

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Statement In Support of the 2Gen Benefits Cliffs Working Group short-term policy proposals to increase or eliminate asset limits for TANF recipients and a repeal of the TANF Family Cap

Joint Informational Forum on Benefits Cliffs

Jointly Held By: Human Services, Children, Labor, Public Health, and Appropriations Committees

Thursday, January 30 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building

Board of Directors

Theodore S. Sergi, Chair
Rodney O. Powell, Vice Chair
Andrew R. Worthington, Treasurer
Nancy P. Bernstein
Marlene M. Ibsen
Min Jung Kim
Estela R. López
I. Charles Mathews
Mark Overmyer-Velázquez
Richard N. Palmer
David M. Roth

President

Jay Williams

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region. As a community foundation, we manage, grow, and distribute approximately \$1 billion in assets to promote equitable opportunity for all residents in our region, particularly in the areas of education, community safety, and community and economic development.

Two-generation models recognize that the well-being and life success of parents and children are interdependent: children are best able to learn and grow when their families are healthy, self-sufficient, and thriving; parents are best able to work and to support their families when their children are safe, well-cared for, and learning. In particular, the two-generation approach helps ensure that in programs that support children and that develop the workforce, the family is at the center. Low-income families, who often are the recipients of targeted workforce, family, and early childhood programs, benefit most from this two-generation approach.

Two-generation perspectives are a vital part of our own investments at the Hartford Foundation. Through this lens, we embed workforce development strategies into early childhood and family initiatives.

Our experience confirms that that the two-generation model is a holistic, systems-oriented approach that can have an enduring impact on Connecticut's families today — as well as the generations that follow. We will continue to embed this philosophy in our work and our partnerships with grantees and with peer philanthropic organizations. We thank the legislature for its support of a two-generation policy that can strengthen families, and in turn, improve Connecticut's economy, safety and overall quality of life.

We applaud the work of the 2Gen Benefits Cliffs Working Group to examine benefits cliffs that serve as disincentives for families who want to increase their earnings potential.

Over the past year, the Hartford Foundation has been working with its community foundation partners from throughout the state to develop inclusive growth policies and strategies that support the residents in our urban communities. We know that maintaining a

10 Columbus Boulevard, 8th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

860-548-1888
fax 860-249-3561
www.hfpg.org

strong social services safety net is vital to ensure that working families in our urban areas have access to the services and supports that can promote job readiness and stability. **For these reasons, the Hartford Foundation supports the working group's short-term policy proposals to increase or eliminate asset limits for TANF recipients and a repeal of the TANF Family Cap.** The Foundation also looks forward to continuing its work with policymakers, nonprofits and families to develop effective long-term policies to ensure that all Connecticut families have access to the supports they need while working to improve their quality of life and support our state's economy.