

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

FAQ: Human Services Program strategic direction

December 2018

Where can I learn more about the Human Services program’s revised strategic approach?

Information about the Kresge Human Services program’s revised strategic approach can be found on Kresge.org. You can also view the webinar introducing the new program.

How will the revised strategic approach impact my current grant?

The new strategic approach will not impact active grants during their current grant cycle.

How do I find out about new funding opportunities?

All current grant opportunities will be listed on our Current Funding Opportunities page. You can also subscribe to receive news alerts from Kresge including new grant opportunities.

How does the Kresge Human Services program define next generation?

Next generation organizations are organizations that are setting the pace of evolution in the human services sector. These organizations are identifying emerging practices and trends.

I have a question that hasn’t been answered through the FAQ. How can I connect with a member of the Kresge team for help?

If you are a current grantee, please contact your Human Services program officer with your question. If you are not, questions can be submitted to InquiryHumanServices@kresge.org.

What do you mean by “two generation, whole family” and “brain-science informed” approaches?

A two generation, whole family approach – also termed a whole-family approach – serves children and their caregivers simultaneously, looking beyond a single generation by connecting parents to children to grandparents – and tying the entire unit to the social networks and human service supports they need to be successful. It weaves the extended family unit into a fabric of mutuality, giving all family members, together, opportunities to be successful.

Two-generation, whole-family approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both children and the adults in their lives together. The approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes and sizes and that families define themselves. Whole-family approaches further 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. The core components of two-generation approaches include education, economic supports, social capital and health and well-being. To learn more, please visit, <http://ascend.aspinstitute.org/two-generation/what-is-2gen/>.

Brain science advancements in understanding the impact of poverty on families are increasingly informing human services provision strategies. Living in poverty can result in toxic stress, which research increasingly suggests causes individuals to operate primarily in survival mode, compromising executive functioning skills. Toxic stress often translates into decisions rooted solely in safety, hunger, shelter and other basic needs – and that tradeoff among these necessities. A particularly pernicious example of this is the “benefits cliff” dilemma – making a choice to accept a nominal salary increase that results in an immediate loss of even greater magnitude in support for child care or food assistance. In other words, an immorally coercive penalty for progress.

What do you mean by the Human Service Value Curve?

The Human Services Value Curve (HSVC) has emerged as the primary tool by which human service organizations can measure their evolution from compliance-focused, responsive service providers to creative, inclusive problem solvers working with families in poverty.

The curve is a diagnostic tool for public and private human service organizations to develop and drive business and service models through a progression from regulative (compliance-focused) to collaborative (intentional service coordination and provision of wrap-around supports) to integrative (understanding the root causes of the presenting challenge) and finally to generative (integrated, focused on the community level, person-centered, outcomes-focused).

To learn more, please visit <https://vimeo.com/70258131> and <https://lnwprogram.org/frameworks/human-services-value-curve>