

# Hope Center for Families: Addressing Health Needs Through a Two Generation Model

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## Background

Reports have repeatedly shown that poor people are exposed more often to inadequate living conditions, lack of access to healthcare and little resources to cover basic needs. Insufficient housing structure, dangerous communities and inadequate housing all increase risk for adverse health behaviors and illnesses in impoverished communities.<sup>1</sup> Both adults and children suffer and even more drastically in Ohio. Ohio ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation for its health outcomes.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, Montgomery County ranks 77 out of 87 total Ohio counties in health outcomes.<sup>3</sup> With these concerning statistics, Montgomery County is a prime target for promoting novel organizational structure to nonprofit programs.

The Omega Community Development Corporation's (CDC) Hope Center for Families is an initiative located in Montgomery County that focuses on breaking cycles of poverty by providing opportunities to both children and parents of families in the zip code 45406. Omega CDC plans to implement the Two Generation Model, which focuses on children and adults simultaneously, in order to improve the health and wellness of the communities in the zip code 45406.

There is some evidence (however limited) of the effective practice of a Two Generation Model.

- Atlanta Civic Center (zip code 30312) has a Two Generation Model that has some evidence of improved outcomes over the years. It most similarly mimics the demographics and needs of the Northwest Dayton community:
  - 28.6% living below poverty line in 30312<sup>4</sup> (32% in 45406)<sup>5</sup>
  - 52.8% are Black, 38.1% are White in 30312<sup>4</sup> (81% Black, 14.1% White in 45406)<sup>5</sup>
- Ultimately, zip code 45406 has very low to low overall access to economic, educational, and health opportunities (Figure 1).<sup>6</sup>

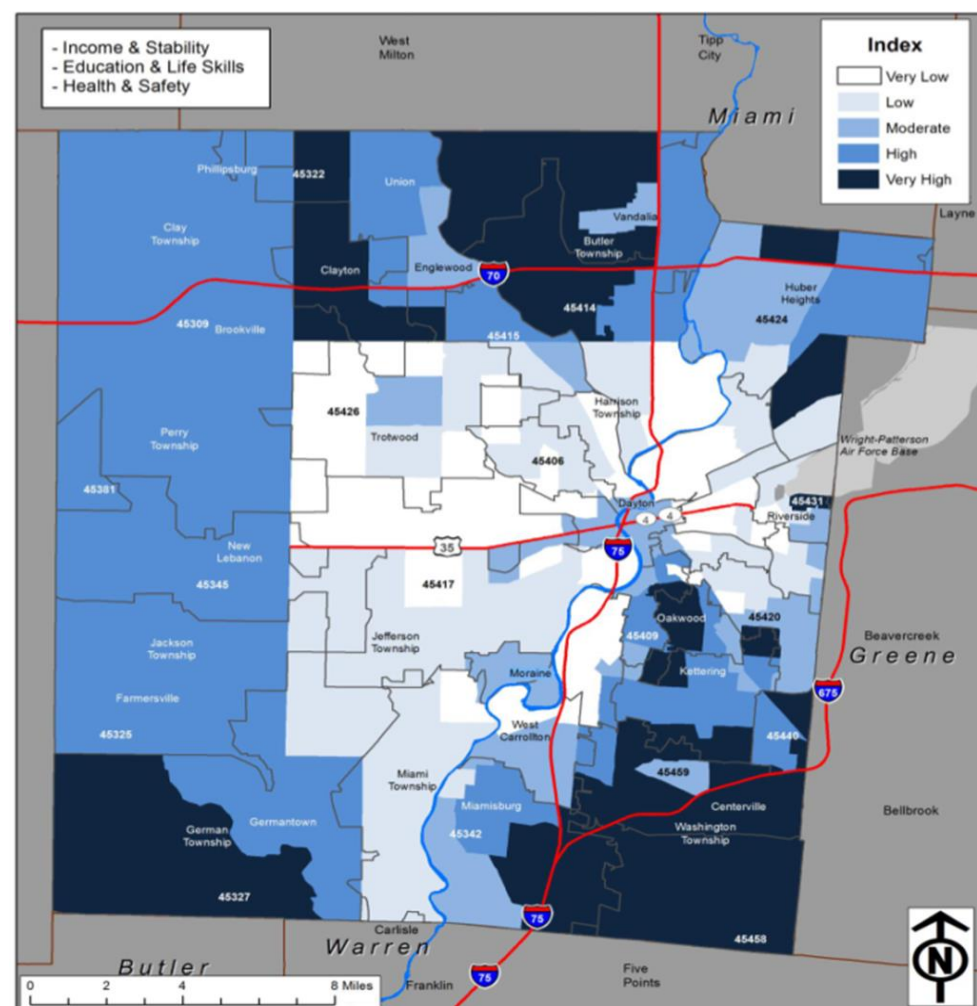


Figure 1. The Geography of Opportunity-Montgomery County, OH.<sup>6</sup>

## Purpose

This project sought to explore the use of the Two Generation Model for the Hope Center for Families' initiative that is intended to equip communities with resources and opportunities to elevate above the cycle of poverty. The exploration focused on how the Two-Generational Model would improve the health and wellness of the communities in the zip code 45406.

## Methods

- Qualitative series of key informant interviews were employed to gather information about the possible goals and expected outcomes during partnership as well as how Hope Center for Families can impact the communities it will serve. These interviews did not involve obtaining information about living individuals; therefore, ethical review was not required.
- Interview protocols and consent forms were developed for each of the interviews.
- All interviews were recorded using a computer device.
- Representatives from each of the currently five confirmed partners were contacted to conduct the interview which focused on their specific service and contributions to Hope Center for Families.
- One interview with a current Two Generation organization in Montgomery County, Dayton, OH focused on the implementation and results of a Two Generation Model to service.
- Recurring themes were formed from all six interviews by listening to each interview several times.
- Interviews were then transcribed, confirmed by the interviewees and then given to Omega CDC for their records.
- A logic model was created from recurring themes.

## Results

The logic model focused on the needs for the Hope Center for Families to be successful and reach the intended goals, not the individual partner organizations. Many interviewees mentioned the importance of culturally receptive staff, having a staff-person with the primary role of coordinating services and a guiding organizational framework (see Figure 2).

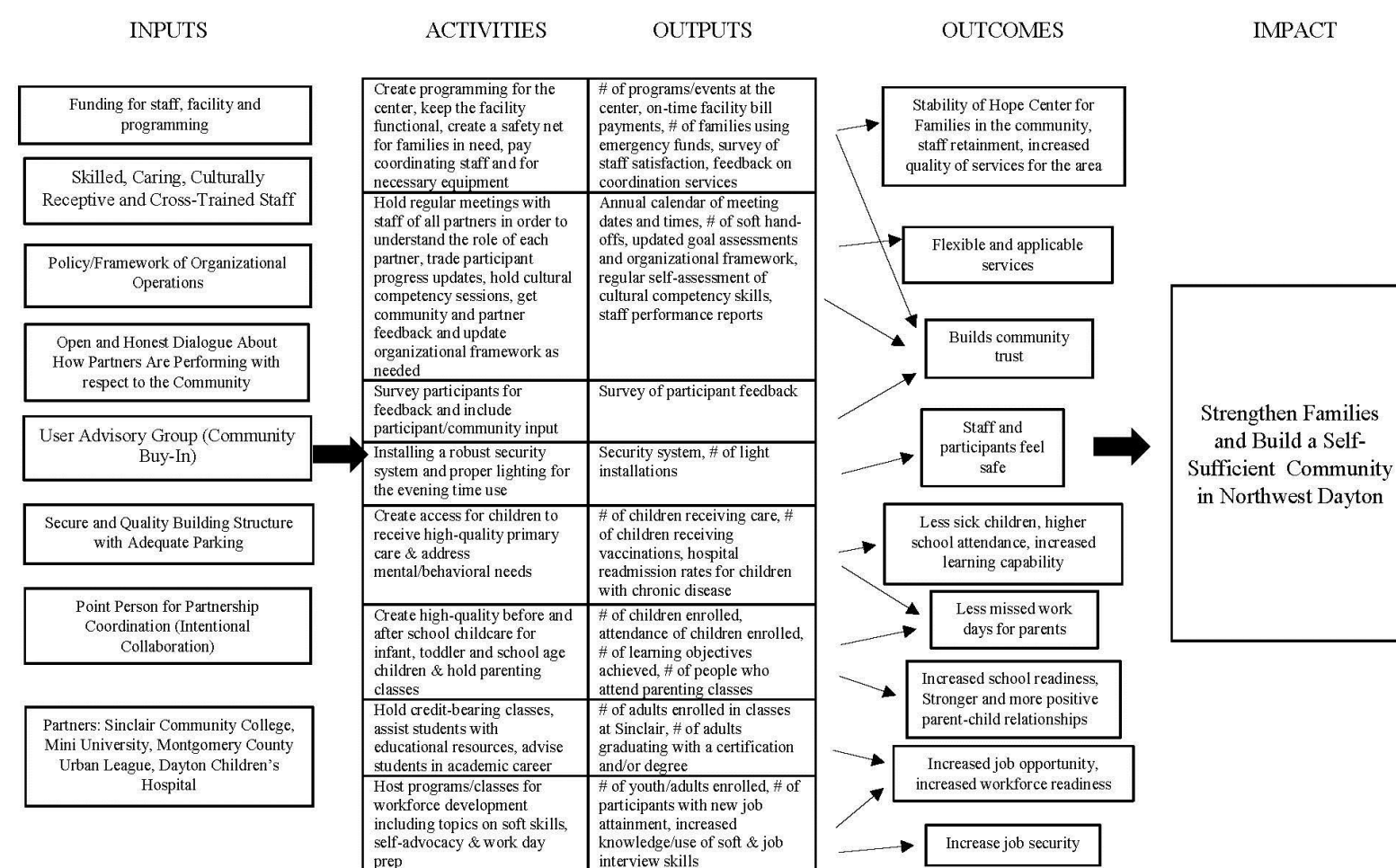


Figure 2. Logic model for Hope Center for Families.

## Results (continued)

For the themes gathered from the partner interviews, there were three present in all five interviews. These themes include addressing social determinants of health, breaking the cycle of poverty, and securing intentional collaboration with partners (see Table 1).

Table 1. Themes Categorized from the Five Partner Interviews

Themes	Count
Addressing social determinants of health	5
Breaking the cycle of poverty	5
Securing intentional collaboration with partners	5
Creating accessibility of resources	4
Building trust with residents/consumers	4
Creating united metrics of success	4
Implementing the practice of cultural sensitivity	4
Having current trust in partners	3
Realizing the reputation of partners and/or Omega CDC	3
Building family strength	3
Improving quality of life of residents	2
Needing cross training between partners	2
Requiring clear policy of operations for Hope Center for Families	2
Needing residential input	2

## Discussion and Conclusion

The partners seem to be in agreement with previous literature and each other when it comes to working in a coordinated way. Several themes were reinforced in each separate interview which speaks to the alignment of the partners. The logic map included necessities such as funding and staff but also included partner needs such as open and honest communication between partners. The logic map becomes unique to the current partners involved with the Hope Center for Families, thus needing adjustment as partners are included and goals change.

Recommendations for Hope Center for Families:

- Hold interviews with 45406 residents to discuss their needs and desires
- Engage in policy that affects families served
- Create a shared vision amongst organizational partners
- Implement strong communication and ongoing assessment with organizational partners
- Allow flexibility for continual adjustments to the services provided

Limitations:

- Technical difficulties affected the quality of sound during the recordings
- Unable to interview residents from the zip code of focus (45406)
- Novelty of the Two Generation Model and the limited published results of its application makes the model difficult to apply
- Outcomes of the Hope Center for Families Logic Model are difficult to assess

## References

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