

JOHN T. GORMAN  
F O U N D A T I O N

# Family Futures Downeast

A 2-Generation Strategy to Strengthen  
Economic Opportunity and Promote  
Family Stability

*Advancing ideas. Promoting opportunities.  
Improving lives in Maine.*

# Context: John T. Gorman Foundation

- A private foundation headquartered in Portland, Maine.
- Our mission: to advance ideas and opportunities to improve the lives of disadvantaged Mainers
- Annual grantmaking: approximately \$7.5mm
- Support strategies aimed at achieving population level results for children, families and vulnerable older youth

## Our Priority Areas



YOUNG CHILDREN



OLDER YOUTH



FAMILIES



SENIORS

# Washington County, Maine

- Home to 32,000 people, including 3,600 members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe
- Industry is primarily natural-resource based, seasonal and physically taxing (i.e., marine fisheries, logging, and blueberry harvesting)
- Extremely rural with poverty rates at 20% and child poverty recently exceeding 30%
- Lowest educational attainment rates (28.5% vs 37.5% statewide, associates' or higher)



# History: Family Futures Downeast

**2012: A group of stakeholders in Washington County identified barriers faced by residents trying to break out of the cycle of intergenerational poverty**

**Lack of educational and employment opportunities**

**Lack of aspiration, confidence and self worth**

**Practical challenges (childcare, transportation, etc.)**

**Higher education represents a pathway out of poverty, but requires supports and resources to break through these barriers**

# Partners behind FFD



# Family Futures Downeast

A one-year program for 24 families in Washington County offering:

- post-secondary education
- Co-located, high-quality child care
- workforce skills and opportunities
- access to community resources
- whole-family services
- relationships that change outcomes



# John T. Gorman Foundation's Support

Funding

Exposure

Advocacy

Technical  
Assistance



# Rural IMPACT Site

In September of 2015, Family Futures Downeast became one of ten Rural IMPACT Demonstration sites designated by the White House Rural Council.



John T. Gorman Foundation Chief Program Officer Nicole Witherbee and Community Caring Collaborative's Executive Director Charley Martin-Berry at the White House Rural IMPACT Symposium, November 2016



# Implications for Other Programs

Two-generation strategies have the potential to be effective even in the current political climate:

- Emphasis on data to drive decisions
- Quantifiable results
- Potential to save money by improving economic stability