

## 2Gen Focus Group Background

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### Focus Group Set Up;

1. Ideal size is 7-10.
2. Recruit a minimum of 15 for a group of 7-10.
3. Value their time enough to pay for it.
  - a. It is important to either provide child care or to pay in a way that supports the family to obtain the child care.
  - b. Cover their real costs including child care, transportation, and time.
  - c. Ability to participate will be directly linked to this support.
  - d. Gift cards are acceptable but are not a way for a family to obtain child care.
  - e. The 2Gen model values people's time, and pays for these skills.
  - f. The 2Gen model assumes that we consider the needs of the family; thus, not considering child care needs is not in keeping with the values of the model.
4. In recruitment provide an overview of: the purpose, confidentiality, payment, and all details on location, start and end times are firm, and payment is at the end of the time.
5. Use trusted community brokers to recruit participants.
6. Repeat the group as needed to help expand representation, and move location to attract different demographics.

### Focus Group Convening:

1. Step One: Set up and Terminology
  - a. Thank you for attending and remind them of all the logistics of the meeting (either location of technology).
    - i. Why we are doing focus groups: organizations from non profits to government are working to include 2Gen in how they deliver services. The reason for the focus group is to gain insights into how this could be done and where it is working.
    - ii. Experiences should differ. Expect that one place was awesome for someone and not so helpful to another person. Goal is not to agree but to convey a range of experiences as places learn how to do the work.
  - b. [Explain Two Gen and show the 5 Key Components and Continuum](#). Hand out, share on screen or have large visual displays.

2. Explain terms.

- a. **2Gen** approach aims to “build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.” By focusing on the family unit as a whole, 2Gen better enables service providers to support the development of assets thereby creating pathways out of poverty.
  - i. “Whole-family approaches focus equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for the child and the adults in their lives. They articulate and track outcomes for both children and adults simultaneously.”
- b. **Social capital** is a key success factor of the two-generation approach. Many years of research has shown that social capital manifests as peer support; contact with family, friends, and neighbors; participation in community and faith-based organizations; school and workplace contacts; leadership and empowerment programs; use of case managers or career coaches; social networks, such as cohort models and learning communities; and mental health services.
  - i. Social capital builds on the strength and resilience of families, bolstering the aspirations parents have for their children and for themselves. It is a powerful component in programs that help move families beyond poverty.
- c. **Postsecondary and Employment Pathways and Early Childhood Development** are investments in high-quality early education yield a 7-10 percent per year return on investment based on increased school and career achievement as well as reduced social costs.
  - i. At the same time, parents who complete a college degree double their incomes. A parent’s level of educational attainment is also a strong predictor of a child’s success.
  - ii. 2Gen education programs and policies include postsecondary education and employment pathways; early childhood development programs, like child care, Head Start, and home visiting; family literacy; and K-12 education.
- d. **Health and Well-Being**, meaning that if a child is unwell, it can affect attendance and learning in school, and a parent’s illness can impact ability to earn or perform at work. Physical health and mental health, a component of the two-generation approach, have a major impact on a family’s ability to thrive
  - i. Childhood trauma, for instance, has lasting health and social consequences. Similarly, economic supports, such as housing, and social capital, such as connections to one’s neighborhood and community, are important social determinants of health. The dynamics of federal and state health care access policies through Medicaid are critical factors in identifying barriers and opportunities for increasing the health and well-being of children and their parents.

- e. **Economic Assets** include housing, transportation, financial education and asset building, tax credits, student financial aid, nutrition assistance, and more.
    - i. A \$3,000 difference in parents' income when their child is young is associated with a 17 percent increase in the child's future earnings. A relatively small increase in household income can have a significant, lasting positive impact on the life of a child.
3. Explain how the focus group is going to work: confidentiality, payment for time, direct quotes, respect for differing experiences.
  4. Explain note taking process and how notes will be used.
    - a. Will there be any public use of their quotes?
    - b. Ask before using any direct quotes
    - c. If the focus group is on line, explain the chat functions for responses and that they are being recorded.
  5. Move to the discussion.
    - a. Remind participants of why here: organizations from non profits to government are working to include 2Gen in how they deliver services. The reason for the focus group is to gain insights into how this could be done and where it is working.
    - b. Remind that agreement is not our goal and experiences differ.

### **Key questions:**

- When you engage regarding supports, how is (name component) inclusive of your entire family?
  - How could it be improved? Start each with Health and Well-being or ECE. *Pull out and discuss each component of 2 gen referencing the 5 Key Components in relation to the entire family. Social capital is generally the most difficult and start with a reminder of what social capital is - supporting you to being a community that you can rely upon. This will take 30 minutes at least.*
  - Think about supports you have had from (name organization or system). When you are engaged regarding their support, who all in the family is considered?
    - Follow up - all the children? Parents who also live in the household? Dads? *looking for the whole family concept on this, push for hours, transportation, areas to wait or activities for everyone, when is family separated from each other, how and why This is 20 minutes at least.*

- When you consider support that would be helpful, how could 2Gen be used with your family? What would work? What needs to be done differently, added or stopped going?  
*20 minutes*
- What else would you like us to know when we are thinking about 2Gen? *Allow Ten minutes*

6. Close - *remind them of confidential, no right or wrong answers, payment, thank.*