Supporting Student Parent Families in a Time of Crisis
Our Mission & History

Generation Hope surrounds motivated teen parents and their children with the mentors, emotional support, and financial resources that they need to thrive in college and kindergarten, thereby driving a two-generation solution to poverty.
Educational Success • Economic Mobility • Thriving Families
Student Demographics

100 mothers & fathers

20 two and four-year schools

81%+ low income

51% Hispanic/Latinx

34% Black

74% first generation college students

100% Scholars are in DC, MD, and VA

Challenge Scholars have experienced domestic violence, food insecurity, homelessness, foster care, and more.
Generation Hope’s graduation rate:

• *Exceeds* the national average for *all* college students
• Almost *double* the national average for low-income college students
• Almost *eight times* the national average for single mothers
92% of Scholars stay in college and in our program, or graduate, year-to-year

100% of Generation Hope’s 2018 and 2019 graduates were living above the poverty line within six months of graduation

Over 30% of 2018 graduates went directly on to graduate school
Who Are Student Parents?

- 42% attend community colleges
- More likely to have low incomes
- 51% are students of color
- Just under 60% are first-generation college students
- Despite the challenges student parents face, they tend to have higher GPAs than their non-parenting peers
Student Parent Success Impacts Two Generations & the Economy

- Improves outcomes for student parents’ children
- Increases student parents’ lifetime potential earnings
- Decreases public assistance spending
- Amounts to billions of additional dollars in taxes
COVID-19 & Student Parents

- College campus closures
- K-12 and childcare closures
- Unemployment and financial crises
- Needs of family members
- Limited access to food and healthcare
- Domestic violence
- Mental health challenges
- Challenges will extend into next academic year
Generation Hope’s Response

● **For Students:**
  ○ Maintaining consistency through virtual case management and programming
  ○ Providing connections to vital community/government resources
  ○ Emergency grants

● **Beyond our Students:**
  ○ Amplifying the needs of student parents
  ○ Providing guidance, resources, and outsourced services to colleges and universities
  ○ Facebook Live storyhours (#GHBedtimeStories) and other community building
COVID-19 Response Checklist for Higher Ed

- Convene a virtual task force of student parents to inform your decisions during the pandemic
- Establish or increase emergency aid
- Create as much convenience as possible
- Inform professors to encourage their students to contact them if they are having challenges with childcare or distance learning; set the expectation that professors will work with students to design feasible solutions
COVID-19 Response Checklist for Higher Ed

- Ask student-success staff to reach out to student parents to see how the closure is impacting them
- Understand that your institution will need to go beyond the scope of traditional advising during the pandemic to support parenting college students—and all students
- Provide students with information on tools and resources like SwiftStudent, that can be helpful with their changing needs right now
- Build community among student parents
National Survey

- Student parents’ higher-ed experiences
  - Hurdles to degree attainment
  - Gaps in institutional support
  - Recommendations
- 259 respondents, 147+ institutions
- Administered during Winter/Spring 2020
National Survey Major Findings

- 40% felt isolated as a parenting student on campus.
- 20% felt unwelcome on campus.
- More than 60% missed at least one day of class due to lack of childcare.
- More than 1 in 3 did not see family-friendly characteristics on campus.
- 75% were unaware their financial aid could be increased to account for childcare costs.
Ongoing Recommendations

- **Collect** and **track** the parenting status of students. Few institutions collect data on how many students are parents.
- **Apply** a parenting-student lens to your campus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work.
- **Designate** a staff position to champion the needs of parenting students.
- **Prioritize** the creation of family-friendly policies and ensure they are clearly communicated to students.
- **Identify** ways to better include parenting students in campus life.
- **Incorporate** student parent needs into government relations work.