

# Pulling in the Same Direction: Two-Generation Strategies to Break the Cycle of Poverty

Charley Martin-Berry, Community Caring Collaborative  
Machias, Maine

&

Monica Barczak, CAP Tulsa  
Tulsa, Oklahoma



*The Community  
Caring Collaborative*

# Agenda

- Why & How CCC and CAP built a two-gen approach (30 minutes)
- Activities (20 minutes)
  - What foundations for “two-gen” already in exist?
  - How might you build on these foundations?
  - What role could you play in building? Who else would you need to engage to be successful?
- Challenges & Lessons Learned (10 minutes)
- Q&A (15 minutes)

# Community Caring Collaborative

**CCC Mission:** Nurture and sustain collaboration that expands resources and increases hope, health, and well-being for people in Washington County.

The CCC convenes partners in order to:

- Increase Skills and Knowledge
- Identify and Remove Barriers
- Incubate Programs and Supports



Our work aims to improve outcomes at individual, program, and system levels and is based on shared values and shared vision.

# Why did the Community Caring Collaborative Build a Two-Gen Approach?

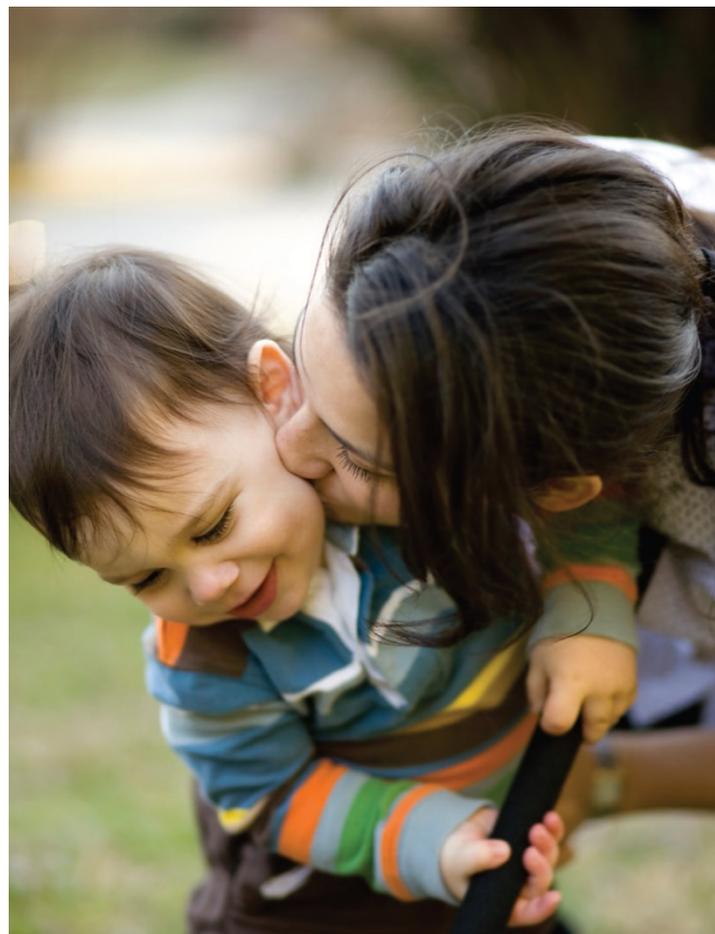
Parents and their service providers asked us to.  
Parents wanted:

- opportunities to learn more about parenting
- ways to pay their bills
- help going to school
- opportunities for the whole family to succeed
- help breaking the cycle of poverty in their families

# Digging Deeper and Listening to Parents

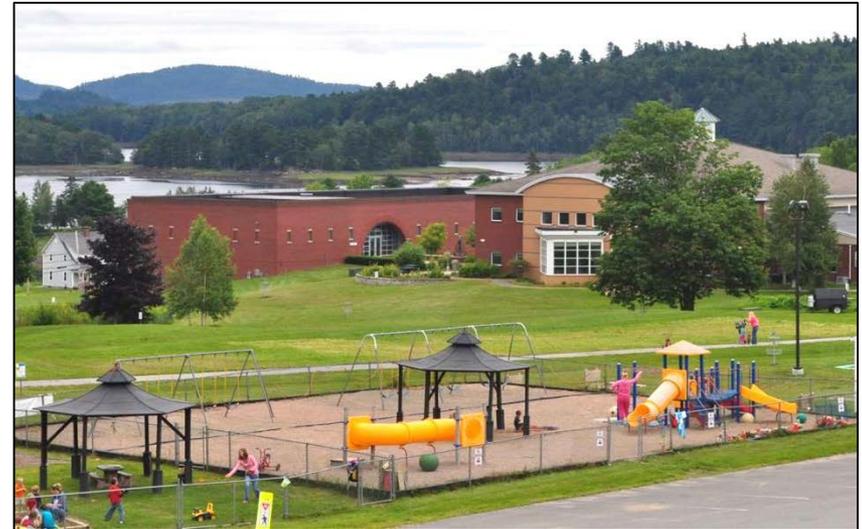
## What was in their way?

- Lack of money
- Limited access to safe, quality child care
- Transportation barriers
- Unmet basic needs
- No one who believed in them



# Family Futures Downeast: A two-gen program for 32 families in Maine

- post-secondary education
- co-located, high-quality child care
- workforce skills and career pathways
- access to community resources
- whole-family services
- Coaching relationships that change outcomes
- Barrier removal/ flex funds



# FFD Two-Gen program and partnerships

- 5 college courses in Family Life Skills offer contextualized learning and build foundation for certificate or degree
- Co-located, high-quality early education increases children's success; family meal
- Workforce and Career Pathways programming promote readiness for and access to family-supporting jobs
- Coaches address strengths & needs in a "wraparound" approach; resolve barriers; and support career planning
- FFD is a partnership of organizations working toward shared goals for families and with families.



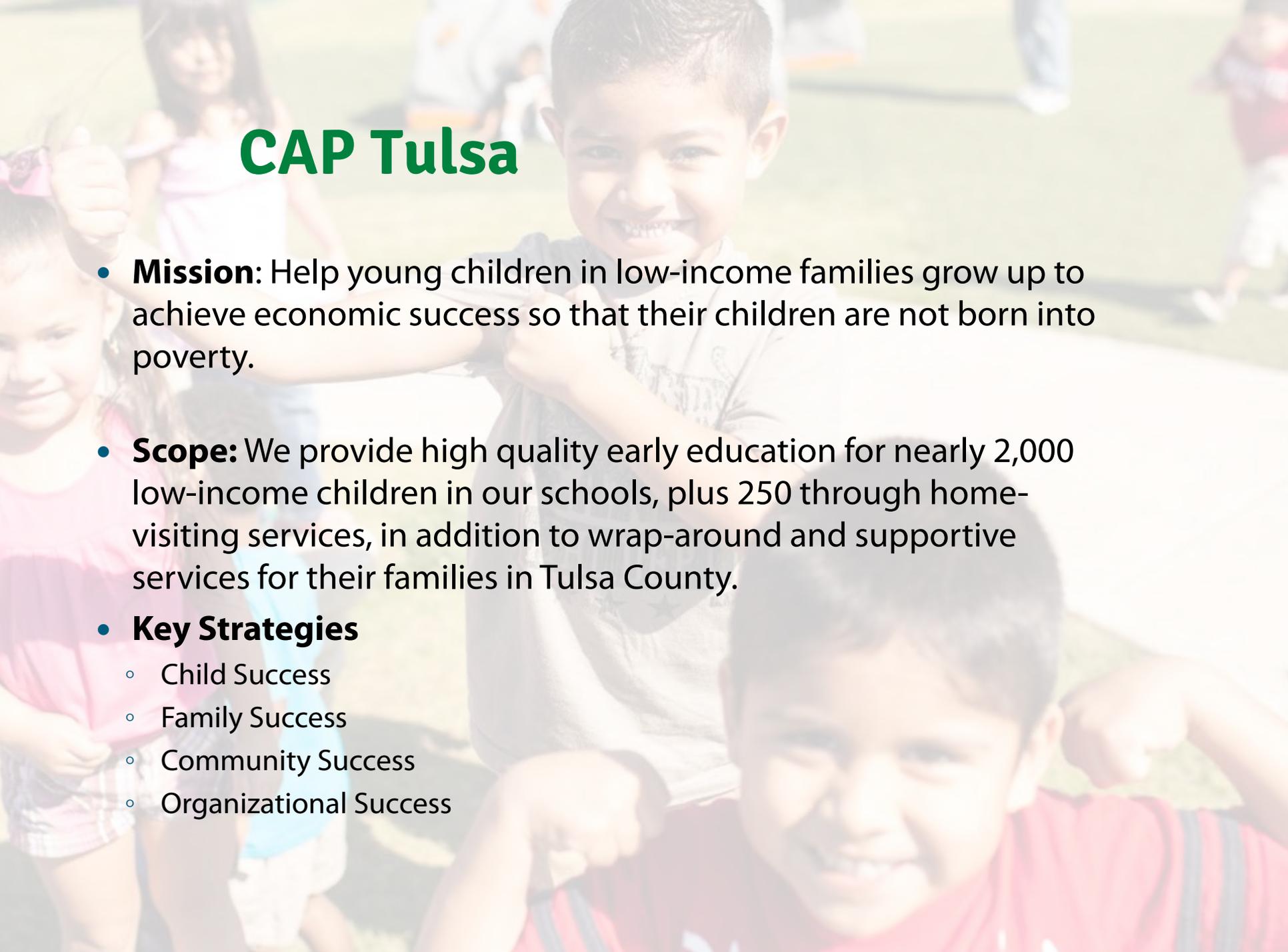
Axiom Education & Training Center



# Results of Family Engagement

- Family Futures Downeast was shaped with the help of parents
  - Their voices have been heard
  - They feel ownership of it
  - They're increasingly motivated
- Parent voice informs a new mindset across our county
  - Practice
  - Policy
  - Program
  - Partnerships



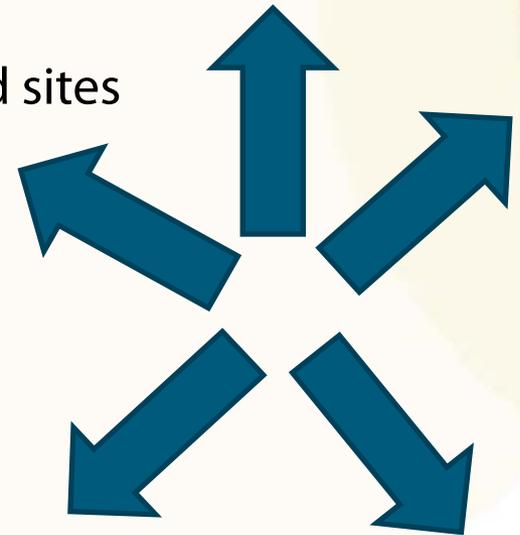
A group of diverse young children are smiling and playing outdoors on a grassy field. In the foreground, a young boy in a grey t-shirt is smiling broadly, and a young girl in a red shirt is also smiling. Other children are visible in the background, some in white shirts and others in red shirts. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a park or schoolyard setting.

# CAP Tulsa

- **Mission:** Help young children in low-income families grow up to achieve economic success so that their children are not born into poverty.
- **Scope:** We provide high quality early education for nearly 2,000 low-income children in our schools, plus 250 through home-visiting services, in addition to wrap-around and supportive services for their families in Tulsa County.
- **Key Strategies**
  - Child Success
  - Family Success
  - Community Success
  - Organizational Success

# WHY did CAP embrace Two-gen?

- We were operating many lines of business without a coherent strategy to link our services
  - Head Start & Early Head Start
  - First Time Homebuyer
  - Rental units – multi-family and scattered sites
  - Financial Literacy
  - Free Tax Preparation (VITA)
  - Benefits Screening
  - Individual Development Accounts
  - Bilingual Tax Clinic and ITIN assistance
  - Health Clinic / Food Pantry
  - Public Policy



# WHY did CAP embrace Two-gen?

- Growing research on the importance of early childhood education convinced us to double-down our efforts with young children
- Emerging research on positive effects of extra income on children's academic performance



# Two-Gen at CAP

- High-quality Early Childhood education plus wrap-around services
- Workforce training in healthcare - *CareerAdvance*®
  - In the past included GED and Adult Basic Education
- Financial Capability
- English as a Second Language

# CareerAdvance® Key Components

- Sector-based, stackable credentials
- Cohort enrollment
- Academic and Career coaching
- Intentional scheduling of classes to match Head Start
- Connections to employers
- Full financial support
- Incentives
- Data & Research



# CareerAdvance® Key Program Partners

- Tulsa Technology Center
- Tulsa Community College
- Tulsa Community WorkAdvance
- Union Public Schools
- Tulsa Area Workforce Investment Board
- OK Department of Human Services
- UT-Austin and Northwestern University

# Two-Gen embedded in Peer Partner Meetings - CareerAdvance®



- Getting out the door in the morning
- Tips for routines with children
- Studying with children under foot

- Screen Time, How to encourage reading
- Increasing your child's vocabulary through everyday conversations
- Instill the love of math



# Funding two-gen at CAP



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

# Exploring Two-Gen in Your World

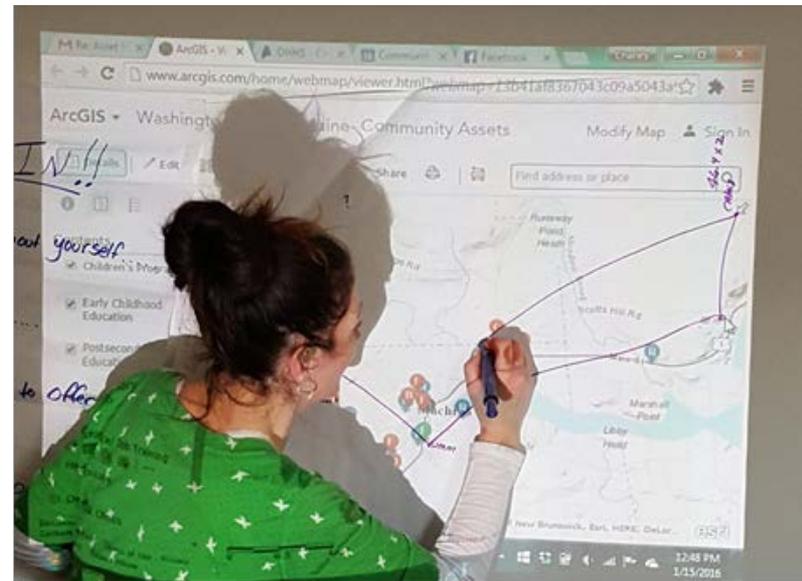
For the next 20 minutes we'll discuss these questions in small groups:

- What foundations for “two-gen” already in exist? These could be at your agency, or current collaborations involving multiple partners.
- How might you build on these foundations?
- What role could you play in building? Who else would you need to be successful?

# Two-Gen Rural Challenges

## Challenges at the Program and System Levels:

- Geography
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Service capacity
- Trust
- Hope



# Challenges

- Getting Partners to Two-Gen
  - The incentives driving Technical and Community Colleges and Workforce Development programs can make it tough for them to truly embrace a family-centric vision
- Child Care
  - Siblings on waitlist
  - Before & after care
  - Out-of-school time care for siblings
  - Off-hours care

# Lessons Learned - Parents are Two-Gen Experts



- Parents did surveys and focus groups to help design FFD
- They knew what they needed and knew exactly what would be in the way
- Two parents are voting members on the advisory board
- FFD learns from parents if the program is working and if there are still barriers

# Lessons Learned

## Parents value cohorts and coaching

*"We were all in the same boat. We all had children. We all wanted it, graduated and got our certificates."*

*"We motivated each other."*

*"She [the coach] was like a mentor for me. I talked to her a lot and she helped me. One of the portions on one of the tests I took, I didn't pass, I was so upset, she talked me off the cliff because I was so mad."*

# Contact Information

Charley Martin-Berry  
Executive Director,  
Community Caring Collaborative  
[cmartinberry@cccmaine.org](mailto:cmartinberry@cccmaine.org)

Monica Barczak  
Director of Strategic Partnerships,  
CAP Tulsa  
[mbarczak@captulsa.org](mailto:mbarczak@captulsa.org)