



Reach Up Legislative Initiatives



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USING BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE TO REDUCE POVERTY

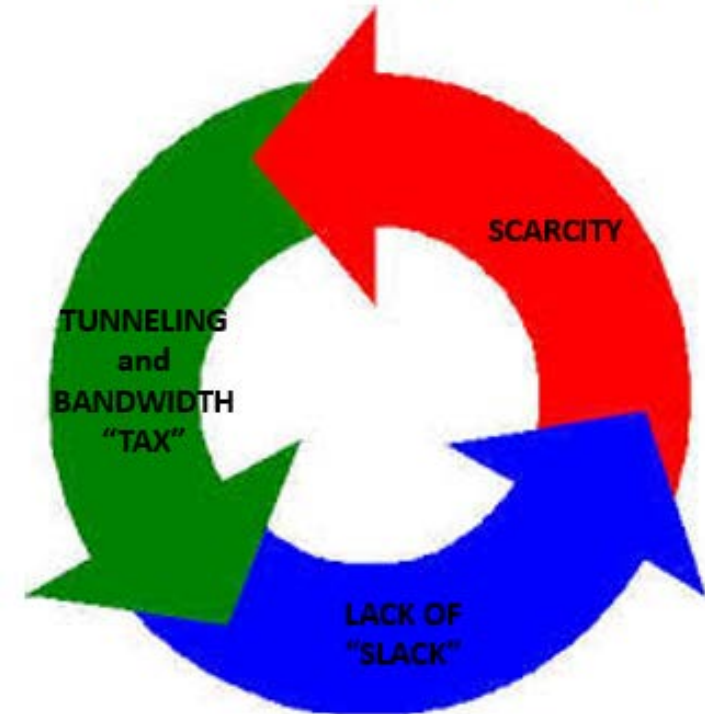
- Economics
- Psychology
- Neuroscience



BANDWIDTH – CIRCUIT OVERLOAD



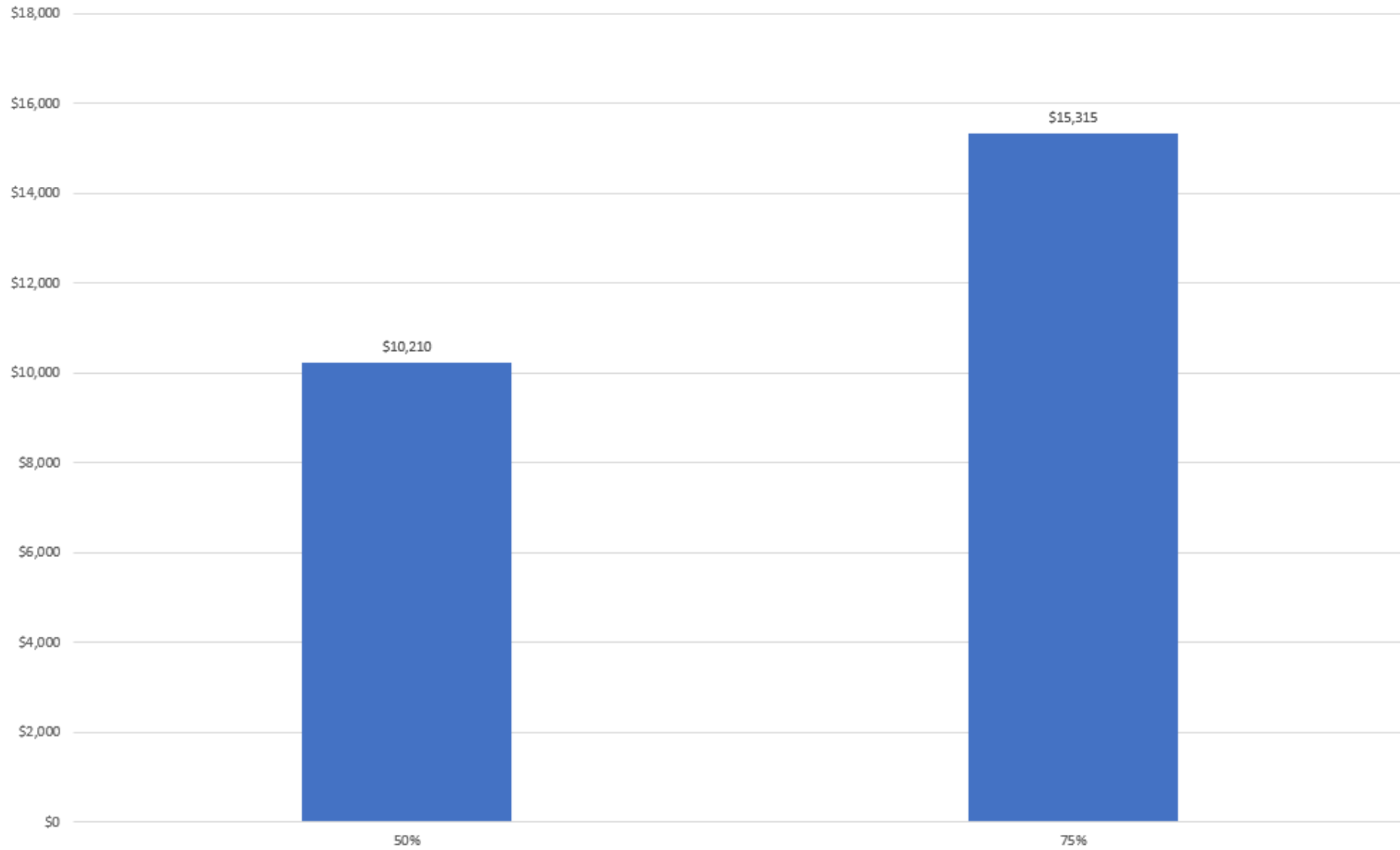
The Scarcity "Trap"



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%
Reach Up Grant Amount	\$709	\$709
HUD Fair Market Rent in Chittenden County (family's actual housing costs, for rent alone)	\$1013	\$1395
	<i>Approximately 27% of Reach Up families live in public or subsidized housing</i>	

Reach Up
Maximum Gross **Yearly** Income / FPL
Household of 3



WHAT can
we do?

“Poverty
Interrupted”
- *Ideas 42*

“... The burden of change rests primarily with the individuals and organizations who have the power to design programs and systems in ways that take universal human tendencies into account.”

- *Cut the costs*
- *Create slack*
- *Reframe and empower*



§ 1103 (C) (7)

MOTOR VEHICLES AS A RESOURCE

Allow one motor vehicle per adult and driving age child

Cuts Costs

- *Reduces administrative burden*
- *Reduces stress when family can get to where they need to go*

Creates Slack

- *Transportation buffer, less likely transportation will be a barrier*

§ 1107(A)

18/36 MONTH CASE MANAGEMENT REVIEWS

Eliminate 18/36 month review

Cuts Costs

- *Reduces administrative burden*

Creates Slack

- *Gives staff more time to work intensively with families*

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT CASE MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW PRACTICES

CASE MANAGERS

- Meet with participants a minimum of once per month, often as much as once per week
- Conduct home visits
- Continually assess, and review the Family Development Plan as needed
- Ensure that family is on track to meet goals, or goals are modified appropriately

SUPERVISORS

- Provide weekly or biweekly supervision (depending on size of district and needs of case manager)
- Conduct 6 Supervisory Case Reviews once per month, checking for completed Family Development Plans, progress of family, deferments etc.

CENTRAL OFFICE

- Conduct detailed case reviews for every case manager at least once a year
- Develop targeted training as needed
- Provide assistance “trouble shooting” and help supervisors find solutions for families when needed

§ 1113(C) WORK REQUIREMENTS

Aligning the work requirements with simpler Federal work requirements

Cuts Costs

- Significantly reduce administrative burden
- Participants spend less time trying to understand program rules, and more time working on their goals

Creates Slack

- Parents can share the WR – if one parent can't do as much, the other can take over
- More flexibility

Reframes and Empowers

- Allows both parents to engage in program and improve skills
- The family chooses how to meet the WR

Current Work Requirements for Participants in 2-parent Families			Proposal for Future Reach Up Work Requirements
Ability to work	Parent	Current Work Requirement	Proposed/Federal Work Requirement
Both parents able to work	Principal earner (PEP)	40 Hours per week, or 35 hours per week in a job the employer defines as full-time None unless the PEP is sanctioned, then the primary caretaker must fulfill the PEPs work requirement	35 hours per week, shared in whatever way works best for the family
	Primary caretaker of the child	40 hours per week divided between parents sharing work requirement	
	Both parents		
One able to work, one unable to work or only able to work part-time	Parent able to work	30 hours per week	35 hours per week for the family, or the combined number of hours they are able to work, not to exceed 35 hours per week
	Parent able to work part-time	None	
	Parent unable to work	None	
One able to work part-time at least 30 hours per week; one unable to work or only able to work part-time	Parent able to work part-time at least 30 hours per week	30 hours per week	
	Parent #2 able to work part-time	None	
	Parent unable to work	None	
Both parents able to work part-time	Both parents	30 hours per week combined or the combined number of hours they are able to work part-time, whichever is less	
One able to work part-time one unable to work	Parent able to work part-time	30 hours per week or the number of hours the parent is able to work part-time, whichever is less	
	Parent unable to work	None	
One parent receiving SSI, one parent work eligible; youngest child age 6 or older	Work eligible parent	30 hours per week	
	Parent receiving SSI	None	
One parent receiving SSI, one parent work eligible; youngest child under age 6	Work eligible parent	30 hours per week	20 hours per week (aligns with federal requirement)
	Parent receiving SSI	None	
Both parents unable to work	Both parents	None	No change/no work requirement per state guidelines

A

B

C

D

E

A – Two parents receiving Reach Up – both able to work

Both parents able to work	Principal earner (PEP)	40 Hours per week, or 35 hours per week in a job the employer defines as full-time	35 hours per week, shared in whatever way works best for the family
	Primary caretaker of the child	None unless the PEP is sanctioned, then the primary caretaker must fulfill the PEPs work requirement 40 hours per week divided between parents sharing work requirement	
	Both parents		

B – Two parents receiving Reach Up – one or both not able to work full time

One able to work, one unable to work or only able to work part-time	Parent able to work	30 hours per week	35 hours per week for the family, or the combined number of hours they are able to work, not to exceed 35 hours per week
	Parent able to work part-time	None	
	Parent unable to work	None	
One able to work part-time at least 30 hours per week; one unable to work or only able to work part-time	Parent able to work part-time at least 30 hours per week	30 hours per week	
	Parent #2 able to work part-time	None	
	Parent unable to work	None	
Both parents able to work part-time	Both parents	30 hours per week combined or the combined number of hours they are able to work part-time, whichever is less	
One able to work part-time one unable to work	Parent able to work part-time	30 hours per week or the number of hours the parent is able to work part-time, whichever is less	
	Parent unable to work	None	

C – one parent SSI (Social Security Insurance) – other parent able to work

One parent receiving SSI, one parent work eligible; youngest child age 6 or older	Work eligible parent	30 hours per week	30 hours per week for the work eligible parent
	Parent receiving SSI	None	

D- One parent SSI – other parent able to work – youngest child under age 6

One parent receiving SSI, one parent work eligible; youngest child under age 6	Work eligible parent	30 hours per week	20 hours per week (aligns with federal requirement)
	Parent receiving SSI	None	

D – Both parents unable to work

Both parents unable to work	Both parents	None	No change/no work requirement per state guidelines
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- The family and case manager work together
- Establish attainable goals with understanding that the ultimate goal is 35 hours/week

§ 1114(B) EDUCATIONAL DEFERMENT

Allow 18 months to work on HS diploma, for 15 hours/week

Cuts Costs

- Reduces “hassle” of piecing together work requirement with other activities
- Allows participants to focus intensively on education

Creates Slack

- Builds more time in to focus on education
- Frees up time to work on other training, education or work simultaneously

Reframes and Empowers

- Puts participants in the “driver’s seat”
- When someone is ready to work on education – the time is right
- Model for children – work on education together – **everyone** wants a better future for their kids!

Education Deferment

Adult Education Centers

- ☞ Vermont Adult Learning —————→
- ☞ Northeast Kingdom Learning Services (NEKLS) —————→
- ☞ Tutorial Center —————→
- ☞ Central Vermont Basic Ed —————→

Districts Served

- ☞ Middlebury, Burlington, St. Albans, Rutland, Hartford
- ☞ Newport, St. Johnsbury
- ☞ Bennington
- ☞ Morrisville, Barre, Hartford

Centers are generally able to offer 10-15 hours of class/tutoring time; students complete at least an additional 1 hour of homework per hour of class time