

Support for an Austin Two-Generation Strategy

Over the past year and a half, a group of stakeholders and thought leaders from the Austin community representing adult workforce, education, and early childhood education programs met to discuss how our community might collaborate to implement a two-generation investment strategy for alleviating multigenerational poverty in Austin. In October 2014, the Advisory Committee vetted its vision with a large group of service providers, policymakers, funders, researchers and other stakeholders and incorporated their suggestions.

Vision Statement

Policies and programs are designed, and their resources are aligned, to help parents improve basic educational skills and become economically stable, to strengthen parents' ability to be positive influences on their children's development, and to help children achieve their maximum potential by simultaneously addressing the needs of parents and children. Meeting the needs of both generations will produce larger and more enduring effects than can be achieved by serving parents and children separately.

A more in-depth explanation of this vision, complete with references to the evidence upon which it's based, is attached.

Next Steps

The Two-Generation Advisory Committee asks that the City of Austin Early Childhood Council formally endorse the Austin Two-Generation Vision. Your endorsement signifies that you support the two-generation vision and will consider taking future actions to assist with its implementation. Endorsement does not commit the ECC to taking specific actions at this point.

We invite you to engage in an ongoing conversation in a series of meetings about how to make the Two-Generation vision a reality. The first meeting will be April 27th from 1-2:30pm. In these meetings we will

- a. Speak with innovative local two-generation programs and learn about the latest research and promising national models from leading academics in the field.
- b. Build concrete partnerships to help agencies move toward two generation policies and programs with a focus on finding solutions.
- c. Identify local and state policy changes to encourage and support two-generation programs. These ideas will be collected into a policy agenda for which the Advisory Committee will advocate and advance.