

## Recommendations Blueprint: Identified Focus Areas, Key Challenges and Recommended Strategies to Address These Challenges

*This Blueprint is based on the reflections, challenges and strategies identified by the Commissioners*

<b>Goal: IMPROVE FAMILY SUCCESS</b>			
Focus Area	Key Challenges	Recommended Strategies	Notes
<b>1. Parenting Stability</b>	1. Low “demand” for marriage / too many barriers for marriage 2. Lack of support for men’s role in forming and sustaining families 3. High family complexity 4. Unplanned pregnancies and lack of family planning	1. Increase the “demand” for marriage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Remove government barriers such as marriage penalty</li> <li>b. Redirect fiscal resources from policies designed to cope with declining state of marriage and toward policies focused on developing, strengthening and building families – e.g., programs that support a married man in the house</li> <li>c. Consider marriage and child tax credits</li> <li>d. Develop healthy marriage formation/ readiness programs</li> <li>e. Reframe marriage for teens and young adults</li> <li>f. Provide divorce intervention services with opportunities to repair damaged/at-risk marriages (enforce divorce attorney code of ethics)</li> </ul>	
		2. Provide parents in complex families with support, including reducing economic stress by increasing access to quality early childhood education	
		3. Mitigate negative impacts of family complexity by supporting parents and children in complex families to build positive childhood experiences and views on marriage and work	
		4. Mitigate impacts of mental and physical health issues by offering wraparound services in schools and helping families to build social capital	
		5. Provide in-home education programs for new fathers similar to the home visiting program for new moms; include relationship formation	
		6. Assist children and youth in foster care to learn more about family stability	
		7. Assist both, mothers and fathers to become strong role models for their children	
		8. Inform youth and young adults about financial and other consequences of unplanned pregnancy; support/encourage family planning and efforts to delay pregnancy, including use of LARCs, especially for those most at risk such as youth in or those aging out of foster care	
		9. De-stigmatize adoption as an alternative for unplanned pregnancy	
		10. Increase availability of qualified foster homes	

**Recommendations Blueprint: Identified Focus Areas, Key Challenges and Recommended Strategies to Address These Challenges**

<b>Goal: IMPROVE FAMILY SUCCESS</b>			
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Key Challenges</b>	<b>Recommended Strategies</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>2. Economic Stability through Education and Training</b>	1. Lack of high quality K-12 education for high-risk segments of our society	1. Work with employers to determine needed technical and vocational skills	
		2. Develop strategies for employers to be more accepting of formerly incarcerated men as potential employees - see beyond the tattoos	
	2. Stigma around vocational and technical training tracks	3. Focus on rehabilitation not just punishment for offenders while incarcerated – mandate programs that will improve their employability, such as skills certification programs	
		3. Limited capacity and access to vocational and technical training opportunities	
	5. Explore new models for HS vocational education including those that link families, students and industry to remove stigma of vocational training		
	6. Teach financial and life skills in HS		
	4. Low levels of adult functional literacy and math skills	7. Promote school choice/vouchers to provide poor children with equal access to better schools	
		8. Improve rates of adult functional literacy	
	5. Lack of support for most vulnerable population to find, navigate, and complete vocational/ technical training	9. Improve awareness of financial aid available to foster youth	
		10. Better prepare foster youth for the transition to adulthood	
		11. Improve math skills and adaptability to newer technologies	

**Recommendations Blueprint: Identified Focus Areas, Key Challenges and Recommended Strategies to Address These Challenges**

<b>Goal: IMPROVE FAMILY SUCCESS</b>			
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Key Challenges</b>	<b>Recommended Strategies</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>3. Economic Stability through Jobs and Work Supports</b>	1. Limited ability to match employers with skilled potential employees	1. Offer/increase availability of subsidies for quality childcare, and review income eligibility thresholds to better align with family resources	
		2. Consider solutions that address rural and urban needs and resources	
	2. Limited access to subsidized employment and on the job training	3. Provide supports/opportunities for offenders when they re-enter society after incarceration, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide ID cards in advance of release</li> <li>b. Connections to counseling, community support system (at least 3 people) and faith initiatives upon release;</li> <li>c. Restore right to vote</li> <li>d. "Ban the box"</li> </ul>	
		4. Assess eligibility of noncustodial parents for partial access to income support programs.	
	3. Lack of alignment between geographic mobility incentives, infrastructure and transportation issues, and available jobs	5. Promote job opportunities in skilled labor and trades for those with less than a HS diploma	
		6. Provide incentive for families to relocate to areas where jobs are located	
	4. Insufficient support for men to prevent incarceration and reduce recidivism	7. Facilitate matching of employers with potential workers who have requisite skills	
		8. Address wage disparities	
5. Insufficient supply of high quality, affordable, accessible early childhood education			
6. Limited access to employment related supports for partial or noncustodial parents			

**Recommendations Blueprint: Identified Focus Areas, Key Challenges and Recommended Strategies to Address These Challenges**

<b>Goal: IMPROVE FAMILY SUCCESS</b>			
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Key Challenges</b>	<b>Recommended Strategies</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>4. Social and Cultural Support for Marriage</b>	1. Combating cultural messages that sexual activity disconnected to a committed/ monogamous relationship has no consequences	1. Develop and promote cultural messages about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy relationships</li> <li>• The “Success Sequence”</li> <li>• The key role of fathers in forming and sustaining families (inc. in custody cases)</li> <li>• Male youth/young men’s need for social and other supports</li> </ul>	
	2. Social isolation of families	2. Provide positive role models in media/entertainment for parenting, fatherhood, marriage	
	3. Few positive cultural messages about marriage	3. Encourage male teachers to act as role models in areas with high rates of absent fathers	
	4. Few positive social/cultural role models for men	4. Provide incarcerated men with programs that build skills in areas of parenting, marriage and finance (in addition to job skills)	
		5. Build social support networks	