

Summary of Feedback from the August 13, 2020 Learning Community Meeting August 18, 2020

Thank you for your attendance and participation at last week's 2Gen Indicators meeting! There was some great input and feedback, and we are eager to incorporate these into the foundation's reporting process.

As a reminder, this meeting was a part of the William J. & Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation's larger efforts in aligning its data collection and reporting process with Ascend's 2Gen Guiding Principles. These 5 principles should be embedded in any 2Gen approach, regardless of the intervention, and are the common denominator across the Foundation's diverse portfolio. Understanding how grantee partners are putting these principles into practice will help the Foundation's Trustees assess and demonstrate progress, promote learning, and identify areas for additional support.

Below is a summary of the key points that emerged from the meeting discussion including some of the comments and resources shared during the live chat.

Principle #1: Measure and account for both child and parent/caregiver outcomes

- There was some confusion about process versus outcome measurements, and whether the Foundation's grant reporting process was just a "checklist" of process measures.
 - The Foundation is interested in knowing about both process measures and outcome measures. Process measures are measures that indicate that key processes were completed – for example, completed a 2Gen logic model, developed an action plan, etc. Outcome measures describe how lives of individuals have changed and help determine the impact of a program or activity; they are generally harder to measure – for example, literacy rates for an adult literacy program increases literacy rates, Kindergarten readiness for a pre-K program.
 - While many of the measures that are listed as part of the proposed measures for ONF planning and implementation grants are process measures, we still expect that organizations will routinely report out on their outcome measures for both children and their parents/caregivers as appropriate for their 2Gen model. (see implementation grant indicator #1)
 - These outcome measures will vary due to the different types of approaches that make up the 2Gen grant portfolio.

Principle #2: Engage and listen to the voices of families

- It is important to connect the input of family voices into the program's theory of change.
- The larger challenge of incorporating family voices is that our families operate in larger systems that do not respect their input.

- Focus groups at Goddard Resource Center in 2019 found that participants were overwhelmingly glad to have their voices heard and advocated for similar future opportunities
- Providing financial compensation to parents and caregivers can pose challenges:
 - Changes the dynamic of the relationships between the organization and the clients served
 - When the total amount of financial resources start to grow, there is a need to delineate what is considered expert consultation
 - Can make it challenging to identify authentic leadership
 - How to determine if parents/caregivers are just doing it for the money
 - Should include a place in the grant report to list related challenges

Principle #3: Ensure equity

- The current proposed measures for implementation grants do not include strategies for reducing disparities.
- Some organizations are using measurement tools that are culturally relevant.
- The Anne Arundel Partnership for Children, Youth & Families uses a simple question to evaluate their policies and programs: What works, for whom, and under what conditions? (or the inverse question)
- Kō Education Center & Friends of the Future noted that policies have to be reflective of their people, place, and land.
- Resource: GARE's toolkit for policy evaluation, found at: <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/resources/racial-equity-getting-results/>
- Good resource for equity in data collection use: We All Count's data equity framework, found at: <https://weallcount.com/the-data-process/>
- Family Connections is embarking upon a diversity, equity and inclusion audit to help them start this journey
- Need to recognize that what people fill out on a form may not actually be who they are

Principle #4: Foster innovation and evidence together

- Related to evidence-based practices, ONF recognizes that all organizations are in different places and doesn't want organizations to overemphasize this terminology
 - In combination with innovation
 - Can stunt creativity and almost no one implements with 100% fidelity
- Related to data sharing, technology is way ahead of actual policies and law that create barriers to data sharing
 - One idea is to create a universal data release form among data sharing partners

Principle #5: Align and link systems and funding streams

- Related to blending funding streams, "blending" and "braiding" each have very specific meanings that will be increasingly relevant in the current funding environment and would be good to measure
- Another important point is how to identify sustainable funding streams
- Challenge is keeping multi-year funding going

- Multi-year funding is also important in demonstrating deep impact

Notes on Demographic Data Collection Discussion:

- Most organizations are already collecting this data
- Single, female-headed households should also include single, male-headed households
- Collecting data on special target populations:
 - Might consider doing a litmus test on what should be included as part of a "special target population" and how this should be determined – e.g. does mental health issues mean if they self-identify or if there is a diagnosis
 - Some sensitive data such as mental health and domestic violence can only be collected if there is a level of trust with clients
 - Should expand to include those in remote areas, those disconnected from digital access, migrant families, etc.