



COMPREHENSIVE MATRIX:

**CREATING A DATA-DRIVEN FRAMEWORK FOR HOLISTIC
SERVICE DELIVERY**

Robin Kristoff | Data and Strategy Manager
Elizabeth Emmett | Director of Operations

ROADMAP:



ROADMAP:



Foundational Concepts

What are the shared agreements/assumptions about a comprehensive approach to service delivery?



Community Needs

What do participants need? Where do your services end and how will you fill the gaps? What services are offered by community partners?



Measuring Outcomes

How can change be measured? How can increments of difference and stability over time be defined?



Implementing Agency Change

How does theory translate into practice? How will you incorporate The Matrix into your agency workflow?



ROMA Analysis

What Next? How can you use the Matrix for data-driven decision making?



Foundational Concepts

- **Breaking the cycle of poverty is the goal.** This means our services are intended to produce holistic, long-term economic security for participants, while also meeting the necessary basic needs in the moment.
- **Change over time can be measured.** Both qualitative and quantitative data is needed to capture the complex reality of economic mobility.
- **Poverty is complex.** Participants typically have more than one need, overlapping stressors, and individual/intersectional challenges that take time to overcome.
- **Service is better when there is no wrong door and wrap around support.** No matter where a participant enters for support, they will have more success with one point of contact helping them navigate the multiple resources that are right for their multiple needs.



Community Needs

- **What is your community saying?** Utilizing data from your Community Needs Assessment, participant surveys, and any other feedback you gather from participants, identify the key areas of expressed needs (whether or not your agency can address those needs)
- **What does your agency offer in these categories?** What are you already doing in these domains and how can you improve service delivery in these domains to integrate or wrap participants in service delivery between categories?
- **What gaps are left?** Does a community partner offer resources you can refer to or do you want to strategically expand your services to fill a need?

THE SIX KEY COMPONENTS OF TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES

Two-generation approaches (2Gen) build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- child care partnerships
- preK
- home visiting
- Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care (FFN)

K-12

- kindergarten ready
- 3rd grade reading skills
- parent engagement
- graduation and postsecondary prep

POSTSECONDARY & EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

- community college
- training and credentials
- workforce partnerships
- employer partnerships

SOCIAL CAPITAL

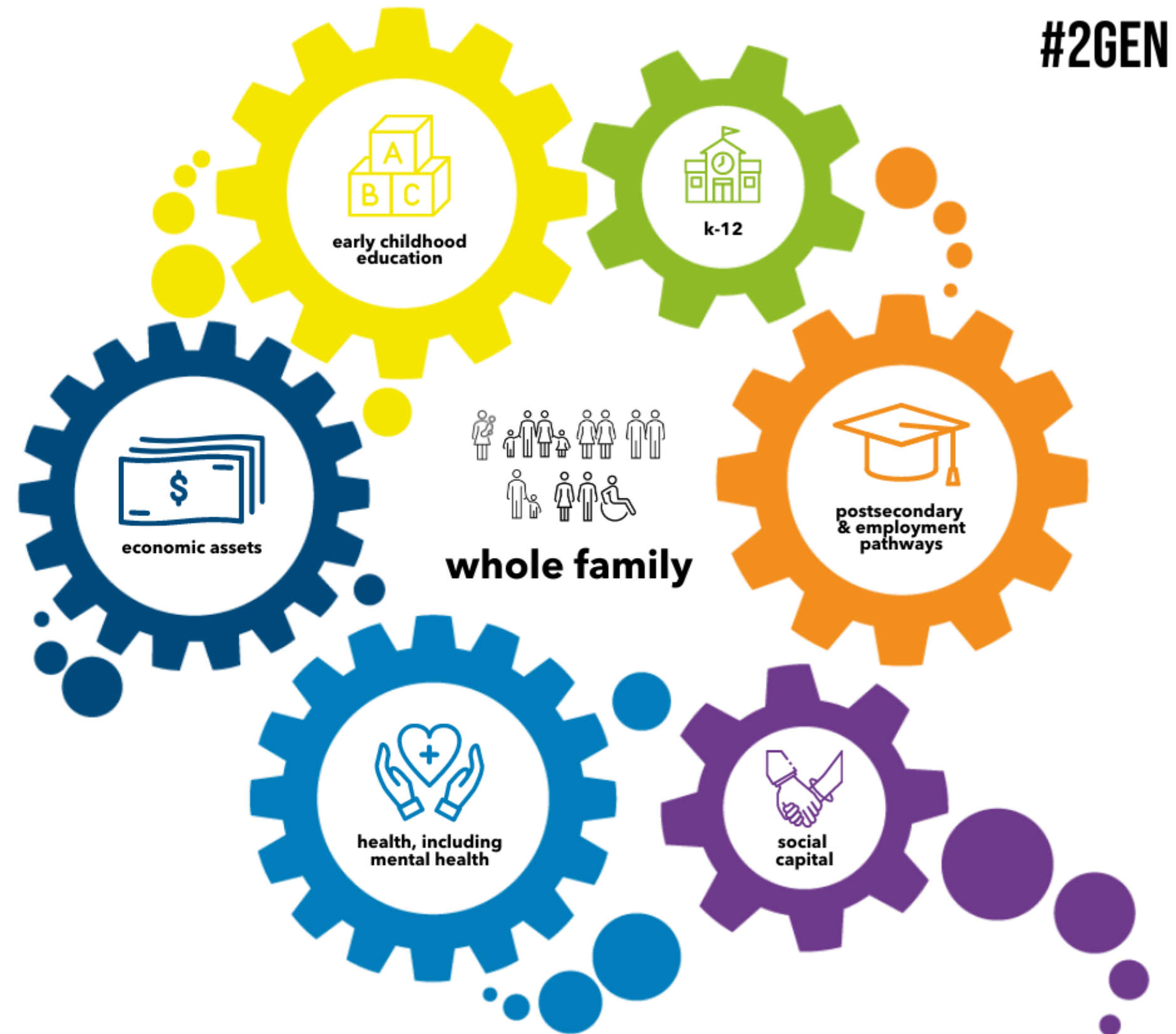
- peer and family networks
- coaching
- cohort strategies

HEALTH, INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH

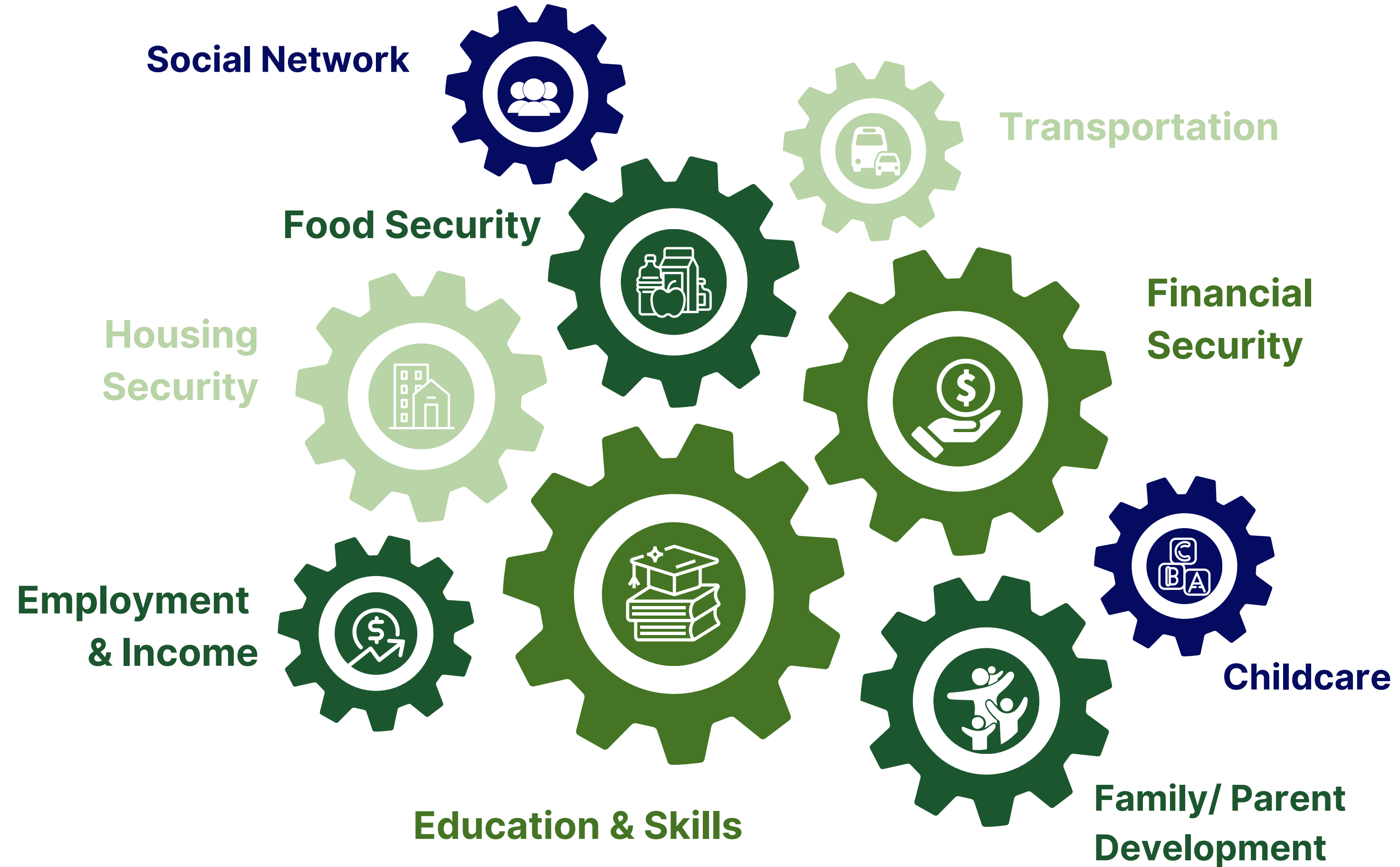
- mental, physical, and behavioral health
- coverage and access to care
- adverse childhood experiences and toxic stress

ECONOMIC ASSETS

- asset building
- housing and public supports
- financial capacity
- transportation



#2GEN





Community Needs Activity

Components of Need & Impact	My Agency's Role	Community Resources
		
		
		
		
		
		
		
		

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Measuring Outcomes

- **How do we measure change over time in these component?** There needs to be a starting point, an end goal, and increments of change in each category.
- **What does crisis to thriving look like in each component?** Careful definitions, language use, and clarity to define your rating scale is essential.
- **Two tools in one - Keep the dual purpose of the matrix in mind.** Participants need to honestly self-identify where they are at in each component at intake with the purpose of connecting them to the best resources to meet their goals *AND* to see an increase in stability and security over time when the matrix is used as an assessment tool for those who engage in long-term coaching.

Thriving

Stable

Crisis

	Food Security	Housing	
5	Ability to access store of choice and purchase any food items desired.	Safe & affordable unsubsidized housing. All utilities paid and planning for monthly bills.	
4	Meets food needs without assistance.		
3	Can meet basic food needs but may require occasional assistance.	In safe housing that is mostly adequate but may not be in the desired location/ size and/or is in need of repair. Utility payments are difficult.	
2	Have multiple days of meals but rely solely on other sources to provide food (SNAP, pantries, etc.).		
1	Less than 1 meal a day and unsure of when/where next meal will come from.	Homeless	

Should the matrix be written in 1st or 3rd person perspective?

Accessible Language Choices: What should the reading level be?

If “Homeless” is a 1, what is a 2?

How would we describe thriving financial stability?

How do we incorporate child-related questions for a two-gen approach?

Should we include measures for needs that we don’t have services to directly respond to or ways we can track?

Will people be filling this out themselves or will staff help?



Comprehensive Intake Matrix

Participant Name: _____ Date: _____

	Food Security	Housing	Employment & Income	Transportation	Financial Security	Education & Skills	Social Network	Health & Wellness
5	Ability to access store of choice and purchase any food items desired.	Safe & affordable unsubsidized housing. All utilities paid and planning for monthly bills.	Exceeds adequate income and benefits.	Transportation is readily available & affordable; the car is adequately insured.	Adheres to a spending plan while saving regularly.	Achieved degree of choice.	Many sources of support for a variety of needs and integration within the community.	Not limited by health and/or mental health struggles.
4	Meets food needs without assistance.	In stable housing that is adequate and potentially subsidized in location of choice. All utilities paid.	Full-time employment with adequate pay and benefits.	Transportation is generally accessible & meets basic travel needs.	Follows a monthly plan for savings/spending with some &/or sporadic savings.	Some post-secondary education. Obtained job training or certificate program.	Available and reliable support from more than one family or friend, connected to community.	Rarely limited by health and/or mental health struggles.
3	Can meet basic food needs but may require occasional assistance.	In safe housing that is mostly adequate but may not be in the desired location/ size and/or is in need of repair. Utility payments are difficult.	Stable job with wage to meet needs; limited benefits or disabled with benefits, retired with needs met.	Available & reliable but limited &/or inconvenient. Licensed & minimally insured.	Usually able to meet bills, basic knowledge of saving / spending plan.	Attending or working towards job training program &/or post-secondary education.	Available and reliable support from at least one family or friend, some connection to community.	Occasionally limited by health and/or mental health struggles.
2	Have multiple days of meals but rely solely on other sources to provide food (SNAP, pantries, etc.).	Threat of homelessness, inhabatability of dwelling, in unaffordable or transitional housing, couch surfing or living with relatives. Falling behind on utility payments or disconnected	Part time employment with inadequate pay, possibly temporary &/or seasonal.	Unreliable, unaffordable, unpredictable. May have a vehicle but no insurance &/or license. Unsafe car seat.	Difficulty meeting basic needs--possible inconsistent income; minimal to no knowledge of savings/spending plan	High school degree, GED received.	Unreliable or inconsistent support from family and friends, little connections to community.	Often limited because of health and/or mental health struggles.
1	Less than 1 meal a day and unsure of when/where next meal will come from.	Homeless	No Income &/or unemployed.	No access to safe, legal transportation. Inoperable vehicle &/or revoked or suspended license.	No income, unable to pay current or past due bills.	Does not have high school diploma/GED, limited reading, writing and/or math skills.	No support from family or friends, no community connections.	Daily limitations because of health and/or mental health struggles.

** If you have children 6 years old or younger in your home, please also fill out the two rows below:

Family Development & Parent Engagement	Parenting skills are well developed. Parent-child relationship(s) are stable, and communication is consistent	Family members support each other's efforts, spend time together doing activities they enjoy focused on the child.	Family spends time together, open to learning and support is available when needed.	Minimal access to spending time with child and/or family/friend support.	Limited parenting skills, not familiar with child development.
Childcare	High quality childcare with ability to select childcare of choice with no barriers.	High quality childcare, affordable with limited barriers.	Available, meets childcare needs with some barriers.	Unreliable, unaffordable, lack of transportation &/or inadequate supervision.	No childcare &/or with severe barriers to childcare.

5

4

3

2

1



Measuring Outcomes

- **Data Tracking Considerations - Resource Referral and Navigation**
 - Where will the matrix information be stored?
 - Will it be digital?
 - How will you track that every participant completed a Matrix as part of their intake and their answers in each category?
 - How will you track the results of the Navigation?
 - Were they contacted? Did it produce an internal referral? Did it produce an external referral? Did the referral turn into service?
 - Is this data visible to the whole agency?
- **Data Tracking Considerations - Measuring Changes Over Time**
 - When will another matrix be completed as an assessment to compare to participant answers at intake? Will it be completed by everyone?
 - Can the existing database hold the information, and report changes in matrix answers - or does it need to be stored/processed elsewhere?

OUR INSTRUMENT BUILDER

[back to \[System Settings\]](#)

Add New Instrument

View by: English

CIS

Demo

Whole Family Approach

Family Assessment

Whole Family Approach 2025

Family Wellbeing

Food Security

Housing

Employment & Income

Transportation

Financial Security

Health and Wellness

Health and Wellness Care Access

Families As Learners

Family Connections to Peers & Community

Positive Parent-Child Relationships

Family Engagement In Transitions

Families as Lifelong Educators

Families as Advocates & Leaders

Whole Family Approach DNU

Spanish: Food Security

Short Name:

Description:

Comments:

Family Progress Indicator

Recommended Activities

☐ Primary Focus

Customize Form: ---

Customize Forms

ID:

Age from:

yr.

month

day

Age

yr.

month

day

Answer Type: *

Food Security

Min value:

Max value:

DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE AGE RANGE FOR ANSWER

	Answer *	Progress Value	Flag	Short Name	Color	From (months)	To (months)	Disable
▶	Less than 1 meal a day or unsure of when/where next meal will come from.	1		1				
▶	Receive food assistance programs but daily needs are not fully met. (SNAP, pantries, etc.)	2		2				
▶	Can meet basic food needs but require occasional assistance.	3		3				
▶	Meet daily food needs without assistance. Some budget restraints on choice.	4		4				
▶	Ability to access store of choice and purchase	5		5				

OUR INSTRUMENT BUILDER

Search:

Is Assessment | Family Assessment | Family Partnership Agreement | Updates | COVID-19 | **Family Engagement Outcomes** | Family Evaluation

115 Lincoln Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Project: Outreach and PCCs (use for all- list location) -- Housing -- Family Supportive Housing; Client: Test Parent ▾

☐ All Checkpoints ☒ Single Checkpoint

The check point date range is calculated based on participant *Test Parent's "3/1/2026"*, (*Eligible*).

Instrument: **Whole Family Approach 2025**

3/1/2026 <= #1 <= 11/8/2039	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
Measures completed: 1 of 17 (6%)										
Family Wellbeing * 3/2/2026 [Calendar] [Refresh] [Delete] Interests/Needs 1 2 3 4 5										
☒ Food Security ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 [Refresh]										
Observations: 3 - Can meet basic food needs but require occasional assistance.										
Family Wellbeing * 3/2/2026 [Calendar] [Refresh] [Delete] Interests/Needs 1 2 3 4 5										
☐ Housing ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5										
Family Wellbeing * 3/2/2026 [Calendar] [Refresh] [Delete] Interests/Needs 1 2 3 4 5										
☐ Employment & Income ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5										



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** If you have children 6 years old or younger in your home, please also fill out the two rows below:

Family Development & Parent Engagement	Parenting skills are well developed. Parent-child relationship(s) are stable, and communication is consistent	Family members support each other's efforts, spend time together doing activities they enjoy focused on the child.	Family spends time together, open to learning and support is available when needed.	Minimal access to spending time with child and/or family/friend support.	Limited parenting skills, not familiar with child development.
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5

4

3

2

1

Participant Name: _____ Date: _____

Health & Wellness Care Access	Resilience to Changes	Parents as Teachers
All family members are covered by affordable, adequate healthcare insurance and can easily access care (including mental health services and medications). All family members have medical dental homes.	Proactive in planning for life transitions. Utilizes resources effectively. Has strong self-advocacy and coping skills understands the impacts on all family members.	Understands child assessment data and provides consistent support to their child to meet school readiness goals. Family engages in home learning activities and shares observations with staff, participates in school conferences and home visits, and spends time supporting the child in the classroom.
All family members have health insurance, but medical care or premiums are unaffordable. All family members have medical dental homes.	Understands the impacts of life transitions, has access to resources and utilizes most of the time. Has solid coping skills.	Understands child assessment data, participates in school conferences, home visits, and program activities and supports the child's learning at home
Some family members have health insurance. Family may have medical/dental home or access through clinics.	Understands the impacts of life transitions, has access to resources and utilizes some of the time. Has some coping skills.	Some understanding of child assessment data, participates in school conferences and home visits, and appropriately supports child's learning at home
No health insurance and accessing medical care when needed is difficult. No medical/dental homes.	Has knowledge of the impacts of life transition and resources for coping but is unable to effectively utilize resources. May need assistance.	Working to gain understanding of child assessment data and provides some support at home for child to attain school readiness goals. Occasionally participates in school conferences, home visits, and program activities
No health insurance and no access to immediate medical care if needed. No medical/dental home.	Needs resources, knowledge, and assistance to support them through life transitions.	Difficult time understanding child assessment data. Does not participate in school conferences, home visits or other program offerings.



Family Assessment

Participant Name: _____ Date: _____

	Leadership & Advocacy	Child Educational Transitions	Establishing & Maintaining Routines	Managing My Child's Behavior
5	Actively and effectively serving in leadership/advocacy partnerships (Parent committee, PC, Volunteer) with the program and/or community	Actively engages in transition planning and can advocate for their child's success	Incorporates consistent daily routines that meet the child's needs, age-appropriate development and/or family needs. No impact to daily schedule such as timeliness to work and school.	Practice positive discipline strategies. Age appropriate limits are set and enforced regularly.
4	Opportunities to practice leadership/advocacy partnerships (Parent committee, PC, Volunteer) with the program and/or community	Understands child development and their role in supporting transition and advocacy. Needs little to no help from staff.	Incorporates many daily routines that meet the child's needs, age-appropriate development and/or family needs. Limited impact to daily schedule such as timeliness to work and school.	Generally demonstrates the ability to discipline children in their care in a consistent manner. They usually are able to set age-appropriate limits and to enforce them. Occasional inconsistencies.
3	Beginning to develop leadership/advocacy skills with peers and/or community.	Basic understanding of child development and is able to advocate for their child in the transition process. May need some support from staff.	Incorporates some daily routines that meet the child's needs, age-appropriate development and/or family needs. Some impact to daily schedule such as timeliness to work and school.	Practice positive discipline strategies. The caregiver is often able to set age-appropriate limits and to enforce them. On occasion their interventions may be either too harsh or too lenient but at other times their expectations of children in their care may be too high or too low
2	Engaged with program and/or community groups. Does not play a leadership role	Willing to work with staff in the transition process and is starting to understand child development and the role they play in the transition.	Incorporates minimal daily routines that meet the child's needs, age-appropriate development and/or family needs. Occasional impact to daily schedule such as timeliness to work and school.	Practice inconsistent positive discipline strategies. Demonstrates limited ability to discipline children in their care in a consistent manner. They are rarely able to set age-appropriate limits and to enforce them. Their interventions may be erratic and overly harsh but not physically harmful. Their expectations of children in their care are frequently unrealistic.
1	Unable to participate in program and/or community groups as a member or leader.	Struggles to support the transition process in any capacity and has little to no understanding of child development.	No daily routines that meet the child's needs, age-appropriate development and/or family needs. Significant impact to daily schedule such as timeliness to work and school.	No support from family or friends, no community connections.

Notes:

Positive Parent-Child Relationships		Date: * 8/14/2025		Date: * 3/13/2026	
Family Dev. / Parent Engagement	4 - Family members supp			3 - Family spends time to	-1
Establishing and Maintaining Routines For My Child	3 - Incorporates some dai			4 - Incorporates many dai	1
Managing My Child's Behavior	2 - Practice inconsistent p			3 - Practice positive discipl	1
Observations:					
	4/3/2025 <= #1 <= 12/11/2038		#2		
Family Engagement In Transitions		Date: * 8/14/2025		Date: * 3/13/2026	
Resilience to Changes	2 - Has knowledge of the			3 - Understands the impa	1
Child Educational Transitions	3 - Basic understanding o			4 - Understands child dev	1



4

Implementing Agency Change

- **Core Components of a Successful Change Management Approach:**
 - **Preparation:** Assessing risks, identifying stakeholders, and building a strategy.
 - **Communication:** Consistent, two-way communication to explain the "why" and "how".
 - **Engagement:** Involving employees early to reduce resistance and create ownership.
 - **Training & Support:** Providing the necessary skills for employees to adopt new processes.
 - **Reinforcement:** Measuring progress and making adjustments to sustain the change.



Implementing Agency Change

Putting theory into practice: Think about the workflow to anticipate questions, address barriers, and support your staff in establishing the new norm:

Who

What

Where

When

How

Why

& Why Not

WHAT NEKCA DID



NEKCA'S Whole Family Approach

Through intentional, family-driven, and integrated services, families will achieve economic self-sufficiency and prosper from one generation to the next.

Development and Planning

The journey for NEKCA to embrace a holistic service delivery model began in 2019 with an introduction to the Prosperity Agenda, aligning this approach with the agency's mission. Although the implementation of this new strategy understandably took time, the pandemic as program needs evolved, NEKCA utilized this period to establish a foundation for integration. This groundwork was necessary to implement the Whole Family Approach (WFA) and the Family-Centered Coaching (FCC) model.

Since NEKCA's WFA implementation began in 2019, the agency has actively collaborated with various departments. The WFA team has been instrumental in developing a unified core cross-agency team that meets regularly to ensure a cohesive process.

Alignment: Agency mission and values are foundational for staff to shift mindsets and develop processes.

Outcomes: Staff understands this is not another thing to add onto their work, but a way to better serve.

Timeline: Intentionally phased integrations and logistical roll outs help staff adjust to change.

Base: Establishing the staff who would implement WFA by building off Head Start Program.

Our Approach

A shift in mindset

By definition, an approach is a mindset or way we go about our services at NEKCA.

Our approach is a holistic service delivery model that integrates all services, from food security to financial security, to support families in achieving economic self-sufficiency and prosperity.



Agency Overview

NEKCA's Mission: Empowering all generations in the Northeast Kingdom to grow, prosper, and thrive.

Serves the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont (Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex Counties). The region, with a population of 62,000, covers just over 2,000 square miles, includes the highest and 3rd highest rates of poverty in the state.

Vermonters Served Annually 3,469
Annual Budget \$14.9 Million
Staff 150

Programs: Head Start/Early Head Start, Parent-Child Center Services, Children's Integrated Services, Economic Access, Food Shelves, Housing and Homelessness, Heat and Utility Assistance, Community and Restorative Justice, and Youth Services.

Timeline

Introduction

- Agency Introduction to Prosperity Agenda and Family-Centered Coaching
- On-site weeklong training for a group of 10 staff from across the agency, forming a Professional Learning Community (PLC)
- All NEKCA staff trained on Family-Centered Coaching at NEKCA Day

Foundation

- Solidified Agency's commitment to DEI, Agency-wide DEI trainings, and DEI Team that began in 2020
- Began Agency Leadership Team monthly meetings for managers across the agency
- Agency-wide exercise to define NEKCA's 5 Core Values

Investigation

- Whole Family Approach Team and attend the NCAP/WFA Convening in DC to learn more about WFA and how various agencies implemented it
- Held two WFA informational meetings with an expanded group of agency staff; started Home Visiting best practices group with consultant.

Integration

- Early Childhood Chat launched bringing together all EC Program Managers
- Economic Equity department started EmPath training
- Members of WFA team attend Region 1 - WFA to Jobs Convening in Boston
- WFA Team, including fiscal, visit ACAP
- Launched Family Resource Centers (Lakemont & UJ) that regionally co-locate all early childhood programs
- Restructured staffing include Family Partners with a blended funding stream. Expand Early Childhood to include Family Partners/Coaches. Launch WFA PLC for Family Partners.
- Held an agency training on WFA and the restructuring
- NEKCA Day focus on WFA - ACAP staff and family attend
- Expand WFA team to include Data Analysis

Implementation

- Hired WFA Coach in the Economic Equity department
- Held WFA Q & A, addressing unanswered questions from NEKCA Day
- GoEngage mapped to the Matrix and Family Assessment
- Comprehensive Intake including Comprehensive Services Matrix Road Show
- Family Partners in PLC trained to navigate multiple services
- Develop Integrated Agency Directory
- September 2025 - NEKCA wide (families with a child under 6) rollout

Becca's Story

"I was a new mother with a month old son that was trying to figure out everything on my own. I reached out and my coach helped me get signed up for college classes and get a new computer so I could take them online. She also helped connect me to a new career path that I never thought was possible, and that I was able to SUCCESSFULLY do! I now have a job and I am signed up for fall classes into early childhood education."

She also helped me get the help that I needed for my son as well. She connected me with WIC and helped me fill out applications for Medicaid and so much more. I would highly recommend Whole Family Coaching to anybody that was in my shoes because I probably wouldn't have made it this far without her help.

Our Story

When a two-year-old child is in the matrix, they are paired with a coach to set long-term goals for their whole family and measure those goals utilizing the Family Assessment.

Family Assessments

These are just like the Matrix, but include even more self-assessment categories specific to supporting young children's developmental needs that families fill out when enrolled in an EC program.

WFC

ALL EC Families

All Participants

Next Steps

- Start Data Reviews of families who are in Whole Family Coaching
- Building Referral Partners with external agencies for wrap around supports
- Intentional Partnerships with domains that we do not serve: Workforce Development and Mental Health

Agency Contact: Jenna O'Farrell, Executive Director JOFarrell@nekcavt.org

GROUP ACTIVITY

What potential barriers do you foresee with implementing a comprehensive intake at your agency?

- setting a cultural/mindset/values foundation
- logistics/workflow process
- site-based challenges
- staff or leadership pushback vs buy-in
- data system and analysis
- funding

Please take a few moments to reflect, then discuss with a partner to brainstorm strategies and solutions.



ROMA Analysis

- **After implementation, what next?**
 - What did you learn?
 - How will you measure success on the process?
 - How and when will you compare change?
 - How will you evaluate and adjust the process as needed?
 - How will you solicit feedback from participants and staff to improve your workflow and systems?



THANK YOU

Robin Kristoff | Data and Strategy Manager
Elizabeth Emmett | Director of Operations

rkristoff@nekcavt.org
eemmett@nekcavt.org