



2Gen Learning Community Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 6, 2018
2pm – 4pm ET / 1pm – 3pm CT / 9am – 11am HT

Meeting Agenda & Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Brief introductions (name, location, project)

2. Why the Foundation is moving toward 2Gen work

- Leslie Perkul reviewed the Foundation's desire to move toward more strategic grant making over time and focus on whole family interventions and supports. The shift to 2Gen programming and longer term grant making aligns with the Foundation's mission to focus on strengthening families. As a multigenerational family foundation, the O'Neil family has a keen interest in better positioning grantee partners to improve the quality, design, and intensity of services for families.

3. Why the Foundation is funding two types of projects

- Leslie Perkul reviewed the two types of projects funded by the Foundation. Both types of funding will provide insight into the needs of grantee partners addressing 2Gen work, what happens during programming, and how the Foundation can support implementation. The two types of projects include:
 - Program Planning grants for grantee partners to create a 2Gen program plan that guides their 2Gen implementation.
 - Implementation grants for grantee partners with an emerging or existing 2Gen program.

4. The structure and basics of 2Gen projects

- Marci Lu reviewed the basic framework for a 2Gen Program. 2Gen is not a new concept, but the research that was conducted +20 years ago on whole family approaches found that those programs tended to emphasize services for one generation over the other. Moreover, many program services offered too light of a touch or were provided solely through referrals. Also, the adult services tended to focus on parenting and basic literacy, rather than putting parents on a path to attain education and certification for employment.
- In the past several years, we have seen substantial momentum around the 2Gen approach and its potential to fuel better outcomes for children and families. Today's wave of 2Gen approaches are focused on deliberately combining and connecting services in new ways to support both child development and parental economic security.
- Many grantee partners are in the early stages of program development and are focused on strengthening partnerships and figuring out how best to structure operations, personnel, funding, information technology, evaluation, and communications in order to co-design and co-deliver or support improved internal coordination of services to both generations.

- Extensive work has also begun to develop research and evaluation designs for various stages of 2Gen program implementation with a focus on how to support outcomes tracking for the entire family.
- Key aspects of 2Gen program design to keep in mind, especially for those at the planning or early stages, are: Intentionality, Quality, Intensity of Services, and Sustainability.

Emailed resources (courtesy of ASCEND, The Aspen Institute) shared for reference include:

- [Ascend 2Gen Graphic](#)
- [Community Guide to Two-Gen Approaches](#)
- [Making Tomorrow Better Together](#)

5. Review of grantee survey results

- Kauser Razvi reviewed the survey results with grantee partners for discussion. Key issues and ideas discussed from the grantee partner perspective included:
 - **Community Engagement:** We focus groups to help engage families and clients in understanding our services and programs. One thing we learned is that we may be thinking of long-term economic sustainability, but the family is dealing with the immediate issues – those that are most pressing like housing or child care in a moment – or other issues of trauma. So, we have to be able to meet them where they are at.
 - **Referrals:** Sometimes the framework we may be coming from (housing, health, etc.) can limit our thinking about how to think about all the services a family needs, even in a multi-service agency, so partners are critical and really need to make sure that we have cross referrals.
 - **Understanding Assumptions:** It is important to make sure organizations understand the underlying assumptions of their programs and the relationships between the supports for the parent and those for the child – e.g. “what’s good for the parent is good for the child.” We need to take a critical look at these assumptions.
 - **Proliferation of Technology:** There is a lot of technology for tracking and managing referrals, but there has been a gap in how to use/what technology to use to understand when referrals are closed. It would be good to understand what has worked and hasn’t worked in regard to systems and processes.
 - **Data Sharing:** It would be good to share lessons learned around data sharing across partners because this has been an issue in the past and we can see it being an issue in the future. Sometimes the issue is the data isn’t tracked or it’s not tracked the same way. At other times, the issue is around confidentiality and/or the systems can’t share the data. Support in all these areas could be helpful.
 - **Communication:** We sometimes have issues in communicating how this program is different than just a child program and an adult program, making sure that everyone understands the total approach, and not treating each service in isolation. Sharing the program design and impacts is very important.
 - **Staff Capacity:** As we change into 2Gen programming it requires some different ways of working with staff across the organizations and partners. Issues of staff capacity also come up around the data tracking, referrals and evaluation. We don’t have as much time as needed to really understand the data and use the data as effectively as we could.
- The group then went to the Nureva board to brainstorm. See the *Nureva Brainstorm Notes* (additional document) for details.

6. Setting the Learning Agenda for the next year

- Based on the conversation today, potential supports from the ASCEND network, and additional research conducted by the Foundation, the Foundation staff will work with 2Gen grantee partners to set a learning agenda for the next year. Based on feedback, any meetings would be organized (no more than) quarterly with hopefully one in-person meeting in 2019.
- Marlene Corrado will be creating a secure webpage for the Learning Community in 2019 which will house any research we find, meeting agendas, presentations and notes for grantee partners to reference.

7. Next steps for the learning community

- The Foundation is currently investigating the possibility of having grantee partners convene in Washington, DC during the Aspen Institute's Children and Family Forum February 26 and 27 in 2019 with an additional day (February 28) for the Foundation's 2Gen Learning Community.
- Details will be sent out as soon as possible regarding this possible learning event.

8. Next steps for the current grant process

- Leslie Perkul shared the Foundation's goal to work with grantees partners during the grant period to learn about best practices in planning and implementation of 2Gen programs. For those working on planning grants, we're interested in learning about the issues that arise during the process, how partnerships are developed, and the metrics for measuring program design as a few key learning items. The outcomes of the grant process should be a plan that can be shared and reviewed prior to program implementation. For those implementing programs, we hope to learn about the best practices for implementation; and how programs are designed, reviewed, and changed based on client feedback and data. These grantee partners may be able to share insights with others who are in the planning stage. In addition to our conversations with grantees partners, we'd be very interested in working with and learning from any formal evaluation that has been planned. Our goal isn't to ask grantee partners to do more but to learn how we can leverage existing efforts to learn about and evaluate programs.