



Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act

U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) & Susan Collins (R-Maine)

Section 1, 2, & 3: Title, Table of Contents, Findings and Purpose, and Definitions

Title I: Interagency Council on Economic Mobility

The legislation codifies the Interagency Council on Economic Mobility (the Council), which was formed at the Department of Health and Human Services in 2020. The Council is tasked with increasing agency collaboration and breaking through the bureaucracy of funding siloes and fractured support systems. The Council is made up of designees from Office of Management and Budget, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, Department of the Treasury, Department of Veterans Affairs, Corporation for National and Community Service, Domestic Policy Council, National Economic Council, Council on Economic Advisors, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Social Security Administration. The Council will develop and maintain the National Strategic Plan to End and Prevent Multigenerational Poverty and Create a Cycle of Family Prosperity, increase collaboration and coordination between the agencies, identify areas of need, and carry out the 2-generation approach to addressing multigenerational poverty. The Council shall maintain a website to provide a hub of best practices and connect interested partners to 2-generation programs.

Title II: 2-Generation Programs

The 2-generation approach is a holistic concept that seeks to lift families out of poverty through programs targeting both parents and children with support aimed at increasing economic security, educational success, social capital, and the health and well-being of parents, children, and families. This title outlines the desired outcomes for effective, comprehensive programs that use the 2-generation approach, including reduction of federal funding through reduced need for services in the long run. This section establishes transfer and waiver authority between participating agencies and outlines reporting requirements. Transfer authority allows participants to combine and transfer discretionary funds for 2-generation programs. Waiver authority will allow agencies to eliminate or consolidate application and reporting requirements attached to specified discretionary funding. The provisions in this section are the mechanisms to remove funding silos that currently exist and are meant to streamline federal spending.

Title III: Performance Partnership Pilot Program

Performance partnerships offer unique opportunities for participating agencies to test innovative, cost-effective, and outcome-focused strategies to reduce multigenerational poverty through the 2-generation approach. This section authorizes performance partnerships that allow states, local, and tribal governments to combine discretionary funds across multiple agencies if they commit to using the 2-generation approach to improve outcomes. Entities that elect to participate in these pilots will commit to achieve significant improvements in educational, employment, and other key outcomes in exchange for this new flexibility.

