SWFI: MOVING LESSONS LEARNED INTO POLICY PROPOSALS

	Recruitment/Enrollment	Student Parents	Childcare	Employment	Institutional Change
Key Problems	▪ Identifying student parents ▪ Remedial needs of many students and the associated costs of adult education ▪ Difficult to identify student parents that may be reluctant to apply to community college	▪ Child care availability, costs, and flexibility ▪ Transportation, housing, and other living supports ▪ Emergency funding needs ▪ Funding for tuition and related education expenses	▪ Need for flexible childcare options ▪ Location of care often a hinderance ▪ Public funding does not adequately cover FFN or other unlicensed care ▪ Limited availability of CCCAP slots ▪ Differing CCCAP requirements between counties	▪ Disconnect between credential programs and employer needs/requirements/expectations ▪ Employers are not always at the table in designing programs or helping to place candidates ▪ Credential requirements often differ at the community colleges	▪ Community colleges are rarely family friendly environments ▪ Counseling is often overloaded and not specific to unique needs ▪ Departments do not often share information that could be relevant to working with student parents ▪ Community colleges are not fully engaged in two-generation discussions
Lessons from SWFI	▪ Data sharing key to identification of student parents ▪ Targeted community outreach can help recruit student parents ▪ Inability to provide remedial courses limits recruitment of students ▪ Need for more uniformity across community college system in being able to identify student parents	▪ Flexible scholarship funding is critical to meeting educational, child care, and other needs ▪ Navigation is critical to being able to navigate the college as well as community services and benefits ▪ The length of time to complete many credentials is particularly burdensome on student parents	▪ There is often a gap between a CCCAP application and being able to access childcare, flexible scholarships allowed SWFI to address that gap in time ▪ Limited childcare access sometimes limits course choices or an ability to complete assignments ▪ CCCAP access is very difficult for many and does not provide the options many need	▪ Specific career coaching, with the coaches connecting to employers is a strong practice ▪ SWFI worked directly with HR recruiters to better align with employer expectations ▪ Hiring more instructors with workforce experience can help to better align programs, but it is very difficult in this economy	▪ Starting programs such as SWFI can help to initiate larger two generation conversations within a college ▪ Getting leadership support is essential to ongoing cultural change ▪ Creating family friendly spaces on campus can both help student parents and increase awareness of the importance of student parents within the community college
Policy Implications/ Ideas	▪ Data collection, sharing, and standardized questions that allow for early identification of student parents ▪ Greater options or funding for adult education	▪ Greater flexible scholarship funding that goes beyond tuition ▪ Emergency funding (e.g. flat tire) ▪ Increased navigation for both educational programs and community services	▪ Include childcare funding support in financial aid ▪ Create gap funding options for the time between CCCAP application and enrollment in CCCAP child care ▪ Make revisions to CCCAP to better support student parents ▪ Better align CCCAP requirements across counties ▪ Improve FFN structures and funding ▪ Provide child care onsite at the community college	▪ Recruit employer representation on the Higher Learning Commission ▪ Expand apprenticeship models to increase on-the-job training ▪ Shift funding for education programs to focus on employment outcomes ▪ Give colleges access to employment outcome data from CDLE ▪ Increase investment in specific career counseling	▪ Create family friendly spaces on campus ▪ Provide two-generation trainings to community college staff ▪ Develop mandatory practices to track student parents throughout a student's educational experience