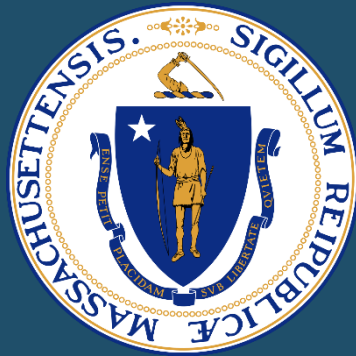


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Acting Commissioner

# **2-Gen Economic Mobility Programs Report**

**March 2026**



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE**  
**2-GEN ECONOMIC MOBILITY PROGRAMS REPORT**  
*MARCH 2025*

**REPORT OVERVIEW**

Pursuant to line item 4401-1003 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is required to report on the status of its 2-Gen Economic Mobility Program, including the total number of program participants, educational attainment of program participants, employment status, including employment history of program participants, number of program participants receiving assistance under item 4403-2000, and relevant demographic information as determined by DTA. This report covers FY2024 program activities.

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION**

DTA's mission is to assist and empower low-income individuals and families to meet their basic needs, improve their quality of life, and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. DTA offers a comprehensive system of programs and supports to help individuals and families achieve greater economic self-sufficiency, including food and nutritional assistance, economic assistance, and employment supports.

**BACKGROUND**

In recent years, DTA has emphasized removing economic mobility barriers through policy reforms and the enhancement of the Department's employment support programming. Part of this barrier removal is exploring new approaches to meaningfully engage with families who receive Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) benefits. Beginning with our Young Parent Program Request for Responses (RFR) in 2018, the Department has implemented a Two-Generational (2-Gen) approach in many of our employment and training programs. The 2-Gen approach recognizes that outcomes for parents and children are intertwined and cannot develop independently of one another. A 2-Gen approach is of the utmost importance as it is necessary to address not only the current economic disparities, but how those disparities will continue to affect future generations.

Additionally, DTA has focused on increasing support and opportunities for parents under 25 in recent years so that they might receive more coordinated and streamlined services. This work is coordinated through the Whole Family Approach to Jobs, with leadership and representation from DTA and the Department of Public Health (DPH). This collaboration supports improving cross-sector service coordination, particularly for high-risk parents under 25 with young children, who often are falling through the cracks of service delivery.

**2-GEN ECONOMIC MOBILITY PROGRAMS FOR HIGH-RISK YOUTH**

Following an investment of \$3.5 million in the state's previous FY23 GAA, DTA entered into an interagency service agreement (ISA) with the Department of Public Health to continue administering a 2-Gen grant program that supports economic mobility and cross-sector service collaboration among parents under 25 through the Massachusetts Pregnant and Parenting Teen Initiative (MPPTI). For more than a decade, MPPTI has provided multidisciplinary, team-

based case management to young parents in Massachusetts; with a goal of increasing life opportunities and enhancing family stability among expectant adolescents and young families in priority populations and communities.

DTA and DPH continued to work with nine community-based agencies to provide targeted support to high-risk expectant and parenting adolescents using the MPPTI model. All funded agencies served at least one community with high teen birth rate (Tier 1 community), while some agencies also served a geographically nearby Tier 2 community with moderate teen birth rates. Please reference (Table 1) for currently funded community-based agencies and T1/T2 priority communities.

TABLE I MASSACHUSETTS PREGNANT AND PARENTING TEEN INITIATIVE PROVIDERS	
Priority Community – T1/T2	Agency
Lawrence/Methuen	Family Services of the Merrimack Valley
Lowell	Community Teamwork Inc.
Brockton	Brockton Neighborhood Health Center
New Bedford	Meeting Street
Chelsea/Everett	Roca Inc
Springfield/Holyoke	The Care Center
Fitchburg	LUK
Worcester/Southbridge	YOU Inc.
Greater Boston	BMC

Since the partnership between DTA and DPH began, MPPTI has served a total of 1,231 parents under age 25. In FY24, MPPTI served 594 participants. Demographics for FY24 program participants can be found in **Table 2**. When the collaboration between DTA and DPH began in FY21, MPPTI participants included COVID-19 response participants who received services 1-3 times to meet urgent needs related to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, like housing or rental assistance, utility payment assistance, food, transportation, and assistance with applying for benefits. Beginning in FY22 and continuing into FY23 and FY24, all participants served are MPPTI case management participants, meaning they receive more comprehensive ongoing services, including not only meeting urgent concrete needs, but also case management, health promotion, education/employment, and child health/parenting services and resources.

**Table 2  
MPPTI Participant Demographics, FY24**

Age at Intake	Number	Percent	Housing at Intake	Number	Percent
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<15 years	12	2%
15-18 years	145	24%
>18 years	437	74%
<b>Sex / Gender*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Male	37	6%
Female	554	93%
Non-binary/Genderqueer	<11	<1%
<b>Sexual Orientation*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Straight/Heterosexual	542	91%
Gay or Lesbian	<11	<1%
Bisexual	40	7%
Asexual	<11	<1%
Something Else / I Haven't Decided	<11	<1%
<b>Race / Ethnicity*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
American Indian/Alaska Native	<11	<1%
Asian	<11	2%
Black	118	20%
Latinx/Hispanic	413	70%
White	80	13%
Middle Eastern/North African	<11	<1%
Other	15	3%
<b>Primary Language</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
English	325	55%
Spanish	221	37%
Portuguese	15	2%
Cape Verdean Creole	17	3%
Haitian Creole	10	2%
Other	<11	<1%
Missing	<11	<1%
<b>Pregnancy Status at Intake</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pregnant/Expecting	179	30 %

At home with parents/guardians	212	36%
At partner's parents' home	42	7%
At Own Apartment/House	119	20%
At a relative's home	81	14%
At a friend's or other unrelated adult's home	74	12%
Other	65	11%
<b>School Status at Intake</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Enrolled in HiSET program	141	24%
Enrolled in middle school or high school	74	12%
Enrolled in a job training program	<11	1%
Enrolled in an institution of higher education	22	4%
Not in school	338	57%
On maternity leave	<11	2%
<b>Employment Status at Intake</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Employed full-time (unsubsidized)	77	13%
Employed part-time (unsubsidized)	72	12%
Employed full-time (subsidized)	13	2%
Employed part-time (subsidized)	18	3%
Not Employed	413	70%
<b>Current or Previous Involvement with DCF at Intake</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	170	29%
No	420	71%
Missing	<11	<1%
<b>Benefits Received at Intake*</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Healthy Families Program	84	14%
Childcare Assistance Program	53	9%
Early Intervention Program	46	8%
Early Intervention Partners Program	<11	2%
Early Head Start	<11	1%
Head Start Program	<11	<1%
Healthy Steps Program	<11	<1%
Parents as Teachers (PAT)	<11	1%

Parenting/Postpartum	415	76%	Section 8 or other housing subsidy	17	3%
<i>*Total will not add up to 100% because participants could select more than one category.</i>			SSI	20	3%
			WIC	455	68%
			Transportation benefits	64	10%
			Help with utility bills	<11	<1%
			Parent Child Home Program	<11	<1%
			Other	23	3%
			None	141	21%

For client privacy, demographic data under 11 is suppressed.

Among all 549 FY24 MPPTI participants, 75% have been in the program for 6+ months to date. Among participants active in the program for 3+ months during FY24, 80% received concrete supports, defined as assistance with accessing benefits, housing, food, clothing, transportation, or childcare. 69% of participants who were not receiving DTA services at the time of intake enrolled in DTA benefits during the program. In addition, 27% of participants who entered the program as unemployed or on maternity leave gained employment during the program. A breakdown of the performance and outcome measure averages across the funded sites can be found in **Table 3**.

TABLE 3 FY24 MPPTI PROGRAM AVERAGES: PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME MEASURES	
Performance Measure	FY24 Progress
Program sites maintain a caseload of at least 35 active participants per community served	Average of 66 participants served per agency
Participants active in the program for 6+ months	75%
Participants with at least two monthly visits	64%
Participants active for 3+ months that receive concrete support services	80%
Participants not receiving DTA benefits at program intake that receive information on enrollment within 3 months of intake	69%
Participants with a positive depression screen either receiving or referred to counseling and/or support services	80%
Outcome Measure	FY24 Progress
<u>Change in education status/enrollment</u> : percent of participants who were not enrolled in school at the time of intake who enrolled during the program	18%
<u>Change in employment status</u> : percent of participants whose employment status was “unemployed” or “maternity leave” at the time of intake who gained employment during the program	27%
<u>Change in housing status</u> : percent of participants whose housing status was unstable at the time of intake who gained stable housing during the program	43%

Change in benefits enrollment status: percent of participants who were not enrolled in DTA benefits at the time of intake who received DTA benefits during the program	56%

**CONCLUSION**

This DTA and DPH collaboration, along with additional support from [Whole Family Approach to Jobs](#) consultants, has led to concrete efforts that support parents under 25. The agencies have partnered with the National Parent Leadership Institute to pilot community-based parents under 25 advisories in New Bedford, Worcester, Lawrence, Boston, Holyoke, and Fitchburg. The importance of their voices in providing quality services and supporting economic mobility has become increasingly clear, and these advisories provide the opportunity for parents under 25 to share their story in a safe, meaningful, and effective way. As leaders of the Young Parents with Young Children Working Group, DTA and DPH are committed to providing all parents under 25 an equitable voice in policy and practice. DTA and DPH served as advisors on matters relating to parents under 25 on the STEPS for Youth: Science to Enhance Policy Success from the UCLA Center for the Developing Adolescent. STEPS is an interactive, online tool to inform policymakers and ensure that procurement, programs rules, funding, and policies are aligned to meet the developmental goals of young people. Additionally, DTA and DPH have been collaborating with the Center for Child Well Being and Trauma on the development of a toolkit and community of practice for young parent practitioners. The [Parents Under 25](#) toolkit is strength-based and racial equity informed, and the workgroup is in the process of training parent practitioners in the contents of the toolkit. The toolkit draws upon the expertise of many of our organizations and was reviewed by parents. It covers topics such as adolescent brain development, resilience and healing centered engagement, best practices in working with parents under 25; focus on key populations including immigrants; and offers training resources and links to a range of publications nationally focused on parents under 25. Both DTA and DPH value and look forward to this continued partnership.