



**Contact:**

Barbara Baird  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
The Centers & Circle Health Services  
[barbara.baird@thecentersohio.org](mailto:barbara.baird@thecentersohio.org)  
216.296.1127

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 10, 2021

**The Centers & Circle Health Services Awarded \$375K  
for 2Gen Program Implementation**

*Closing opportunity and achievement gaps for children and families across generations through the incorporation of a comprehensive, multi-generational 2Gen approach.*

**CLEVELAND, OH** — The Centers was recently awarded a \$375K grant from The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation to support the incorporation of two-generation (2Gen) strategies into agency programming over the next three years.

Research has documented the impact of a parent's education, economic security, and overall health on a child's trajectory. Similarly, children's education and healthy development are powerful catalysts for parents. The 2Gen strategy works to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty by supporting parents in their dual roles of caregiver and provider, while also addressing the care and educational needs of children.

"Our goal is to provide families a seamless and holistic range of services that support the whole family on a path to economic security and family prosperity," said Eric Morse, President and CEO for The Centers. "The results will be healthy parents with family-supporting jobs, healthy children meeting developmental milestones, and better-connected individuals able to fully participate in family life."

Promoted by Ascend at the Aspen Institute, 2Gen focuses on five essential components: education (i.e., early childhood education), postsecondary and employment pathways, economic support, health and well-being, and social capital. The approach recognizes that families come in all different shapes and sizes and that families define themselves.

"The 2Gen approach leverages best practices from multiple disciplines, and we are excited to bring that to The Centers," said Carole Beaty, Chief of Programs, Family and Work. "We know that multi-generational poverty impacts not only the lives of children and families, but our community overall."

The implementation of 2Gen strategies will ensure that families at every life stage benefit from all The Centers' programs, including physical and behavioral healthcare, early learning services, and workforce training. Services

will be provided simultaneously using a family-focused lens to promote healthy, self-reliant, and economically independent children and adults.

"In the past, all agency programs worked independently to serve children and adults," said Racheal Seibert, Chief of Institutional Advancement for The Centers. "Health and Workforce services were solely focused on adults with little involvement of other family members, while Early Learning programs were child-focused with limited parent elements. This support from The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation makes it possible to implement a 2Gen initiative that will enable us to break down these 'silos' and achieve better outcomes through whole-family care."

#### **About The Centers & Circle Health Services**

The Centers and Circle Health Services operate under a shared leadership structure as one, unified front moving towards a common goal: creating life changing solutions for people in Northeast Ohio to lead healthier and more successful lives. Together, the organizations are leading the way in providing an innovative and integrated model that coordinates health and wellness services, including primary care for children and adults, psychiatry, behavioral health care, addiction services, HIV treatment and an in-house pharmacy with family support programs, including early childhood development, job training and workplace and workforce development. The organization is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit organizations in Northeast Ohio, serving more than 23,000 people annually in our community. Visit [TheCentersOhio.org](http://TheCentersOhio.org) to learn more.

#### **About The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation**

The William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation is a private family foundation that exists to engage all generations of O'Neill family members through philanthropy. The Foundation is committed to strengthening families and improving communities in which O'Neill family members live and are engaged in the work of the Foundation. Visit [www.oneill-foundation.org](http://www.oneill-foundation.org) for more information.

###