

**Austin/Travis County 2-Gen Coalition meeting**  
**Quarter 2 Meeting**  
**June 3, 2020**

**MEETING GOALS**

1. Explore and discuss strategies for supporting families from a distance
2. Learn how to use ATX Connect to help families you serve access resources
3. Connect with peers to generate a sense of energy and hope during this challenging time

**AGENDA**

**Welcome & Overview**

*Before we get started, we want to take a moment to acknowledge the current events that are happening from the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Mike Ramos, and Breonna Taylor to Christian Cooper's experience with racism while birdwatching. We know that these events are all related to systemic, institutional, interpersonal, and individual racism and also know that there are a number of people we don't know about whose stories are not being covered by media outlets.*

*We could not start any discussion about centering equity without acknowledging what is going on and that action and change is long overdue. And while we won't claim to have answers or to be able to provide next steps, we are internally continuing to find ways to address systemic and institutional racism within our organization and how we breakdown white supremacy culture.*

*Our hope is that our gathering today will surface shared resources and supports for each other. With that said, we would like to start with a moment of silence for Ahmaud, George, Mike, Breonna and the countless other black people that have been murdered because of racist acts. May they rest in power.*

**2-Gen Coalition Purpose (Review):**

- Stay up to date on strategic plan
- Support implementation of plan strategies
- Build and sustain relationships across sectors to forward common goals;
- Monitor our progress toward community goals
- Learn from each other (best practices, common struggles, etc.)

**Updates**

- AECF – Supporting young parents ages 18-24 in accessing educational and career pathways
  - We are current at a small pause with this project while we assess how COVID is impacting families
  - The Young Parent Link-up is still meeting twice a month
- Advance Together – Planning grant with 9 other communities in Texas.

- The goal is to promote economic resilience working on cross-sectors collaborations focused on workforce development and education.
- Currently attending webinars and meeting with organizations from the leadership council: HACCA, Travis County, City of Austin Equity office, ACC, Ray Marshall Center, Dell Medical School, CAN.
- Happenings in the 2-Gen Community
  - Avance, Todos Juntos, and CIS Aspire completed a training and are using a quality framework
  - Tech-Equity identified as on the biggest challenges for the orgs. We organize a training in digital skills coming in the next couple of weeks
  - Paraprofessional cohort organized by pre-k group starting in August. Registration is in July. For more information please reached to Cathy Doggett at cathy.doggett1@gmail.com
- Child care Updates
  - About 65% of child care centers that accept subsidy that are not operating.
  - COA has authorized \$1M in grant funding for TRS (quality rated) child care centers for recovery details in development.
  - UWATX provide grants to family child care homes. If organizations know of family homes, please let Cathy McHorse know.
  - Increased recognition lack of quality child care as critical issue. We will share advocacy opportunities at the local, state and national level as they emerge.
  - The City of Austin approved recommendations of using HUD CDBG funds for child care as well as rental assistance.
  - School districts ARE currently enrolling for Pre-K for next year! Please encourage eligible families to contact their district to enroll. <https://www.austinisd.org/early-childhood/prek>

## **2- Gen Community Updates – Open Floor to Share**

- YMCA is opening -Early Learning Readiness program.
  - YMCA is opening camps June 15th and has free food distribution on Tuesdays at 2 branches
- EGBI is providing free business coaching to all child care centers to help restart their business
- EGBI will be holding “Understand Your Liability for Child Care centers on July 17th”
- AVANCE's virtual Summer program starts next week
- Literacy Coalition Info Session: Future of Work registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrfu-orisjGtzypiQrcQwpljUdHUExxwke>

## **Supporting families from a Distance Panel**

- The needles we're trying to move:
  - More parents attain economic stability (through education and job training)

- More organizations are family focused (vs. focused just on adults or children)
- Need to review action steps again – What is missing for 2020
- Need help with systems change that affects about 92% of parents who are not in a 2-gen or near 2-gen approach. We would like to focus on system level
- Most importantly: Our goal is moving 92% of the families with low income who are not on a program to economic stability
- We have significantly updated our action plan for 2020 prioritizing what we can now do with the pandemic. More details to come.
  
- These organizations have moved to distance learning overnight, and they're still moving the needle, supporting families
  - Any Baby Can
  - Austin Community College
  - AVANCE
  - Austin Voices for Education
  - Austin Young Parents Link-up (AECF)
- Any Baby Can – telehealth
  - Since mid-March, staff have conducted 4,030 virtual visits and classes, serving 1,096 clients
  - Staff include nurses, therapists and educators
  - Increased engagement from fathers
  - Seeing families more often
  - Home-visitors have been able to shift their availability since everyone is working from home – they've reached more families that it was difficult to schedule with
  - Major successes in working one-on-one with parents in parenting classes
  - Challenges –
    - tech and internet access is difficult to work around
    - Had to reach out to donors and funders to help parents get the technological support they needed to keep participating (75 families now accessing programs with funded tech)
    - Onboarding new families virtually is a challenge
    - Question: “What about the state data that reports of child abuse and family violence are way down? Have your home visitors seen families coping or struggling together at home?”
      - ABC is continuing to make referrals, families are still opening up and talking to us. It's harder to support families that need this type of support but we are seeing it, and helping families get out of these situations
- Austin Community College - converting classes from face to face to online
  - All classes need to be in real time – moving to all virtual classes was a challenge
  - 222 classes converted, 240 teachers received an immediate training to switch to virtual teaching

- Attendance has remained consistent!
- Challenges
  - Students didn't have all of the tech and wifi tools they needed
  - Some students struggled meeting basic needs, and needed emergency aid
- Avance - Facebook Live
  - Immediate switch to a remote model
  - Avance on Wheels: All programs are now being delivered in a remote format
  - Focus in connecting clients to existing resources and ensuring network has access to accurate information in Spanish related to this virus.
  - \$162,000 of direct help that went into the hands of families! This made sure needs were met
  - Facebook Groups:
    - Provides social capital to folks coming into the country alone
    - The platform facilitates community that should already be existing – we're not just shifting to an online platform, we're continuing to communicate via phone and any other ways we can
    - The online community supports all of the ways our community was already (and still does) support one another
    - Share: online quizzes, games, incentives to participate, resource sharing (with real time updates)
      - This became a meeting point for parents to connect and be together in the midst of this distance
    - All in Spanish! All programming in Spanish – audiences rely on AVANCE to give accurate information in Spanish
- Link Up Group- young parents creating place to connect online
  - Link-up parents are partners in the AECF project
  - In addition to co-designing the implementation plan, parent leaders receive trainings in advocacy, equity, and leadership
  - We're reaching out to friends and other people who are in the same position as us. We are young parents supporting young parents
  - Major needs:
    - Young parents need assistance with Medicaid, Internships and career connections, access to resources that we need
  - Using social media: We really want to use social media to keep young parents connected and raise awareness about the things not many people talk about
    - Post-partum depression is a major concern—being a new young parent is lonely and isolating
- Austin Voices for Education and Youth
  - Offering food and financial supports for families
  - Food pantries have quadrupled in size.

- AVEY is distributing RISE funds and PLUS1 Funds from the City of Austin Utility Bill Relief.
- Reaching families door to door to connect with AISD students “out of the grid”

### **Overcoming the Digital Divide**

- Digital Divide is not only about connectivity, adequate devices are needed; the right number of devices per family, digital skill assistance and technical assistance are needed. We put together a resources, we hope we are sharing that with families and organizations.
  - Resource list to support families who need digital access during this time  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Em8XtoHjtcT-M5d6XSq\\_R\\_LNf1x52zWb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Em8XtoHjtcT-M5d6XSq_R_LNf1x52zWb/view?usp=sharing)

### **Breakout Groups**

- Seize the moment – Moments like this are windows to change- people may want to begin or continue education pathways; How are we planning?
  - 1 wild and crazy idea
  - 1 practical idea
  
  - We want to know what families think before we make plans to come back
  - A lot of listening to what families want!!
    - It’s so important to know what they want to see moving forward
  - ABC: We want to have a new model of face-to-face and virtual meetings
  - Austin Community Foundation: We’re listening to the community—there are so many inequities and we want to hear what they need
    - We want to make sure grants are given equitably at this time too so everyone can recover!
  - American Youth Works: Doubling down on the digital literacy skills so students have the tech skills they need
    - Thinking about who can work from home and who is pushed into positions considered essential right now.
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### **ATX Connect overview**

- ConnectATX is an online social services tool connecting individuals to resources in the Greater Austin area. As a compliment to 211, ConnectATX allows individuals and service providers to search through over a thousand carefully curated programs to get people the help they need.

Use ConnectATX to find up-to-date information regarding COVID-19.



COVID-19 Emergency Food



Federal & State Benefits



COVID-19 RESOURCES  
Financial Assistance - Basic Needs  
Financial Assistance -  
Medical & Health  
Financial Assistance - Rent & Utilities  
Mental Health  
Physical Activity  
Testing

- Top three icons are COVID-19 related right now—we have changed Connect ATX to adjust to the current health crisis.
  - COVID-19 Emergency Food
  - Federal State Benefits
  - COVID-19 Resources
- All of the usual icons are still available and updated regularly as well
  - Food
  - Housing
  - Parenting and Family programs
  - Mental Health
  - Child care and enrichment
  - Employment and Job training
- Reach out to ATX to update your program card in the resource system!

### **Upcoming 2-Gen Stakeholder Network Meeting Dates**

- Meeting evaluations will be sent in email
- *Future meeting dates are listed in MissionBox – please RSVP!*

*(All meetings held at UWATX from 12:00 pm-1:30pm)*

- *Q3 2-Gen Coalition September 16, 2020*
- *Q4 2-Gen Coalition December 9, 2020*