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Appropriations Committee Issues Briefing on Two-Generation Strategies

Connecticut General Assembly
Connecticut Commission on Children

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National Conference of State Legislatures



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NCSL: bipartisan organization serving legislators and staff in all 50 states and territories

- Improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures
- Promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures
- Provide state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice at the federal level



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Outline

- What are the policy levers?
- TANF and two-generational practice
- Doing what you do better
- States as incubators of systems change



Two-generation Policy Levers

- Child policies and systems
 - Home visiting, child care, early ed, head start, pre-k, health and mental health, education
- Adult policies and systems
 - Basic needs (food/SNAP, housing, etc.)
 - Workforce needs (educ, training, language)
 - Work supports (child care, transportation)



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TANF and Two-Gen

4 Purposes of TANF

1. Providing assistance to needy families so children can be cared for in their homes
2. End dependence on government programs through work, job preparation and marriage
3. Reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies
4. Promote maintenance and formation of two-parent families



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Connecticut TANF by the Numbers

- Current caseload average 14,500 (declining)
- Total Amount Spent: FY 2013 \$485M
 - Federal \$240M +\$27M in transfers
 - State \$218M



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National TANF Spending vs. CT

Spending by Category	National	Connecticut
Assistance	31.2%	17.4%
Work-related activities	6.4%	3.3%
Child Care	10.5%	7.0%
Transportation	0.5%	1.0%
Prevention out-of-wedlock pregnancies	8.2%	14.8%
Two-parent family formation	2.7%%	4.4%
Other non-assistance	14.6%	37.8%



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Legislatures as Drivers of Two-Generational Practice

- Vision: Establish Statewide Goals
- Oversight: Hold Agencies Accountable
- Stewardship: Manage Financial and Human Capital



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