

## FY21 FaDSS 2-Generation Pilot Site Summary

### Lutheran Services in Iowa

**Counties Served: Clay, Dickinson, O’Brien and Osceola**

Target Population/Eligibility:	Income at or below 175% FPL and at least one significant barrier to self-sufficiency
2 Gen Capacity:	Up to 15 families may be served at any given time
# families enrolled (7/1/20-6/30/21)	15
# families exited (7/1/20-6/30/21)	3
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Nurturing Parenting Program</p> <p>LSI is piloting the Nurturing Parenting program with 2 Gen families, a family-centered trauma-informed program designed to build nurturing parenting skills and decrease rates of abuse and neglect. The program targets families with children birth to 18 years and features activities to foster positive parenting skills with nurturing behaviors, promote healthy physical and emotional development, and teach appropriate role and developmental expectations. We have had (4) four 2-Gen families participate in the Nurturing Parenting curriculum.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Facebook peer-to-peer group</p> <p>Families are invited to participate in a closed Facebook group where they can interact with other families enrolled in the program. The purpose of the group is to provide an online platform for families to communicate with and offer support to each other as well as share resources and information they have found useful. Because transportation is a barrier for many of the families residing in the four-county rural service area, the online platform was identified as a strategy to pilot. We have had (6) six 2-Gen families engaged in professional social media group(s). We are also piloting a parent advisory council and have (7) seven 2-Gen families participating.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Financial literacy curricula</p> <p>LSI is utilizing two financial literacy curricula, which include “Your Money Your Goals” and “Your Money Your Future: Making Ends Meet”. The agency is also collaborating with Dupaco, a local financial institution to assist families, including children in the families, with opening checking and savings accounts. The curricula utilize pre and post-tests and lessons, which can be individualized to the unique needs of the families participating. We have three 2-Gen</p>	

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families actively participating in the “Your Money, Your Goals” curriculum. LSI is currently working on exploring a match-savings account program with an existing financial partner to LSI.

\*DCAA is currently exploring the use of TANF funds to help families set up individual savings accounts through a match program.

### **Lessons Learned:**

So many lessons were learned from the COVID-19 pandemic around adapting to change. A few organizational and programmatic strategies worth noting that were supportive of LSI’s journey through change include: an organization with a solid infrastructure and ability to respond well to change, depth of experience amongst team members, flexible office hours, supervisory support and coaching, positive workplace culture and opportunities for team building, and opportunities for professional development. Even though the COVID-19 pandemic was unpredictable and times were very uncertain and ever-changing, we have learned a great deal from the situation we were placed in. We have new and more efficient strategies now for engaging families in the virtual world.

This past fiscal year, we have been reminded of how important collaborative partnerships are and how tapping into the connections we have can really help elevate the program’s outreach/recruitment and attractiveness. Through these personal relationships, we have found increased referrals and less duplication of services. Two referral sources in particular that we have secured consistent referrals from this past year include Public Health and Early Head Start/ Head Start. As a result, we have seen our capacity increase and at some times meet and/or exceed this past year.

The development of LSI’s Parent Advisory Council has taken time to develop and that process has felt at times slower moving than we would like. However, we feel that to truly have a successful, thriving Parent Advisory Council, we wanted to take a very intentional, strategic process. We modeled our process based off the training model from the National Resource Center. All of the LSI FaDSS staff have gone through the Building Effective and Sustainable Parent Advisory Councils training through the National Resource Center, trained by Andrew Russo. After ending the fiscal year with 7 families interested in joining and participating in the Parent Advisory Council, we are really celebrating and looking forward to the next steps and how the participants can help inform our practice.

LSI’s pilot project with Dupaco Credit Union on financial coaching of FaDSS families has been an exciting, innovative venture that has proven successful. Families who linked with Dupaco have more intention and/or have met their self-sufficiency goals around financial literacy and asset building using Dupaco’s Your Money Road Map financial coaching curriculum. Families who have participated tell us they have learned about how to build credit towards the

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purchase of a home and also strategies for increasing their income. We really hope to continue this project and expand by looking at money-match options in the future.

Families participating in the Nurturing Parenting curriculum have made improvements in their parenting over the past year. Some of these improvements may or may not have been formally captured, but observable behavioral change indicates parents have increased confidence in parenting children with behavioral concerns through advocating with the school district for needs, setting and maintaining routines within the home, and children exhibiting less behaviors and parents responding more effectively to behaviors. As a service line within LSI, supervisors participate in a coaching community of practice with other peers to develop reflective capacity which in turn impacts Specialists in their practice and families in their outcomes.

Over the past year and still to this day we at times struggle with the virtual environment; however, undoubtedly it has gotten easier and better over time. We were able to retain most of our staff over this past fiscal year. The 2Gen Pilot has been very helpful to our programs' ability to offer important and valuable services to families that do not meet the FIP eligibility, creating resources for families in rural, underserved areas of the state. We are extremely grateful and excited to continue to participate in this 2-Gen Pilot Project with IA FaDSS.

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### Mid-Iowa Community Action

**Counties Served: Hardin, Tama, Poweshike, Jasper, Marion, Warren, Boone, Marshall, Story**

Target Population/Eligibility:	Family income at or below 175% FPL, targeting refugee families with multiple barriers to self-sufficiency
2 Gen Capacity:	In FY20, up to 20 could be served at any given time. In FY 21, up to 30 families can be served at any given time.
# families enrolled (7/1/20-6/30/21)	33
# families exited (7/1/20-6/30/21)	9
<p><b>2 Gen Strategy: Higher Service Intensity</b></p> <p>While typically home visits are provided to FaDSS families 1-2 times per month, specialists were providing weekly home visits to families enrolled in the 2 Gen pilot until March when the pandemic required the switch to virtual visits. Currently, specialists are providing virtual visits as needed by the family and are averaging 2 visits per month. The majority of 2Gen families are receiving two virtual visits per month.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Strategy: Family-Centered Coaching</b></p> <p>MICA staff are implementing family-centered coaching as part of their 2 Gen activities. Family-Centered Coaching is a set of strategies, tools and resources that help providers reinvent how they engage with, and help, families experiencing poverty. Case management in Family Centered Coaching does not support formal goal setting due to the family working through a crisis, there a few families on caseload that are in this model. Specialists have found the tool My Hopes My Dreams families are very receptive to and enjoy completing. The Plan, Do, Review tool is very family friendly and easy for families to follow.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity: Financial Literacy Curriculum</b></p> <p>MICA is piloting the Four Cornerstones of Financial Wellness curriculum, which strives to build financial empowerment through fore core areas of financial education: budgeting to create savings, debt reduction and asset building, building a good credit rating, and consumer protection and financial institutions.</p>	

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Specialists are using Your Money Your Goals with families. This program was offered to all specialists in January 2021.

**Lessons Learned:**

We have learned that high level of intensity services is difficult for families to follow through with. Weekly visits worked better in person with our refugee population. Financial Literacy curriculum Your Money Your Goals is family friendly and most families are benefiting from these lessons. The majority of our 2 Gen families will participate in all three curriculum Life Skills, Parenting and Financial Literacy throughout their time with us.

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### Northeast Iowa Community Action Corp.

**Counties Served: Howard, Chickasaw, Bremer, Winneshiek, Fayette, Allamakee, Clayton**

Target Population/Eligibility:	Experiencing Poverty (175% or below FPL with primary target at 80% or below FPL) and barriers to self-sufficiency
2 Gen Capacity:	Up to 30 families may be served at any given time.
# families enrolled (7/1/20-6/30/21)	35
# families exited (7/1/20-6/30/21)	12
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Playgroups for children ages 0-3</p> <p>NEICAC is collaborating with Early Childhood Home Visiting services for pregnant women and mothers of children ages 0-3. The goal of the initiative is to connect mothers with resources, early childhood services such as Early Head Start and to provide social connection for both mothers and children.</p> <p>In program year 21, these activities were held virtually due to COVID-19. It's been a great collaborative initiative with our Early Head Start Program. The playgroups happened over zoom and covered many different child development categories. In program year 21, we served 11 2 Gen families with children in the age category.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Strategy:</b> Social media as an engagement strategy</p> <p>NEICAC has created a private Facebook group for 2 Gen participants. The intent of the group is to provide a platform for creating peer-to-peer connections, sharing resources and support.</p> <p>In Program Year 21, 65 adult household members were members of our FaDSS Facebook group. Throughout the year posts included: 105 posts sharing resources, 37 encouragement/inspirational posts, 55 parenting education posts, and 51 other educational posts for a total of 248 posts shared to the group.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Skill development for youth ages 14-18</p> <p>NEICAC is piloting the use of a new assessment tool with 2 Gen families. The Casey Life Skills Assessment for teenagers is being administered with youth ages 14-18. Specialists work with youth in the home to set goals and improve their life skills.</p>	

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In Program Year 21, we had 10 families that fell into the category to use this assessment.

**Lessons Learned:**

The Casey Life Skills is a great assessment when able to be administered. COVID-19 has made utilizing the assessment more difficult due to not being able to complete the tool in person. Engaging teenagers has also been difficult due to not being in person. Of the 10 families that qualified for the assessment, only 3 were completed successfully.

Getting families to participate in virtual playgroups was a difficult task for both FaDSS and EHS.

Social media has been a great way to meet families where they are. NEICAC's private Facebook group has been a useful tool for engagement, making connections, and getting information out to families.

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### Operation Threshold

**Counties Served: Blackhawk, Grundy, Buchanan**

Target Population/Eligibility:	Families at 175% or below FPL, targeting families with mental health-related barriers.
2 Gen Capacity:	Up to 30 families may be served at any given time.
# families enrolled (7/1/20-6/30/21)	10
# families exited (7/1/20-6/30/21)	2
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Financial Literacy</p> <p>OT has partnered with Veridian Credit Union to provide Money Moves classes. These classes teach families about savings and how to build/repair their credit. Participants who complete the classes, as well as individual appointments with the Money Moves facilitator, are eligible for a \$250 match towards a Certificate of Deposit or and secured credit card.</p> <p>These classes/sessions are being recorded by Veridian, so that eligible participants can watch them when it's convenient for them. There will be quizzes and possible worksheets that will need to be completed before they can move on to the next session and complete the entire course.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Peer Support Group</p> <p>Using the Parent Café model, we plan to start peer support groups. These groups are intended to be led by the participants, with staff facilitating, and provide support to each other. These groups have been put on hold due to COVID-19.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> Facebook group</p> <p>Families are invited to participate in a closed Facebook group where they can find helpful information about resources in our community. The purpose of the group is to also provide reminders about groups/events going on in the FaDSS program as well in the community.</p> <p>We have formed the Facebook group and invited all FaDSS participants to join, if they choose.</p>	
<p><b>Lessons Learned:</b></p>	



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During this last fiscal year we had to put a lot of our activities on hold, or have had to change how we implement them, due to the pandemic.

While we are waiting for the Money Moves videos to be completed by Veridian, we decided to start referring families for individual budget/finance counseling. Once the videos are finished, participants will be able to watch them on their own time and complete a pre and posttest to show the knowledge they have learned. Adjusting to more of a virtual approach with this activity has made it more convenient for the participants.

We have not held any peer support groups yet, but continue to provide resources to other virtual groups and mental health supports. We learned, during the pandemic, that mental health was heightened with insecurities of not knowing if they would lose their job, as well as, the fear of job searching (if unemployed). Even having to switch to virtual support (mental health, FaDSS, etc) verses seeing someone face to face caused anxiety in many. We learned creative way to still help the families feel supported and encouraged them to continue with mental health counselling, however that might look.

We have started up our Facebook page, which has been a great way to share resources and events happening in our community. We have learned that this is also a good way to stay connected with our families.

Although some of our activities and outcomes were affected by the pandemic, we still were able to provide support to our 2Gen families and help them navigate through the changes this past year.

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### North Iowa Community Action Organization

**Counties Served:**

Target Population/Eligibility:	Families at 175% or below FPL, targeting families with
2 Gen Capacity:	Up to 10 families may be served at any given time.
# families enrolled (7/1/20-6/30/21)	10 Families
# families exited (7/1/20-6/30/21)	3 Exited
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> NICA0 is piloting the Nurturing Parenting program with 2 Gen families, a family-centered trauma-informed program designed to build nurturing parenting skills and decrease rates of abuse and neglect. The program targets families with children birth to 18 years and features activities to foster positive parenting skills with nurturing behaviors, promote healthy physical and emotional development, and teach appropriate role and developmental expectations. We have one 2-Gen family actively participating in the Nurturing Parenting curriculum. AAPI 2.1 Form A and B Assessments are conducted with households that are enrolled.</p>	
<p><b>2 Gen Activity:</b> NICA0 is piloting the Financial Literacy curriculum, which strives to build financial empowerment through fore core areas of financial education: budgeting to create savings, debt reduction and asset building, building a good credit rating, and consumer protection and financial institutions.</p>	
<p><b>Lessons Learned:</b> We have learned that there is a greater need in our area for 2 Gen families. There have been more referrals that have gone to our other Home Visiting Program due to being full at time. We have learned that at times it is hard to get families approved for the program because of the added paperwork needed by families. The access to the paperwork needed is a struggle for families due in part to COVID-19.</p>	