



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ECONOMIC & FAMILY SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH  
SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK  
SR. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
AND COUNTY OPERATIONS

March 16, 2017

**Dear County Directors of Social Services**

**Attention: Work First Program Administrators, Managers and Supervisors**

**RE: Work First Screening Tool for Child Well-Being**

During the 2016 Work First Summit, participants were introduced to the two-generation (2Gen) case management approach. The foundation of 2Gen is an integrated approach for strengthening families by focusing on both the parent and child. The core strategies of 2Gen are early childhood education, health and well-being, economic supports, employment pathways and establishing peer networks. Several of the featured presenters at the Work First Summit discussed the overall premise of 2Gen and its promise for improving the outcomes for families receiving cash assistance.

The Work First program has a history of utilizing various case management models and strategies to effectively engage parents. Often the lack of resources and time have impacted the caseworker's ability to truly engage the parent as it relates to the needs of the child beyond child care assistance. Thus, there have been many instances where families made great strides toward self-sufficiency and economic stability and a child's behavioral issues or health challenges put the family's success at risk.

The Child Well-Being Screening Tool, [DSS-6902/6902sp](#), is designed to assist in identifying strengths but also potential areas of need that may impact a child's well-being and development. The tool offers Work First staff the opportunity to have a conversation with parents; and inform parents of community services and agencies that can offer support. When children receive the necessary supports to be successful, it not only improves the child's outcomes but also the outcomes for the family. It is strongly recommended that this screening be offered to all families, including Child Only cases.

The screening tool is a first step in shifting toward a more holistic, comprehensive approach for strengthening families. Additional information will be forthcoming as the Work First program develops a 2Gen model that will improve performance outcomes and provide long-lasting improvements for families.

Please email any questions to DHHS Operational Support Team (OST) at [ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:ost.policy.questions@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Locklear". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

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David Locklear, Chief  
Economic and Family Services

**EFS\_WF-03-2017**