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1) Two-generation interventions

Overview: Two-generation programs represent a relatively novel way to address poverty and its associated challenges. Rather than serving only parents (e.g. parent education programs) or children (e.g. preschool interventions), these programs marry approaches to serve a whole family at the same time. Such programs are theorized to be more effective by addressing problems from multiple, simultaneous directions, and by targeting the inter-generational transfer of poverty.

Selected Resources:

Two-Generation Programs: Design, Cost, and Short-Term Effectiveness

This article describes two-generation programs and how they differ from earlier single focus approaches to serve children and families. In-depth descriptions of six premier two-generation programs are used to illustrate the variability in content and costs of these programs. The short-term results of these six programs are reviewed and indicate mixed and modest results in promoting the development of children and improving the parenting skills and economic self-sufficiency of parents. The results suggest several lessons, and the article concludes with recommendations for program improvement and future research.

Online at: http://futureofchildren.org/futureofchildren/publications/docs/05_03_03.pdf

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in Young Families

National Human Services Assembly, an association of America's leading nonprofit human service providers, conducted an exploratory study of two-generation programs targeting parents under age 24 already in place within its member organizations. The Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) supported this effort, which sought to document quality two-generation programs and identify program elements that strengthen young families. The study eventually engaged 32 NHSA members and affiliates in sharing their knowledge about two-generation approaches and providing connections to programs that re-engage young parents in education and/or work, nurture parent-child bonds, improve children's wellbeing, and connect families with economic, social, and other supports. This report features case studies of two-generation programs, describes elements associated with successful outcomes, and recommends future work.

Online at: http://www.nassembly.org/Knowledge/documents/NHSAFull_Report2GenOSOWFamilies.pdf

Head Start University Partnership Grants: Dual-Generation Approaches: 2013 Grantees

The Administration for Children and Families is currently funding several university partnership grants to develop and evaluate two-generation programs targeting Head Start families.

Online at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/head_start_university_partnership_grants_dual_generation_approaches.pdf

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2) Integrative approach to human services

Overview: Currently many human service programs operate in silos; individuals need to complete separate eligibility and compliance paperwork, visit different offices, and engage with separate staff to receive each benefit or service. Since many low income families access multiple human service programs (e.g. TANF, WIC and SNAP), such “siloing” can make human service provision less efficient, more burdensome and may result in individuals not receiving all of the various supports they qualify for and need. Integration represents a way to better connect these services and take an individual client-focused, rather than office or funding stream, approach to providing support.

Selected Resources:

Integration of Human Services among Counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania: Five Case Studies

The Institute of Politics at the University of Pittsburgh has researched the integration of count human service departments and has conducted interviews with several counties in southwestern Pennsylvania that are in the process of integrated and/or have undergone integration. Many counties have shifted toward an integrative approach to strengthen delivery at the county level and to ensure resilience during times of economic difficulty. Several counties throughout Pennsylvania have integrated, centralized and consolidated their offices to improve services; others operate under a non-integrated model. This report documents their integrative practices and identifies lessons learned.

Online at:

<http://www.iop.pitt.edu/documents/casestudies/Integration%20of%20Human%20Services%20among%20Counties%20in%20Pennsylvania.pdf>

APHSA Business Model for Horizontal Integration of Health and Human Services

The American Public Human Services Association has developed a horizontal integration of health and human services business model. This new business model for 21st century human services is designed to reflect the person-centered, integrated, and performance-driven modern marketplace and will help produce sustainable positive outcomes for the people served. The model also provides 10 reasons why integration is necessary, including better management of costs, addressing accountability and handling increased caseloads.

Online at: <http://www.aphsa.org/content/dam/aphsa/pdfs/NWI/2013-09-Business-Model-Guidance-for-21st-Century-HHS-Organizations.pdf>

Presentation: Meeting the Needs of Children and Families in the 21st Century

In this presentation, Deborah Carroll of the DC Department of Human Services describes how a hypothetical low-income mother is challenged by trying to meet the various requirements and regulations of several, disjointed human service programs. Her presentation details how a family-centered integrative approach to providing support can lead to more effective, higher quality intervention.

Online at: <http://www.aphsa.org/content/dam/NAPCWA/PDF%20DOC/Conferences/DCarroll.pdf>

New Perspectives on Transforming States' Health and Human Services: Practical Commentaries on the First Year of the Work Support Strategies Initiative

In this commentary collection, gathered by the Urban Institute, twelve authors - national, state, and county leaders along with research and policy experts -- offer perspectives on lessons from the first year of Work Support Strategies (WSS). WSS is a multi-state initiative to design and test cutting-edge improvements in policy, service delivery, and technology to help low-income working families get and keep the benefits for which they are eligible. Its lessons will interest local, state, and federal officials seeking to integrate health and human services programs (Medicaid, SNAP, and child care assistance); health reform experts; and others who care about programs for low-income families.

Online at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412833-New-Perspectives-on-Transforming-States-Health-and-Human-Services.pdf>

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3) Executive functioning

Overview: The term executive functioning refers to an interrelated set of cognitive tasks that children and adults need to be able to perform to successfully function in school and many well-paying, high demand jobs. These tasks include controlling one's impulses, being able to hold several ideas in one's mind at the same time (working memory) and mental flexibility, the ability to see exceptions to rules, workarounds for challenges, and problem-solving. Exposure to toxic stress, poverty and a lack of emphasis on executive functioning skills can leave adults poorly equipped to manage the demands of a living wage job and may be an important missing component to current poverty alleviation strategies.

Selected Resources:

Training Course: Executive Function

This online training module was produced by the Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) to help early care and education providers better understand and support the development of executive function skills. Created in collaboration with the Center's Frontiers of Innovation initiative, DEL's 6-part professional development module includes video of researchers, teachers, and children to both explain and demonstrate how these critical skills form and what they look like in the early learning classroom.

Online at: http://deltraining.com/courses/Executive_Function/content-frame.htm

Building the Brain's "Air Traffic Control" System: How Early Experiences Shape the Development of Executive Function

Being able to focus, hold, and work with information in mind, filter distractions, and switch gears is like having an air traffic control system at a busy airport to manage the arrivals and departures of dozens of planes on multiple runways. In the brain, this air traffic control mechanism is called executive function, a group of skills that helps us to focus on multiple streams of information at the same time, and revise plans as necessary. Acquiring the early building blocks of these skills is one of the most important and challenging tasks of the early childhood years, and the opportunity to build further on these rudimentary capacities is critical to healthy development through middle childhood, adolescence, and into early adult life. This joint Working Paper from the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child and the National Forum on Early Childhood Policy and Programs explains how these lifelong skills develop, what can disrupt their development, and how supporting them pays off in school and life.

Online at: http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/reports_and_working_papers/working_papers/wp11/

Crittenton Women's Union: Using Brain Science to Design New Pathways out of Poverty

Crittenton Women's Union's report explores the impact of factors such as social bias, persistent poverty and trauma on brain development and outlines the connection between how cognitive skills affected by persistent stress impact low-income adults' ability to get ahead. This white paper explores the impact of factors such as social bias, persistent poverty, and trauma on human experience and development. It suggests how such knowledge can be translated into design principles that, when applied to social policies and programs, can improve participant outcomes. Finally, it offers a case example of one such program model, Mobility Mentoring® at Crittenton Women's Union, which has incorporated the recommended design principles and, although nascent, is yielding highly promising family stability and economic mobility outcomes.

Online at: http://www.liveworkthrive.org/research_and_tools/reports_and_publications/EF_Report

Crittenton Women's Union: Mobility Mentoring Brief

Mobility Mentoring® is the professional practice of partnering with clients so that over time they may acquire the resources, skills, and sustained behavior changes necessary to attain and preserve their economic independence.

Online at: <http://www.liveworkthrive.org/site/assets/docs/Mobility-Mentoring-Brief-EBabcock-0509121.pdf>

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4) Toxic stress/adverse childhood experiences

Overview: Toxic stress responses occur when children are exposed to frequent, chronic and/or intense stressors and lack a connection to a supportive adult to buffer and process those situations. Toxic stress can be brought on by physical or sexual abuse, abject poverty, neglect or exposure to community or domestic violence (e.g., adverse childhood experiences). Toxic stress is thought to put a child on heightened or permanent state of stress response. Long exposure to stress hormones impedes healthy development and may permanently affect biochemical and structural systems. As such, toxic stress may be associated with a myriad of negative long-term outcomes including depression, anxiety, executive functioning challenges, metabolic disorder, cancer and alcoholism.

Selected Resources:

InBrief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children's Development

This edition of the InBrief series from the Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University, outlines basic concepts from the research on the biology of stress which show that major adversity can weaken developing brain architecture and permanently set the body's stress response system on high alert. Science also shows that providing stable, responsive environments for children in the earliest years of life can prevent or reverse these conditions, with lifelong consequences for learning, behavior, and health.

Online at: http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/briefs/inbrief_series/inbrief_the_impact_of_early_adversity/

The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health across the Lifespan

This publication summarizes the research on childhood stress and its implications for adult health and well-being. Of particular interest is the stress caused by child abuse, neglect, and repeated exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV). This publication provides practitioners, especially those working in violence prevention, with ideas about how to incorporate this information into their work.

Online at: http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/pub-res/pdf/childhood_stress.pdf

The Lifelong Effects of Early Childhood Adversity and Toxic Stress

Advances in fields of inquiry as diverse as neuroscience, molecular biology, genomics, developmental psychology, epidemiology, sociology, and economics are catalyzing an important paradigm shift in our understanding of health and disease across the lifespan. This converging, multidisciplinary science of human development has profound implications for our ability to enhance the life prospects of children and to strengthen the social and economic fabric of society. Drawing on these multiple streams of investigation, this report presents an ecobiodevelopmental framework that illustrates how early experiences and environmental influences can leave a lasting signature on the genetic predispositions that affect emerging brain architecture and long-term health. The report also examines extensive evidence of the disruptive impacts of toxic stress, offering intriguing insights into causal mechanisms that link early adversity to later impairments in learning, behavior, and both physical and mental well-being. They suggest that many adult diseases should be viewed as developmental disorders that begin early in life and that persistent health disparities associated with poverty, discrimination, or maltreatment could be reduced by the alleviation of toxic stress in childhood.

Online at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/1/e232.full.pdf>

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Webinar: Office of Family Assistance, Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood, Toxic Stress in Low-Income Families: Understanding Long-Term Effects

The Office of Family Assistance, through its Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) efforts, hosted a live Expert Panel webcast on the important topic of toxic stress in childhood. This moderated discussion brought together preeminent, nationally recognized experts and practitioners to describe toxic stress, how exposure to childhood toxic stress can have life-long consequences as adults, and how practitioners and community-based organizations are working to prevent toxic stress exposure in children and ameliorate its effects on adults, strengthening families and communities.

Online at: <https://hmrh.acf.hhs.gov/articles/toxic-stress-in-low-income-families/>

Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, Toxic Stress (web page & resource links)

A remarkable explosion of new knowledge about the developing brain and human genome, linked to advances in the behavioral and social sciences, tells us that early experiences are built into our bodies and that early childhood is a time of both great promise and considerable risk. The mission of the Center on the Developing Child is to leverage that rapidly growing knowledge to drive science-based innovation that achieves breakthrough outcomes for children facing adversity. We believe that unprecedented reductions in economic dependence and social disadvantage can be produced through a new way of thinking fueled by 21st-century science, a new way of working that embraces the culture of innovation, and a new breed of leadership across multiple fields that is driven by constructive dissatisfaction with incremental change.

Online at: http://developingchild.harvard.edu/key_concepts/toxic_stress_response/

Crittenton Women's Union: Mobility Mentoring Brief

Mobility Mentoring® is the professional practice of partnering with clients so that over time they may acquire the resources, skills, and sustained behavior changes necessary to attain and preserve their economic independence.

Online at: <http://www.liveworkthrive.org/site/assets/docs/Mobility-Mentoring-Brief-EBabcock-0509121.pdf>

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5) Employment strategies and asset pathways for TANF participants

Overview: Efforts to promote employment and increase access to asset pathways are critical elements of efforts to raise low-income families out of poverty. Some promising asset-building strategies include long-term savings and investment strategies, efforts to preserve current assets, and short-term and emergency savings programs. A number of States and localities have fostered asset-building services using government resources through targeted policies and through coordination and collaboration efforts. Creating asset pathways also includes increasing earnings through employment strategies focused on long-term career growth opportunities, aligning job opportunities with labor market information and workforce partners' needs, growing job sectors, and secondary and postsecondary education. It is the integrating of multiple asset-building strategies to create "asset pathways" that has shown the greatest promise for low-income families.

Selected Resources:

Presentation: Creating Asset-Building Opportunities for TANF Participants

In this presentation, the presenter describes the importance of assets for low-income families, core asset-building strategies, such as financial education and becoming banked, and strategies ACF is employing to build assets among low-income families, including Individualized Development Accounts (IDAs).

Online at: <https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/uploadedFiles/Asset%20Initiative%20Presentation.pdf>

The Assets for Independence Resource Center

This online resource center is funded by ACF's Office of Community Services to provide technical assistance to AFI grantees, their project partners, and other related organizations. The website offers conference calls, webinars, and an IDA resources update e-newsletter. It also includes numerous written resources for programs and for distribution to individuals in English and Spanish.

Online at: <http://idaresources.acf.hhs.gov/Home>

Site Profiles: Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-sufficiency

The Innovative Strategies for Increasing Self-Sufficiency (ISIS) project is testing strategies to promote employment and self-sufficiency among economically disadvantaged families. At the beginning of the project period, the ISIS team consulted with over 250 stakeholders in order to identify promising intervention strategies for evaluation. From these discussions, consensus emerged that the evaluation should focus on a relatively wide population of low-income parents (not limited to TANF participants); that ISIS should study interventions with potential for substantial effects on earnings and income rather than just modest effects; and that ISIS should prioritize strategies focused on skills development, as well as related financial and other supports. The project is funded by the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families. The profiles of the study sites are online at:

- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/dmacc_profile_final_5_8_14.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/isis_ibest_profile_final_6_6_2014_005.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/vida_profile_3_19_2014.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/isis_final_report_san_diego_for_electronic_use.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/seattle_king_health_careers_for_all_profile_3_19_2014.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/isis_final_report_madison_county_6_10_2013.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/final_dose_kdr_brief.pdf;
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/job_search.pdf

Providing Earnings Supplements to Encourage and Sustain Employment

Three decades of mostly stagnant wages have made it difficult for many low-income parents to support their families — even parents who work full time and receive work supports, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), food stamps, and child care and transportation assistance. Because many families struggle financially

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despite available work supports, almost all states and localities have implemented programs or enacted policies that provide an additional supplement to individuals' earnings. These provide a monetary payment to working individuals, usually on a monthly basis, to supplement their earnings and raise their income. Typically targeted to low-income parents who are unemployed and provided when they start working, earnings supplements are designed to encourage employment and increase the payoff of low-wage work. They can also provide an important incentive for individuals to stay employed. While the earnings supplement can be a critical component of programs, it is also generally combined with a range of other employment and support services. Many formal evaluations of earnings supplement initiatives, using random assignment designs, have been completed by MDRC — some, quite recently — making this an opportune time to step back and assess what has been learned and how to build on successes and challenges in moving forward.

Online at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/provide_earnings.pdf

Increasing Employment Stability and Earnings for Low-Wage Workers: Lessons from the Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) Project

Many recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other low-income individuals find or keep jobs for a while, but far fewer remain steadily employed and advance in the labor market. The Employment Retention and Advancement (ERA) project was launched in 1999 to identify and determine the effectiveness of different program strategies designed to promote employment stability and earnings growth among current or former welfare recipients and other low-income individuals. The study was conceived and funded by the Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; supplemental support was provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, and the evaluation was conducted by MDRC. Using random assignment research designs, ERA tested 16 different program models in eight states and estimated effects over a three-to four-year follow-up period. The focus of this synthesis is primarily on the 12 programs that targeted more employable groups, as opposed to “harder-to employ” groups, such as individuals with known disabilities. Three of these 12 programs produced consistent increases in individuals' employment retention and advancement, and the others did not. The project points to some strategies that succeeded in improving retention and earnings among low-income single parents and provides some lessons.

Online at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/increasing_employment.pdf

Health Profession Opportunity Grants: Year Three Annual Report 2012-2013

This Annual Report provides a snapshot of the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program at the end of its third year of operation. The report summarizes program operations and participant activity and outcomes from HPOG's inception through the third year of grantee activities.

Online at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/year_three_annual_report_final_7114.pdf

Literature Review: Career Pathways Programs

Career pathways programs have developed over the past decade as a comprehensive framework of adult developmental and vocational education and supportive services designed to address the challenge of providing post-secondary skills training to low-income and educationally disadvantaged populations. This report reviews selected research studies on career pathways program design, implementation, outcomes and impacts. It also summarizes the implications of the research literature for the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) National Implementation Evaluation design. The report was developed as part of the HPOG Implementation, Systems and Outcome Project, which is being led by Abt Associates in partnership with the Urban Institute.

Online at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/cp_lit_review_final_62613_edits.pdf

Facilitating Postsecondary Education and Training for TANF Recipients

Increasing education among low-income parents is a vital component of policies to improve families' economic status. This brief draws on rigorous studies to highlight what is known about effects to encourage participation in and completion of postsecondary education among recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

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cash assistance and other low-income populations. The research shows that it is challenging to increase higher education enrollment, particularly among low-income, employed single parents. Some community-college-based programs have succeeded, although only one has increased school persistence in the medium term.

Online at: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/postsecondary_1.pdf

What Works in Job Training: A Synthesis of the Evidence

On January 30, 2014, President Barack Obama directed Vice President Joseph Biden to lead a Government-wide review of Federal programs in the workforce and training system to ensure they are designed to equip the nation's workers with skills matching the needs of employers looking to hire. The review culminated in an action plan to make the system more job-driven, integrated, and effective. To inform the development of the action plan, agencies were asked to summarize the evidence on adult and youth job training strategies and programs to "...determine what information is lacking and identify future research and evaluation that can be undertaken to ensure the Federal programs invest in effective practices." This document, prepared by the Secretaries of Labor, Commerce, Education and Health and Human Services, with input from several other Federal agencies and staff, presents the results of that evidence summary.

Online at: <http://www.dol.gov/asp/evaluation/jdt/jdt.pdf>

Crittenton Women's Union: Hot Jobs 2013: Promoting Economic Independence through Informed Career Decisions

In today's economy—especially in Massachusetts, where there is a high concentration of knowledge-based jobs workers must make their career choices carefully if they hope to earn a family-sustaining wage. Hot Jobs 2013 is intended for low-income working adults who are seeking accurate, detailed, and empirically based information on jobs in Massachusetts. At the same time, it serves as a guide for workforce development professionals, policy-makers, and other stakeholders committed to serving Massachusetts residents and creating greater economic opportunity in the Commonwealth.

Online at: http://www.liveworkthrive.org/site/assets/docs/HOT_JOBS_13_FINALWEB.pdf

Crittenton Women's Union: Methods, Rationale, and Data for Hot Jobs 2013

This brief provides a detailed overview of the steps, logic, and data used to develop both the Hot Jobs and Smart Start Jobs lists. First we outline the basic filtering of occupations into a Hot Jobs list and Smart Start Jobs list. Then we explain each component used to help filter the Hot Jobs and Smart Start Jobs lists and provide the rationale for each respective filtering decision. Finally, we provide a brief overview of the data used in the Hot Jobs 2013 report.

Online at: http://www.liveworkthrive.org/site/assets/docs/HOT%20JOBS%202013%20Methodology_FINAL.pdf

Crittenton Women's Union: Bridge to Self-Sufficiency

CWU's Bridge to Self-Sufficiency® is a theory of change that takes a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to fostering economic mobility. The theory describes a person's advancement from poverty to economic self-sufficiency as a journey across a bridge supported by five critical pillars—family stability, well-being, education and training, financial management, and employment and career management. To successfully cross this bridge and reach economic self-sufficiency, the traveler must attain explicitly defined objectives in each of these five areas.

Online at: http://www.liveworkthrive.org/research_and_tools/bridge_to_self_sufficiency

Ready to Work: Job-Driven Training and American Opportunity

This job-driven training review has identified what is working best today around the country to help job seekers prepare for in-demand jobs and careers: job-driven training.

Online at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/skills_report.pdf

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The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Overview

President Barack Obama signed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) into law on July 22, 2014. WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Congress passed the Act by a wide bipartisan majority; it is the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in more than 15 years. Every year the key programs that form the pillars of WIOA help tens of millions of job seekers and workers to connect to good jobs and acquire the skills and credentials needed to obtain them.

Online at: <http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/pdf/WIOA-Overview.pdf>

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Fact Sheet

The WIOA will help job seekers and workers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and match employers with skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. Congress passed WIOA, the first legislative reform of the public workforce system in more than 15 years, by a wide bipartisan majority. In doing so, Congress reaffirmed the role of the American Job Center (AJC) system, a cornerstone of the public workforce investment system, and brought together and enhanced several key employment, education, and training programs. In recent years over 20 million people annually turn to these programs to obtain good jobs and a pathway to the middle class. WIOA continues to advance services to these job seekers and employers.

Online at: <http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/pdf/WIOA-Factsheet.pdf>

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act FAQs

These Frequently Asked Questions are drafted in the context of the WIOA programs that are administered by the Department of Labor.

Online at: http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/pdf/WIOA_FAQs_Acc.pdf

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6) Performance measures for self-sufficiency

Overview: As new and innovative programs are developed and implemented to support family self-sufficiency, it is paramount that we are able to measure and track their outcomes. Many programs focus primarily or exclusively on employment attainment or income. While important, other outcomes such as stable housing, consistent food supply and increases in internal locus of control, for example, also are likely outcomes of such programming. These resources provide additional performance and outcome measures that are able to capture the array of potential effects of self-sufficiency programs.

Selected Resources:

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program: Summary of Benchmark Measures Selected by Grantees

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program facilitates collaboration and partnership at the federal, state, and community levels to improve health and development outcomes for at-risk children through evidence-based home visiting programs. HHS identified a list of constructs that grantees were required to measure within each benchmark area and gave grantees the flexibility to develop their own performance measures for each construct. This summary document provides an overview of all 56 approved Home Visiting benchmark plans. Information was gathered from each plan, including the stated performance measure, the type of measure (outcome or process), the data source (client, home visitor, or administrative records), the target population being measured, the tool or measure identified by the grantee, and the measurement period. Information was also collected on the type of comparison being made (individual, cohort, or cross-sectional comparison of data), the direction of improvement needed to demonstrate success, and the type of scoring that will be used to demonstrate change.

Online at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/home_visiting_benchmark_performance_measures_summary_july_2014.pdf

Improving State TANF Performance Measures

Performance measurement is a tool government can use to improve program performance and address accountability. The TANF program, like many federal government programs, requires measurement of program performance to help ensure federal funds are being used to reach stated program goals. Some states have gone beyond federal requirements and added additional performance measures for their state TANF programs, making them useful laboratories for understanding the possibilities and challenges of broader and varied performance measurement in TANF. This study, by the Urban Institute, exploits this opportunity by gathering and synthesizing information from a set of states with more innovative performance measurement systems.

Online at: <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412447-Improving-State-TANF-Performance-Measure.pdf>

National Performance Indicators Instruction Manual: For State and local CSBG Eligible Entity Use in Completing the CSBG Information System Survey

This instruction manual is intended to help States and local Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Eligible Entities (hereafter referred to as Community Action Agencies or CAAs) to organize and report the results of their efforts using a standard set of National Performance Indicators (NPIs) of Community Action performance. The NPIs described in this manual were created collaboratively within the CSBG Network to enable the more than 1,000 diverse Community Action Agencies in 52 States and territories to present a more uniform and coherent national picture of their work and accomplishments. This report contains specific self-sufficiency and related measures, such as housing, maintaining a budget, and accessing emergency services.

Online at: http://www.ncdhhs.gov/oeo/csbg/2013/csbg2013_NPI_Instruction_Manual.pdf

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7) Homeless family programming

Overview: Approximately 1.6 million children experience family homelessness each year. This dangerous, chaotic and hectic life provides sub-optimal conditions for child development, and puts children at increased risk for adverse childhood outcomes, toxic stress, family dissolution, poor physical and mental health and lack of academic achievements.

Selected Resources:

Basic Principles of Care for Families and Children Experiencing Homelessness

This short brief from the National Center on Family Homelessness, provides best practice tenets organizations should follow when addressing the needs of homeless families. These include trying to ensure the family stays together, rather than being parceled out to several shelters/housing arrangements, providing developmentally appropriate services for children, and employing a strengths-based approach.

Online at: <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/218.pdf>

The Characteristics and Needs of Families Experiencing Homelessness

The National Center on Family Homelessness provides basic descriptive demographic and prevalence data about homeless families in this brief. The brief describes various reasons why families become homeless, the experiences of homeless mothers and their children, and how homelessness affects family members.

Online at: <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/306.pdf>

Letter: 2013 ACF Letter on Increasing ECE Services for Homeless Children: Early Childhood and Family Homelessness Resource List

The purpose of this letter is to reinforce the importance of access to quality early childhood services for young homeless children and their families. The letter and the accompanying materials clarify policy options for State Administrators of Child Care and Head Start Directors in order to ensure that more young children and their families are served in child care and Head Start programs. The letter provides links to numerous resources to support meeting the needs of such families.

Online at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/acf_homeless_resource_list.pdf

Tools for Local Action - United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, 2014

Ending individual and family homelessness is of paramount importance to United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and all of their local, state, and federal partners. To assist in this effort, the USICH hosts a series of resources available to assist local communities begin or enhance their efforts to prevent and homelessness. The toolkit is arranged by seven “toolboxes,” divided by technical assistance focus (e.g., Local and Strategic Planning, Building the Permanent Supportive Housing Pipeline, Using Medicaid to Fund Supportive Services) and each contains a series of resources specific to the toolbox subject. The toolbox resources include both USICH developed tools as well as links to resources available from other federal partners such as The Center for Medicaid, CHIP Services, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Online at: http://usich.gov/usich_resources/toolkits_for_local_action/