



History of Utah's Efforts on Intergenerational Poverty

Updated 10.2.17

2012:

- The Intergenerational Poverty Mitigation Act was created by the Utah Legislature to reduce intergenerational poverty among Utah children.
- Through the Act, the Department of Workforce Services is required to research and build an annual report identifying the key indicators and data.
- Utah created its definition of intergenerational poverty, which is measured through the use of public assistance as a child and as an adult. It is distinct from “situational poverty.”

2013:

- The Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission was formed to include the Department of Workforce Services, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, Utah Board of Education and Utah Juvenile Courts.
- A diverse advisory committee was formed to bring an outside perspective to guide the Commission.

2014:

- Utah identified four focus areas of child well-being to address intergenerational poverty. These are early childhood development, education, family economic stability and health.
- Data began to be shared with Commission-member agencies to better identify the barriers and challenges experienced by children in intergenerational poverty.

2015:

- Commission released its first five- and 10-year plan, Utah's Plan for Stronger Future, which identified goals in each of the four areas of child well-being.
- Commission created a comprehensive list of data-driven recommendations.



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2016:

- Intergenerational poverty data was disaggregated at the county level, allowing the Commission to identify the counties with the greatest percentage of children at risk of remaining in poverty, including the following: Beaver, Carbon, Grand, Iron, Kane, Millard, Piute, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier and Washington.
- Commission members visited with local county leadership of these counties, including two urban counties (Weber and Utah) to bring awareness to the issue.

2017:

- A total of 13 counties, including those with the highest rate of children experiencing intergenerational poverty, created local plans to address intergenerational poverty and started implementing the plans.
- The Commission established the IGP County Subcommittee to align the county-level plans to the Commission's five- and 10-year plan.
- In response to 2017 Utah Legislature's HCR 10, the Commission formed a childhood trauma subcommittee.
- Released an online data tracking system to measure progress towards the Commission's five- and 10-year goals. The new data is available at intergenerationalpoverty.utah.gov.