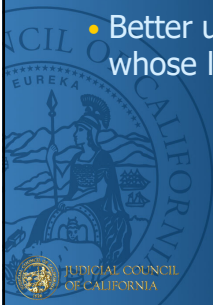


Transforming Child Support Services; Transforming Lives

Heather McCallum Hahn, Urban Institute
23rd Annual AB 1058 Child Support
Training Conference
August 27-30, 2019

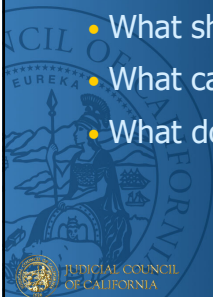
Goal

- Better understand the people whose lives you touch



3 Questions

- What should you keep doing?
- What can you change?
- What do you want to learn?




Child Support, Poverty, & Public Assistance

- Child support is vital tool
- Public assistance requires cooperation with child support
- Payments to State, not family
- Paying parents live in poverty




US PARTNERSHIP ON
MOBILITY
FROM **POVERTY**

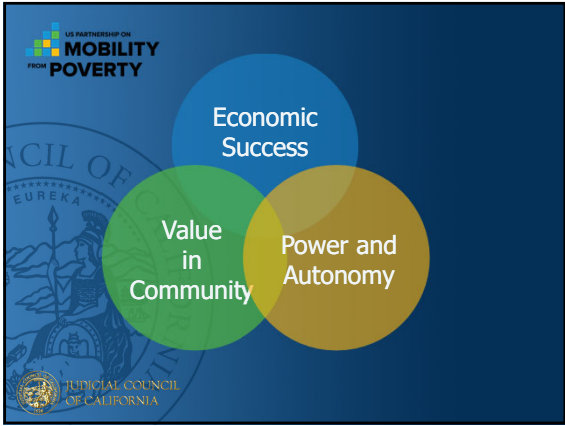
www.MobilityPartnership.org



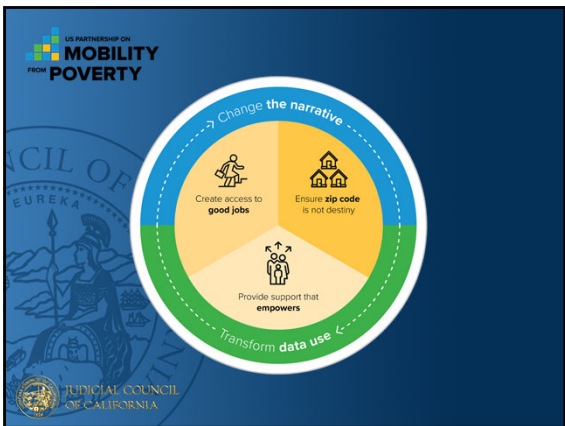
American Dream **Today's Reality**

Work hard, get ahead	Place matters
Children do better	Hard work isn't enough
	Children don't do better





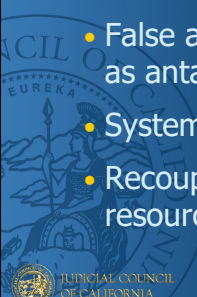
- ## Strategies
- Change the narrative
 - Create access to good jobs
 - Ensure zip code is not destiny
 - Provide support that empowers
 - Transform data use
- JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA





The Problem

- False assumptions of fathers as antagonists
- System creates a vicious cycle
- Recoupment diverts family resources



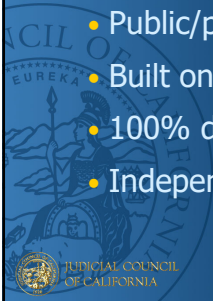
The Solution

- Empower parents
- Reasonable standards
- End welfare recoupment

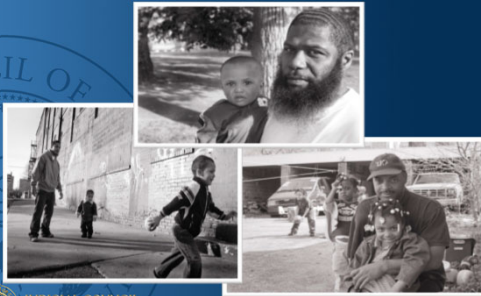


San Francisco Debt Relief Pilot

- Public/private partnership
- Built on COAP
- 100% debt relief
- Independent evaluation



How Did Debt Accrue?



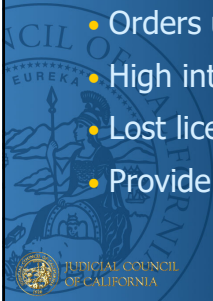
Photos from Edin & Nelson

- "Once that interest kicks in, there's no turning back." -Joe
- "I have to choose between paying child support and supporting my child." - \$krilla
- "It's just like a snowball." - Jeff



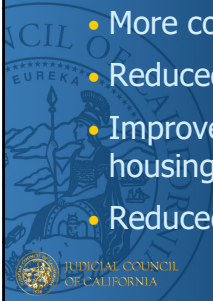
How Did Debt Accrue?

- Orders unaffordable
- High interest rate
- Lost licenses and assets
- Provide direct support



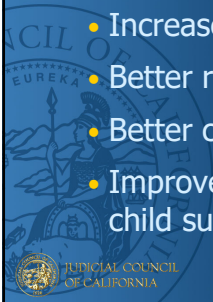
Debt Relief Results

- More consistent payment
- Reduced stress
- Improved credit scores & housing
- Reduced employment barriers



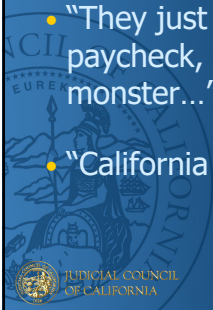
Debt Relief Results

- Increased financial control
- Better relationship with child
- Better coparent relationship
- Improved relationship with child support system



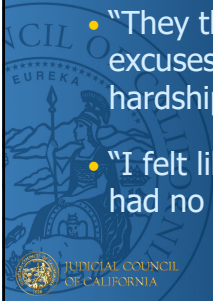
Before Debt Relief

- “They just look at you as a paycheck, or bad guy, or monster...” -Shawn
- “California is a mom’s state” -Artie



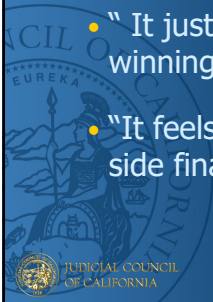
Before Debt Relief

- “They think you just have excuses. They don’t understand hardship.” -Jeff
- “I felt like I was an inmate...I had no power.” -Jeff



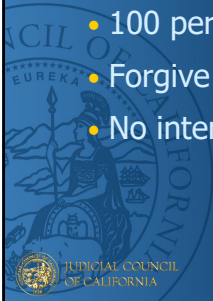
After the Debt Relief

- “ It just felt like a blessing, like winning the lotto.” -\$krilla
- “It feels like someone’s on your side finally.” -Shawn



Policy Options

- 100 percent payment to family
- Forgive government-owed debt
- No interest on govt.-owed debt



Practice Changes

- Ensure parents feel heard & respected in court
- Recognize parents' desire to support children



Discussion

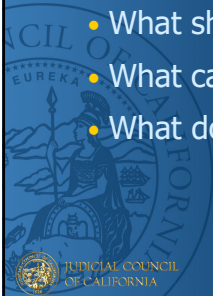


- What are you already doing to understand parents?
- How do you already show respect for parents' dignity?



3 Questions

- What should you keep doing?
- What can you change?
- What do you want to learn?



You will make a difference in someone's life.

Make it a positive difference!

