08: Strengthening Families and Cities: Connecting Residents to Services and Supports

Trainer(s):
Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF)
The National League of Cities
Agenda

- Purpose – share and learn
- Objective – take home something useful
- Introductions:
  - Name, position, tenure and desire take away
- Overview of safety net and supports
- Small group discussions and report out
- Garden City, MI and San Antonio, TX
- Other resources
Social Safety Net Defined

• **Social safety nets** are non-contributory transfer programs seeking to prevent the poor or those vulnerable to shocks and poverty from falling below a certain poverty level.

• Safety net programs can be provided by the public sector or by the private sector.
Major Safety Net Programs

- Child care
- Child nutrition
- SNAP
- Housing
- Utilities
- CHIP, Medicaid
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
Theory of Change

- Coordinated services have a greater impact than individual programs
- Children do better when their caregivers do better
- Families do better when they live in safe, stable and supportive environments
  - Access to work and earnings
  - Opportunities to build assets
  - Social networks
  - Medical homes
## Making Work Pay

### 200% Federal Poverty Level – Family of Four

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dollar Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job paying $10.10 an hour</td>
<td>$21,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stamps</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidized Child Care</td>
<td>$5,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP and Medicaid</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Assistance</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Assistance</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned Income Tax Credit</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Municipal Roles

- Local government’s primary mission is to provide for the:
  - health
  - safety and
  - welfare of its residents
- Social and financial well-being dictates the success of local government meeting its primary mission
Rationale for Municipal Intervention

- Assisting families achieve economic self-sufficiency serves to strengthen the health, safety and welfare of the community.
- Family economic prosperity facilitates educational and skill attainment, in turn promoting community economic vitality.
- Family economic stress drives high cost public interventions for police calls, EMS, residential mobility, tax and utility bad debt.
San Antonio Coalition for Family Economic Progress

Growing Your Dollars

San Antonio EITC Coalition

Making Connections
A Neighborhood Transformation Family Development Initiative

United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County
One contribution. Countless results.

UTSA
Building a World Class Workforce

Globally Competitive Workforce

Regionally Competitive Workforce

High Skilled Local Workforce

Higher Education Success

Technical Skills Success

Secondary School Success

Primary School Success

Early Childhood Success
# Investment Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Strengthening</th>
<th>Workforce Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Education</td>
<td>High Skills Job Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Readiness</td>
<td>Transitional Jobs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Success</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>After School and Youth Development</th>
<th>Community Safety Net</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Enrichment</td>
<td>Homeless Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td>Food Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>Emergency Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VITA Creates Opportunities

- Alternative Refund Anticipation Loan
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- Individual Development Account
- Housing Counseling & Foreclosure Prevention
- Free Checking & Savings Accounts
- Auto Refinance Program
Income Generation –
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

- IRS sponsored program
- Free tax filing for individuals and working families
- Earned Income, Child Tax and other credits reward work
- Refunds within 7-10 days
- Bilingual outreach, staff, and media plan
- In 2009, the San Antonio VITA completed over 38,400 tax returns and $70.5 million to families
## VITA Returns by Council District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council District</th>
<th>Number of Returns</th>
<th>Sum of Refund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>7,569</td>
<td>$13,664,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>3,775</td>
<td>$6,816,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>3,004</td>
<td>$5,423,302</td>
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<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td>$7,161,540</td>
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<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>3,639</td>
<td>$6,570,539</td>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>5,804</td>
<td>$10,478,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>3,571</td>
<td>$6,447,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>3,277</td>
<td>$5,916,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>1,770</td>
<td>$3,196,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>1,024</td>
<td>$1,849,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,371</td>
<td>$2,475,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38,203</td>
<td>$70,000,000</td>
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</table>

* Could not be geocoded
Return on Investment

- 20 – 25% of eligible filers do not claim EITC, which costs San Antonio families more than $121 million

Return on Investment study:

- Over $468 million was returned to local residents
- Average EITC for San Antonio families was $2,000
- Economic activity generated over $368 million and supported over 9,676 jobs
- Brought back $5 million in additional sales tax revenue to the City
Barriers

- My funding source will not allow it
- We can’t share participant data
- We have different goals
- It will cause more work and dilute our performance
- We do not serve the same participants
- It is my island
Building a Coordinated System

- Construct it around people and entities who share the mission, will and capacity
- Ensure each partner can realize a win
- Define results in multi-dimensional and generational terms: economic, reading scores, graduation rates
Lessons Learned

- Engage partners with capacity, mission and will to serve
- Clarify purpose of partnership
  - Ensure win-win scenarios are basis of partnership
- Define expectations of partners
- Reach common ground with strategic partners currently serving targeted population
- Start small, build foundation, add new members who strengthen the partnership
Influencing Public Policy

- Public – Private partnerships can build will to tackle tough community issues
- Produce quantifiable results
- Use return on investment studies to make a business case for these ventures
- Demonstrate to local political and community leaders how their constituents financial well-being can be improved
Available Funding Sources

- Community Services Block Grant
- Community Development Block Grant
- Local and state support
- Foundations – community, family
- Public utilities
- United Way and Grants
- Time dollar
Other Resources

- Health care – www.healthcare.gov
- Child care – www.naccrra.org
- SNAP – www.fns.usda.gov/snap
- Utilities - http://liheap.org/
- Tax Credits - http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=4097
Conclusion

• It can take a long time to achieve family economic security and make neighborhoods a good place to raise kids

• Workforce development, family economic supports, and community investment strategies can create powerful change in the lives of children and their families
Contact Information

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