FUELING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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The Aspen Institute: Principles that Endure and Inspire

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization with the mission of fostering values-based leadership and providing a nonpartisan venue for dialogue around critical issues.

The timeless values that inspired the creation of the Institute after World War II continue to guide us today.
Ascend at the Aspen Institute: A New Way Forward for Children and Families

Ascend at the Aspen Institute is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and the adults in their lives toward educational success, economic security, and health and well-being.

We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens. How we work:

• **Convene and communicate**
• **Build leadership and a national network**
• **Advance practice and policy solutions**
Our Vision

WE ENVISION AN AMERICA IN WHICH A LEGACY OF ECONOMIC SECURITY AND EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS PASSES FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.
Two-generation approaches build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.
Many Names. One Approach.

“Whole Family”  “Multi-Gen”  “Next Gen”  “Ohana Nui”  “Two-Generation”  “Family Economic Mobility”

CHILD-FOCUSED

CHILD-FOCUSED WITH PARENT ELEMENTS

e.g., early childhood development, parenting skills, family literacy, and health screenings

WHOLE FAMILY

PARENT-FOCUSED WITH CHILD ELEMENTS

e.g., child care, workforce programs, food and nutrition, and supports for student parents

PARENT-FOCUSED
Why a 2Gen Approach?

Research shows that supporting children and their caregivers together has an outsized impact for generations.

- A college degree **doubles** a parent’s income.
- A $3,000 increase during early childhood yields a **17% increase** in adult earnings.
- The brains of new parents undergo **major changes**.
- Research demonstrates a **13% ROI** in high quality early childhood education.
- Parents with health insurance are **more likely to seek care** for their children.

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What Have We Learned from 2Gen 1.0?

- Intentional service integration is critical
- Quality matters
- Intensity is important
- Who is targeted matters
- How you work with families matters
Principles to Put Children and Families at the Center

- Measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents
- Engage and amplify the voices of families
- Ensure equity
- Foster innovation and evidence together
- Align and link systems and funding streams
2Gen Core Components

**Social Capital**
- Peer and family networks
- Coaching
- Cohort strategies

**Early Childhood Education**
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Child care partnerships
- PreK
- Home visiting

**Postsecondary & Employment Pathways**
- Community college training and certification
- Workforce partnerships

**Health & Well-being**
- Mental, physical, and behavioral health coverage and access to care
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Toxic stress

**Economic Assets**
- Asset building
- Housing and public supports
- Financial capacity
- Transportation
TWO-GENERATION THEORY OF CHANGE for an increase in family economic security, educational success, and health and well-being from one generation to the next by 2025.
2Gen Logic Model Example

**Target Population**
- Any family with a child enrolled in EduCare
- 125% families
- 77% single parent HHI
- 23% no HS diploma or GED
- 48% have debt they can’t pay off

**Child, Parent, & Family Goals**
- Get kids to school on time
- Get GED or better job
- Pay off debt
- Spend time as family

**Inputs**
- Leadership
- Trained staff
- Community partners (mental health, adult, workforce training)
- 2G Accel Network Support
- Funding (Head Start, Private Funds, SNAP/ED)
- Data system

**Activities & Services**
- Financial coaching
- Job prep/training
- GIS/Adult ed
- Career advising/college prep
- Parenting classes
- Benefits/Tax prep
- Mental health screenings

**Outputs**
- Parents:
  - Set goals
  - Attend Family Fun Nights
  - Get financial coaching
  - Receive any eligible benefits
  - Complete classes
  - Screened for mental health

**Short-term Outcomes**
- Parents:
  - Build relationships/confidence
  - Save money, reduce debt
  - Increase job skills
  - Improve health
  - Engage in child’s ed

**Medium-term Outcomes**
- Parents:
  - Advocate for themselves/their children
  - Manage $$, build savings
  - Obtain better job
  - Maintain healthy lifestyle

**Alignment/Integration Factors**:
- Transportation incentive and child care provided during classes
- Coaching / goal-setting for whole family
- Shared graduation event for children and parents completing college prep class
- Parents volunteer in EduCare classrooms
- Parent cohort that meets to discuss child transitioning from Head Start to here

**Long-term Outcomes**
- Families experience increased economic security and stability and achieve upward mobility
- Parents have knowledge and confidence to raise healthy and successful children
- Families are physically and mentally healthy
- Children succeed in K-12 and grad from high school ready to enroll in training or higher education
Building organizations that serve whole families

Whole Family Approach, Strategy, Organization Continuum

Approach
A new mindset for designing programs and policies that serve children and parents simultaneously.

Strategy
Aligning and/or coordinating services with other organizations to meet the needs of all family members.

Organization
Providing services to both children and adults simultaneously and tracking outcomes for both.

Throughout the continuum, cultural competency is a prerequisite.
Building systems that serve whole families

Whole Family Approach, Strategy, Systems Continuum

SYSTEMS
Providing services and supports to both children and adults simultaneously to achieve population level outcomes.

STRATEGY
Aligning and/or coordinating services with other agencies and levels of government to meet family needs.

APPROACH
A new mindset among policymakers for designing policies and funding streams that serve children and parents simultaneously.

Throughout the continuum, inclusion of parent voices and a focus on equity are prerequisites.
Key Challenges and Barriers to 2Gen Implementation

- Lack of clear collaboration partners and/or terms of agreement
- Staff buy-in and capacity
- Parent recruitment and retention
- Knowledge of and access to blended funding streams
- Policy barriers: lack of aligned resources and policies
2Gen Community Continuum: Stages of 2Gen Implementation

1. **2Gen Unaware**: Fragmented programs and systems due to limited understanding of the 2Gen framework.

2. **2Gen Awareness Raising**: Stakeholders beginning to learn about 2Gen and engaging others to learn more.

3. **2Gen Approach**: Stakeholders aware of and support existing 2Gen organizations, and move on to “development” if there are any gaps.

4. **2Gen Strategy**: Cross-sector stakeholders working collaboratively to align and/or coordinate programs, policies, organizations and systems to reflect the 2Gen framework and ingrain it in their mission.

5. **2Gen Pilot or Initiative**: Cross-sector stakeholders working collaboratively to provide services to both children and adults simultaneously.

6. **2Gen Integration**: Both children and adults are being simultaneously served in multiple programs across multiple sectors.

7. **2Gen Accountability**: Sustained programs, policies and practices.
2Gen Momentum: By the Numbers

362 Ascend Network Partners active in 50 states and the District of Columbia, serving more than 3 million people

80 Ascend National and Colorado Fellows in 28 states

12 states and 5 cities/counties implementing leading 2Gen policies

7 states with “2Gen Coordinator” managing efforts at the state/systems level
Federal Investments in 2Gen

- Ascend Network
- DOL SWIFI Grants (14 sites/$54M)
- Rural IMPACT Demonstration Sites (10 sites)
- HRSA ECCS Collin Network (12 sites/ $66.2M)
- Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED) (8 states/$6.2M)
State Investments in 2Gen

As part of a competitive grant process, **Georgia** awarded multiple $15K 2Gen Capacity Building Grants and $35K Implementation Funding Grants to pilot or expand community initiatives that connect the early learning, postsecondary, and workforce systems at the local level to deliver benefits to the two-generations within a family unit.

In **Virginia**, the General Assembly and Governor Northam recently completed action on the FY 2020 budget. Within it, the VA Community Action Partnership received one year funding for $1.5M towards a 2Gen/Whole Family Pilot project, with the expectation of receiving funding for a total of five years.

Since 2016, the **Tennessee** Department of Human Services has invested more than $30M in 2Gen approaches through community based partnerships. This includes a multiyear investment to Memphis based nonprofit, making it the largest single 2Gen investment made by a state to date.

In lieu of 2Gen funding to support a state network for advancing 2Gen, **Washington** established a 2Gen Working Group on Poverty Reduction and hosted 10 regional listening sessions to engage communities as they worked to integrate 2Gen into policy and program development.

In 2017, Governor Hogan of **Maryland** signed an executive order, establishing the Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot program. Through this two year effort, two pilot sites were awarded funding and technical assistance to design and deploy 2Gen strategies, with oversight and guidance from the multi-agency 2Gen Commission.

In 2018, **Colorado's** 2Gen Opportunities pilot program was launched in an effort to help communities innovate through the design and implementation of 2Gen approaches. Through this effort, 10 sites were awarded $100,000 each, totaling a $1M investments from the CO Department of Human Services.
Fostering Innovation and Evidence Together

2Gen Approach

Evaluation of Outcomes

2Gen Evaluability Assessment:

Mathematica Policy Research

Northwestern Research

Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation

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Outcomes Bank

Welcome to the 2Gen Outcomes Bank

Submit Materials to Outcomes Bank
This is a crowdsourced website. Please use the link below to submit additional outcomes, indicators, tools, and highlights of programs that articulate and track outcomes for children and the adults in their lives together. We welcome contributions from practitioners, policymakers, and researchers in all sectors.

Explore the 2Gen Outcomes Bank
The 2Gen Outcomes Bank is designed to help capture and organize the outcomes, research, tools, and evidence base for two-generation approaches, strategies, and programs. Within the database, you will find outcomes, indicators, and research organized by child, parent, and family across the core 2Gen components of education, economic assets, health and well-being, and social capital. This is a growing resource - materials are crowdsourced from those active in two-generation and related fields.

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