

## **Family Economic Success Cabinet: A Whole Family Approach to Jobs, Opportunity & Equity**

### ***A Concept to catalyze results focused, data-driven, cross-agency collaboration<sup>1</sup>***

For our state to become economically robust CT must ensure that as many families as possible have the means and opportunity to achieve family stability and economic success. **There are several untapped opportunities to deliver better, more effective solutions for families** who have historically been left behind. A new strategy for agency collaboration—focused on achieving measurable results for parents & children—can **drive savings, reduce redundancy, boost impact, and advance racial equity.**

#### **PROBLEMS ADDRESSED:**

(1) Government in CT operates in silos that often deliver uncoordinated services. **Our fragmented approach drives up costs while achieving suboptimal results.** The citizen experience of government services – whether seeking stability through employment and training, or accessing support during a family crisis – often requires navigation of multiple, disconnected and redundant systems.

(2) **Agencies measure their success by inputs** (numbers served, ie how many people received job training) within their silos, **rather than impact** (outcomes achieved, ie how many got jobs), which often requires collaboration.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

**A workforce training program alone is unlikely to help an at-risk mom get a steady job if she faces common challenges such as unreliable child care or unstable housing.** Coordinated action across agencies can more intelligently target and align existing resources. National experience shows that by collaborating to help families overcome common barriers to success, more families succeed rather than receiving partial support leaving them to face challenging odds. Instead of ineffectively deploying resources addressing part of the problem, joint agency action helps families escape the cycle of poverty and subsidy, generating state savings.

#### **SOLUTION:**

**A Family Success Cabinet made up of six Commissioners** (DOL, OEC, DSS, SDE, CSCU, DOH) would be **tasked to annually launch five multi-generational proof-point collaborations and achieve verifiable systems change targets.** One proof point in year one should be the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative. Another should pilot linking childcare with high job placement training programs. The team will pool resources across agencies, link data, and have the authority to clear institutional barriers to success. It would be funded with \$2MM in new state funds to catalyze action. To ensure parent and community voice is heard the cabinet will coordinate efforts with the existing 2Gen Advisory Council. Through the Family Success Cabinet, Gov. Lamont will reduce redundancy, driving savings, increasing impact.

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<sup>1</sup> This concept also conveyed in shorter form as part of policy committee co-chairs cross-cutting proposals doc