



## 2019 Fact Sheet

### *Eighth Annual Report on Intergenerational Poverty, Welfare Dependency and Public Assistance*

The 2019 report shares Utah's progress on the Intergenerational Welfare Reform Commission's five- and 10-year plan and outlines data from 2018 within four focus areas: early childhood development, family economic stability, health and education. Additionally, the 2019 report provides the first progress analysis of the families initially identified as experiencing intergenerational poverty in 2012 when the initiative began to gauge the impact of programs implemented and look at areas for continued improvement.

### **Who in Utah was experiencing intergenerational poverty in 2018?**

- 39,487 adults and 53,861 children were experiencing intergenerational poverty.
- 28 percent of adults receiving public assistance experienced intergenerational poverty.
- 23 percent of Utah children were at risk of remaining in poverty as adults.
- 6 percent of Utah children were experiencing intergenerational poverty.

### **2012-2017 Initiative Analysis**

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This analysis looks at the 2012 cohort of individuals identified as experiencing intergenerational poverty compared to a reference group of adults receiving public assistance but who did not meet the definition of intergenerational poverty to track the initiative's progress.

### **Key Results**

- Adults experiencing intergenerational poverty decreased by 24 percent from 2012 to 2017
- Children experiencing intergenerational poverty decreased by 42 percent from 2012 to 2017
- Adults experiencing intergenerational poverty from the 2012 cohort who earned wages year-round increased from 34 percent to 43 percent between 2012 and 2018.
- Although adults identified in 2012 experienced an 85 percent wage increase between 2012 and 2018, the average annual income was \$9,715 in 2018 compared to those in the reference group at \$17,699.



- Adults identified as intergenerational poverty in 2013 and enrolled at a post-secondary institution were 7.2 percent less likely to be identified as intergenerational poverty in 2018. There is a positive relationship between increased levels of post-secondary educational attainment and exiting intergenerational poverty.
- Although graduation rates among youth experiencing intergenerational poverty are improving, concerns remain regarding academic proficiency rates
- Among families experiencing intergenerational poverty identified in 2012, there were elevated numbers of contact with the child welfare system.
- Half the youth identified in 2012 had contact with Utah’s juvenile justice system.
- Adults identified in the intergenerational poverty population in 2012 had higher average health risk scores, indicating greater expected health expenditures.

## Key Findings in Focus Areas

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### Early Childhood Development

- Among Utah’s 817 licensed child care providers, 87 percent are serving a high rate of children covered by child care subsidies; of these providers, 28 percent are working to improve the quality of their programs.
- 30 percent of children experiencing intergenerational poverty participated in public preschool in 2018.
- In 2018, 21 percent of children experiencing intergenerational poverty were victims of a substantiated case of abuse or neglect, a significantly higher rate than the statewide average of 1.2 percent.

### Education

- In 2018, 74 percent of high school students experiencing intergenerational poverty graduated.
- 25 percent of third grade students in intergenerational poverty were proficient in language arts in 2018.
- In 2018, 19 percent of eighth grade students in intergenerational poverty were proficient in math.



## Family Economic Stability

- 37 percent of children in intergenerational poverty moved more than once in a 12-month period.
- In 2018, 90 percent of children in intergenerational poverty enrolled in SNAP.

## Health

- In 2018, through a partnership with the Utah State Board of Education and Department of Human Services, 304 schools provided students with access to a school based behavioral health specialist.
- 45 percent of those experiencing intergenerational poverty, between the ages of 10 to 46 years old, with a behavioral health diagnosis received treatment in 2018.

## Conclusion & Areas for Improvement

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- Although challenges remain for individuals experiencing intergenerational poverty, much progress has been made. Most importantly, the number of individuals identified in 2012 decreased significantly by 2017.
- There are opportunities to reduce and mitigate the impacts of childhood trauma and modify strategies to improve educational outcomes for children experiencing intergenerational poverty.
- Utah's ongoing efforts to provide skills training to adults with significant barriers to employment and connecting them to careers in high-demand occupations may prove successful with adults experiencing intergenerational poverty.