What is Intergenerational Poverty?

Intergenerational Poverty vs. Situational Poverty

 Poverty in which **two or more successive generations** of a family continue in the cycle of poverty, as measured through utilization of public assistance for at least 12 months as an adult and at least 12 months as a child.

Situational poverty does not continue to the next generation, is generally traceable to a specific incident, and is typically time limited.

Utah’s Measurement

Utah created its own measurement of intergenerational poverty and is the only state to distinguish between intergenerational poverty and situational poverty.

Utah measures intergenerational poverty based on enrollment in four public assistance programs where eligibility is closely aligned with the federal poverty measure:

- Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Child Care Subsidies
- Cash Assistance Programs
- Medicaid and/or CHIP

Who is Experiencing It

People from various racial and ethnic backgrounds are experiencing intergenerational poverty in every county in the state.

Because of this, Utah’s data is focused on addressing the economic situation and state of well-being of those in intergenerational poverty, rather than segmenting the issue by their backgrounds.

Why This Data is Unique

This data uniquely defines a group of people in the cycle of poverty based on their current and past generation’s use of public assistance.

Utah’s Approach

Utah takes a two-generation approach with families by focusing on the needs of parents and their children simultaneously.

Four Focus Areas:

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

The Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission’s Goal:

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

http://intergenerationalpoverty.utah.gov  Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission