



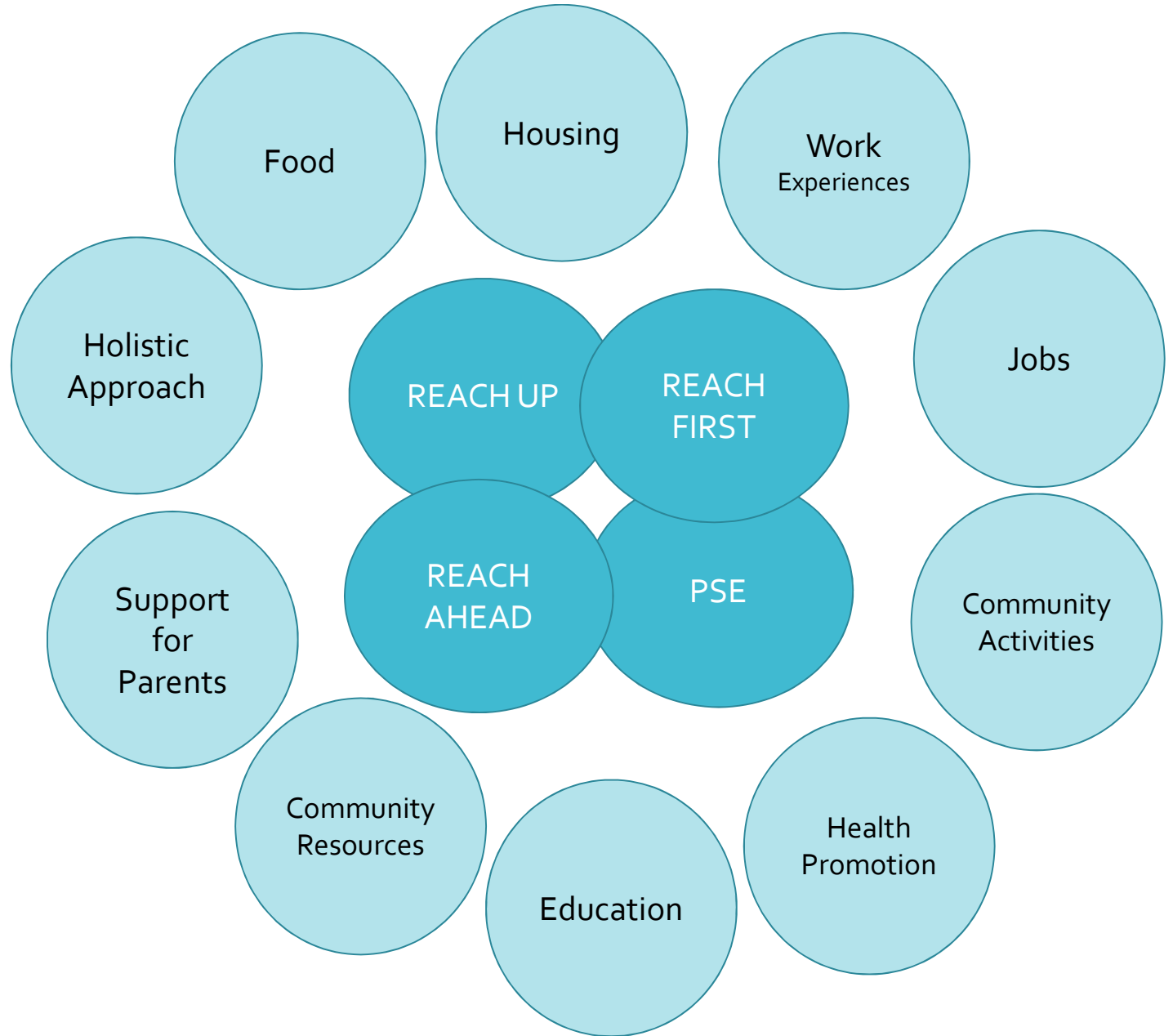
Reach Up

Vermont's TANF Program



10/20/2016

How Does Reach Up Help?



Reach Up Partnerships



- Case Management
 - 7 Housing organizations throughout the state
 - 13 Parent Child Centers
 - 2 New American organizations
 - Designated Agencies and/or Preferred providers in all 12 districts
- Transportation
 - Good News Garage
- Workforce Development
 - VABIR, VAL, group work sites providing supportive work environment throughout the state
- Housing
 - Transitional Housing programs in Springfield, St. Albans, Bennington
 - Collaboration Protocol with Family Supportive Housing
- Post Secondary Education
 - Relationships and collaborations with CCV, VT State Colleges, Champlain College
- Early Childhood Education
 - Memorandum of Agreement with HeadStart

Many Reach
Up families
have complex
needs:

- Transportation
- Housing
- Substance Abuse/Mental Health/Physical Health Issues
- Past and/or current experience with trauma
- Childcare challenges
- Education

Transportation

- Nearly 40% of Reach Up families report that transportation prevents them from getting or keeping a job
- This includes one or more of the following:
 - No license
 - No car or access to adequate public transportation
 - Fines, tickets

Transportation – What Reach Up Does:

- Purchase about 60 cars a year for participants through Good News Garage
 - From 2013 to 2015:
 - 135 out of 196 (69%) clients were employed at the time they received the car
 - 89 out of 135 (66%) clients that were employed at the time they received the car are still employed (compared to 45% of RU “leavers” who have income in all four quarters after leaving RU)
- Contract with Capstone Community Action to facilitate Financial Education and Car Workshops
- Provide rides through Ready To Go (Good News Garage), and Medicaid brokers across the state

Housing Concerns

- The number of truly homeless families in Reach Up does not tell the entire story
- Many Reach Up families are living in substandard, unaffordable housing
- Nearly 20% of Reach Up families report that their housing situation is a barrier to employment

Homeless and Marginally Housed

- In summer of 2016, at least 11 Reach Up households are facing eviction.
- At least 160 Reach Up households are homeless.
- An additional 81 Reach Up households are temporarily housed through the Vermont Rental Subsidy Program

District	Total Cases (excluding Child Only)	Cases (reported) w/o Housing	GA Temp Housing	Shelter	Couch Surfing	Other (camping, vehicle, etc.)	VRS - RU Cases
ADO	366	8	5	3	0	0	16
BDO	674	35	7	9	19	0	21
HDO	205	8	0	5	1	2	0
JDO	167	5	1	0	3	1	2
LDO	220	14	1	6	5	2	9
MDO	373	14	3	0	10	1	11
NDO	208	4	0	0	3	1	1
RDO	402	27	17	0	6	4	5
SDO	259	13	2	0	5	6	3
TDO	287	17	1	3	11	2	10
VDO	143	7	0	3	1	3	0
YDO	112	8	1	1	5	1	3
Total:	3416	160	38	30	69	23	81

Reach Up Grant for Family of Three

	2008	2016
Basic Needs Standard (3)	891	891
Shelter Allowance (Standard)	450	450
Special Needs Housing Allowance (if housing costs exceed standard)	90	90
Ratable Reduction	X 49.6%	X 49.6%
Grant Amount	\$709	\$709
Fair Market Value Rent in Chittenden County (family's actual housing costs, for rent alone)	\$1013	\$1158
	<i>**As of July, 2016, only 27% of Reach Up families live in public or subsidized housing**</i>	

Mental Health

- According to research collected by the Urban Institute, living in poverty creates such a psychological burden that this group has very little “bandwidth” to be able to cope with everyday tasks.

Urban Institute, Poverty’s toll on mental health:

<http://www.urban.org/urban-wire/povertys-toll-mental-health>

Reach Up SA/MH Program -

- 6 agencies have a case manager and clinician model
- 5 agencies have a clinical case manager model
 - This has allowed for participants to have to “tell their story” to one less person.

Last year, 64% of participants referred to and screened by SA/MH partners, engaged in treatment

Childcare

- Access to quality childcare can be a challenge, especially for infants 0-2
- 100% childcare subsidy typically does not pay for the entire cost – Reach Up families are often required to pay an additional \$50-\$100 per **week**, or **\$200-\$400 per month**
- A Reach Up grant for a family of 3 is around **\$700 per month**

Post Secondary Education (PSE) Program Overview

- PSE helps parents in eligible low-income families to obtain two- or four-year undergraduate college degrees in fields directly related to employment.
- What assistance is available?
 - Financial assistance (same as Reach Up)
 - Case management
 - Support services
 - Help with childcare, transportation, and school supplies
 - Students must secure the funds to cover the cost of tuition (e.g., loans and education grants).
- Currently there are 103 PSE participants

Overall, What works and how can we do better?

- **2 Generation approach** in Reach Up program and PSE
 - Why the 2-Generation approach?**
 - More than 50% of our Reach Up parents received Reach Up as a child
 - Education level of Parent is high predictor of child's success
 - Trauma and health of children affect the parent's ability to work
 - Trauma and health of parents affects children's success
- Individualized case management – no two families are the same
- Relationship-based case management
- Ask families what they need – participant focus groups