

The Power of America's Ideas

VERMONT CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO HELP CHILDREN IN POVERTY

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State Legislatures (NCSL)



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NCSL MISSION

- Bipartisan organization serving legislators and staff in all 50 states and territories
 - Improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures
 - Promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures
 - Provide state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice at the federal level



OUTLINE

- Poverty reduction framework
- Building on existing programs
- Developing new strategies



Poverty Reduction Framework

- Shoring up the safety net (basic assistance, nutrition, housing, etc.)
- Making work pay (wages, child care, transportation, EITC, health, etc.)
- Addressing barriers to self-sufficiency (mental health, substance abuse, criminal

background)



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Building on existing programs

- TANF (Reach Up) – benefit levels, cliff effect, education and training
- SNAP – outreach, education and training
- Home visiting
- Early learning– CCDBG reauthorization, Head Start
- Employment – WIOA, TANF, post-

secondary ed



New Strategies and Innovations

- Using science and research
- Using data and outcomes
- Setting goals and creating accountability
- Breaking down silos



New Strategies –Using Science and Research

- Brain Science: early years matter
 - Washington state used brain science to improve and expand their early learning system of care
- ACES study: childhood trauma/stress affects adult well-being and health
- Evidence-based programs: rigorously evaluating programs and testing for results
 - New Mexico using results to make decisions about programs and funding
 - Home visiting programs and federal funding mandates
- Behavioral Economics

▪ Texas Child Support order modification process for inmates



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New Strategies – Using Data and Outcomes

- Dashboard reports on key stats
 - Colorado C-Stat program predictive analytics, performance contracts
- Predictive analytics
 - CA child support –likelihood of payment
 - FL child welfare – most at risk for fatalities
- Performance Contracts and Pay for

Success

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New Strategies – Setting Goals and Accountability

- Results First and Results Based Accountability
 - Vermont – adult criminal justice recidivism
- Children’s Cabinets
 - At least 29 states with some coordinating body to align services across all agencies serving children
 - Maryland’s Results for Child Well-Being
- Poverty Commissions/Councils
 - Connecticut Task Force on Children in

the Recession



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Colorado Economic Opportunity and

New Strategies – Breaking Down Silos

- Two-Generation strategies to align child and adult-serving systems
 - Key elements
 - Early care and education
 - Post-secondary education and training
 - Asset development
 - Health and well-being
 - Social capital



New Strategies –Two-Gen examples

- Connecticut Commission on Children: Two-Generation Report and legislation
- Utah Intergenerational Poverty Commission
- Local examples:
 - ▣ Atlantic Civic Site, Atlanta, Georgia
 - ▣ Jeremiah Program, Minneapolis
 - ▣ Keys to Degrees, Endicott College,



Questions?

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