local government, business, faith-based organizations and nonprofits to implement data-driven recommendations to address the well-being of children experiencing intergenerational poverty.

Six Challenges of Intergenerational Poverty

1. Young children experiencing poverty are not ready to start kindergarten, which often leads to poor educational outcomes.
2. Families experiencing intergenerational poverty face economic challenges.
3. Children are often caught in a cycle of poor health, abuse and neglect.
4. Failure to intervene may lead to high societal costs such as incarceration, unemployment and substance use.
5. Lack of coordination and alignment across agencies serving those in poverty.
6. The need for long-term commitment and planning from the state and its communities.

Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission's Primary Goal

Measurably reduce the number of Utah families in the cycle of poverty, thereby improving their quality of life and helping them become economically stable.

Five- and 10-Year Goals for Key Focus Areas

Early Childhood Development

- 5-Year: *Align all systems involved in early childhood development to ensure Utah has the capacity to prepare children at risk of remaining in poverty for kindergarten.*
- 10-Year: *Children at risk of remaining in poverty as they become adults are emotionally, cognitively and developmentally prepared for kindergarten.*

Education

- 5-Year: *Align systems assisting with educational outcomes to ensure efforts are focused in schools disproportionately impacted by intergenerational poverty. These systems include all levels of government, local schools, communities, business and nonprofits.*
- 10-Year: *Children at risk of remaining in poverty as they become adults graduate from high school at the rate equal to the statewide rate.*



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Health

- 5-Year: *Children experiencing intergenerational poverty have access to quality physical health, mental health and dental care, regardless of where their family resides in Utah.*
- 10-Year: *Children experiencing intergenerational poverty are receiving physical, mental and dental care at the same rates as the statewide rates in each of those areas, regardless of where their family resides in Utah.*

Family Economic Stability

- 5-Year: *Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in stable families, able to meet their basic needs (i.e. food, housing, health, safety and transportation).*
- 10-Year: *Children at risk of remaining in poverty are living in families that are self-sufficient.*

Summary of Recommendations

These research-based recommendations were designed to allow state and local government, business, faith-based organizations and nonprofits the opportunity to implement and make progress in each focus area.

Early Childhood Development

- Support parents as first teachers
- Continued investment in improving early childhood program quality

Education

- Promote culture that supports consistent school attendance
- Ensure students are supported to achieve academic success
- Support college-to-career readiness

Family Economic Stability

- Family at the center of economic stability
- Improve job skills
- Ensure policies support work
- Support asset development

Health

- Analyze health provider shortage areas
- Ensure school based behavioral health is available in schools

Other

- Support evidence-based decision making