



FUELING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Marjorie Sims, Managing Director, Ascend

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

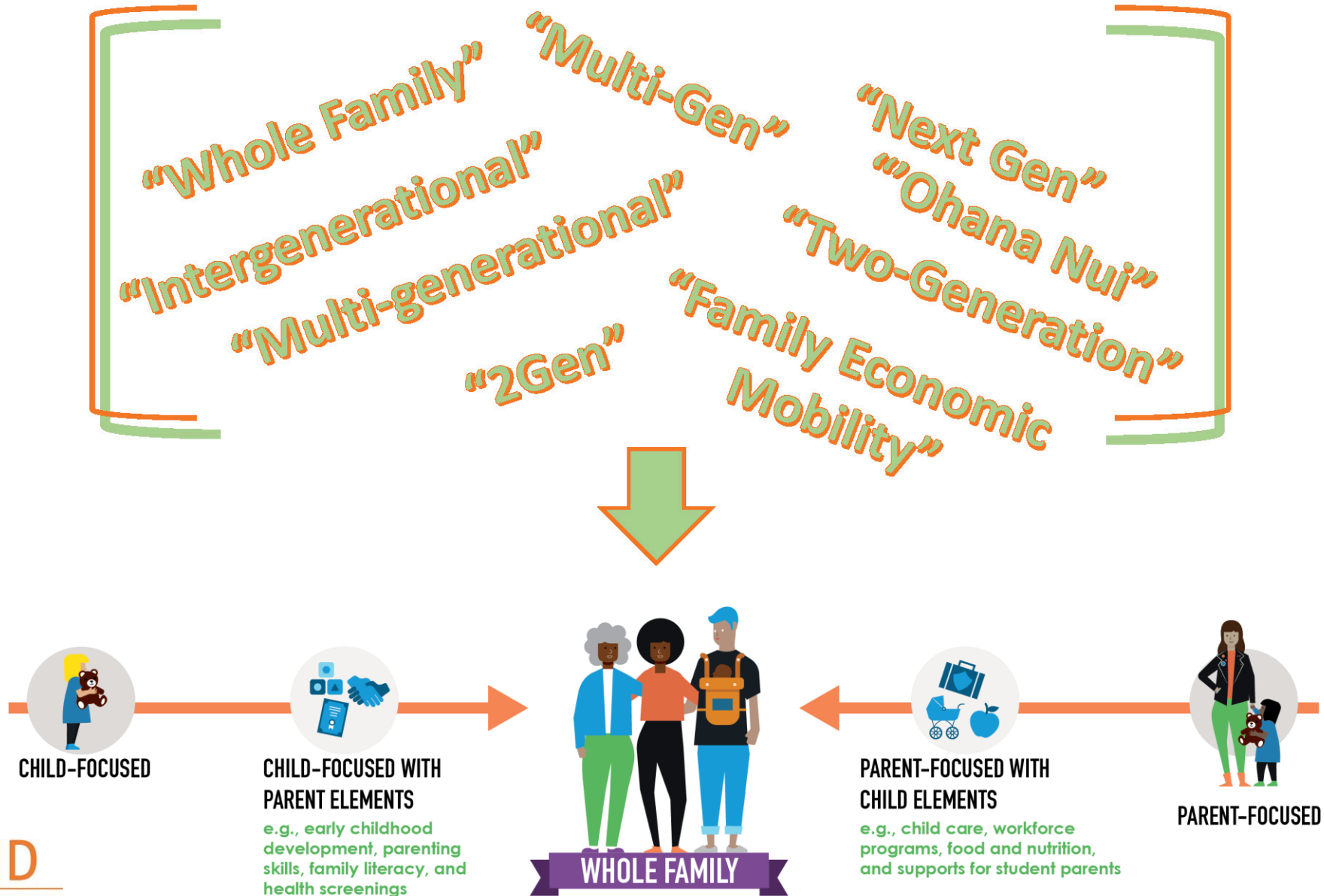
WE ENVISION **AN AMERICA**
IN WHICH A LEGACY OF **ECONOMIC**
SECURITY AND **EDUCATIONAL**
SUCCESS PASSES
FROM
ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.

The Two-Generation (2Gen) Continuum



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.



Why a 2Gen Approach?

Research shows that supporting children and their caregivers together has an outsize 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.

What Have We Learned from 2Gen 1.0?

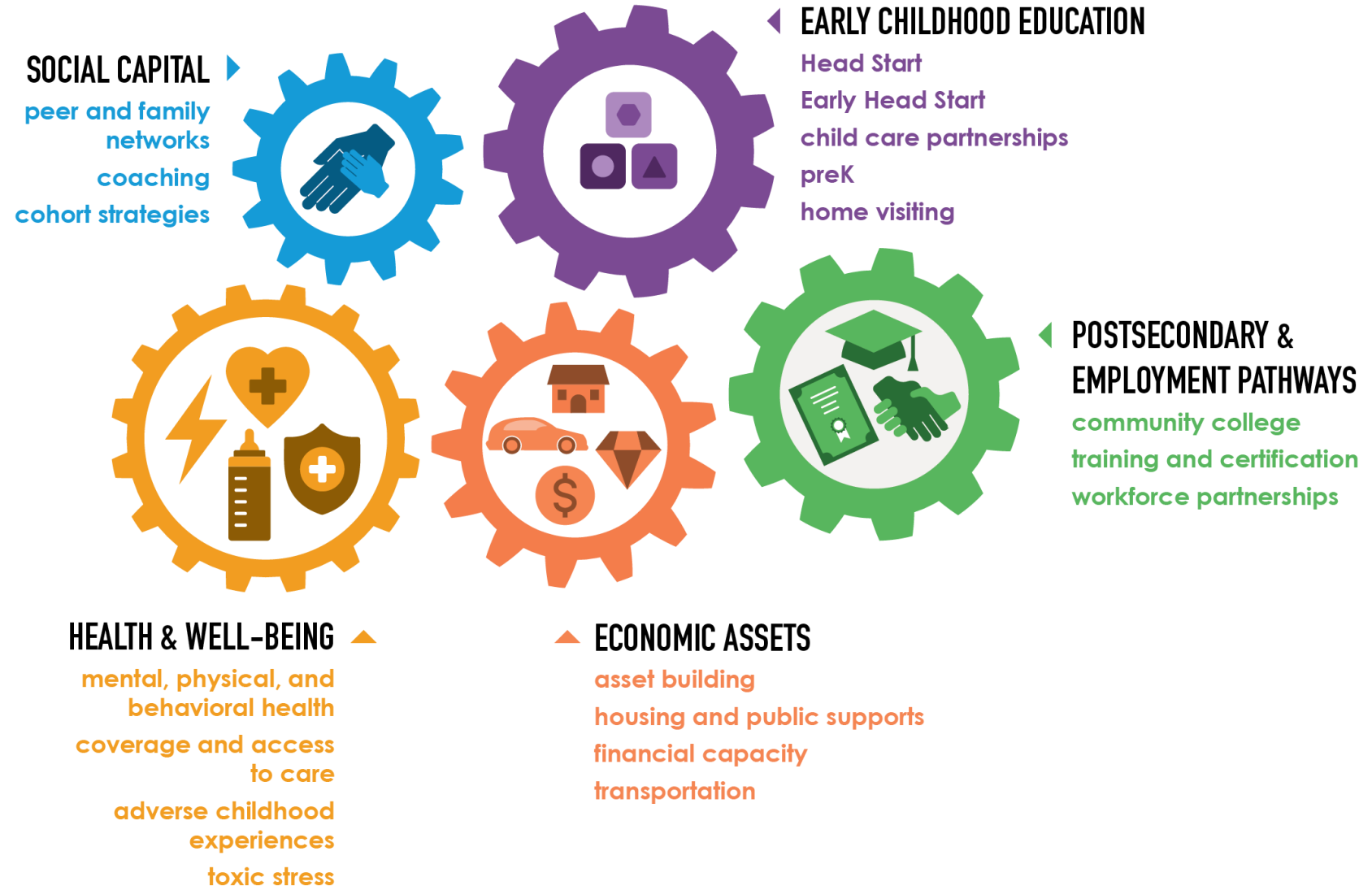
- 🗨 Intentional service integration is critical
- 🗨 Quality matters
- 🗨 Intensity is important
- 🗨 Who is targeted matters
- 🗨 How you work with families matters



Principles to Put Children and Families at the Center

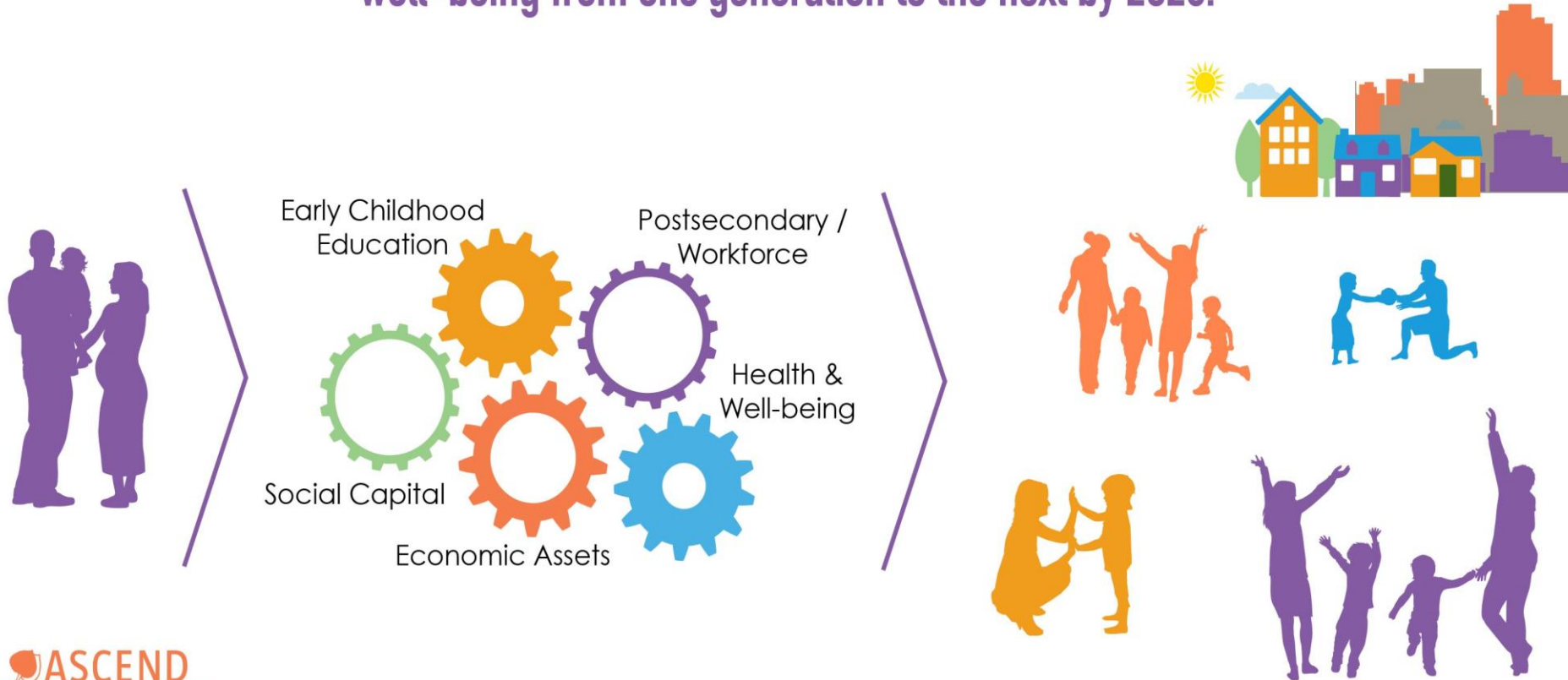
- 🗣️ Measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents
- 🗣️ Engage and amplify the voices of families
- 🗣️ Ensure equity
- 🗣️ Foster innovation and evidence together
- 🗣️ Align and link systems and funding streams

2Gen Core Components

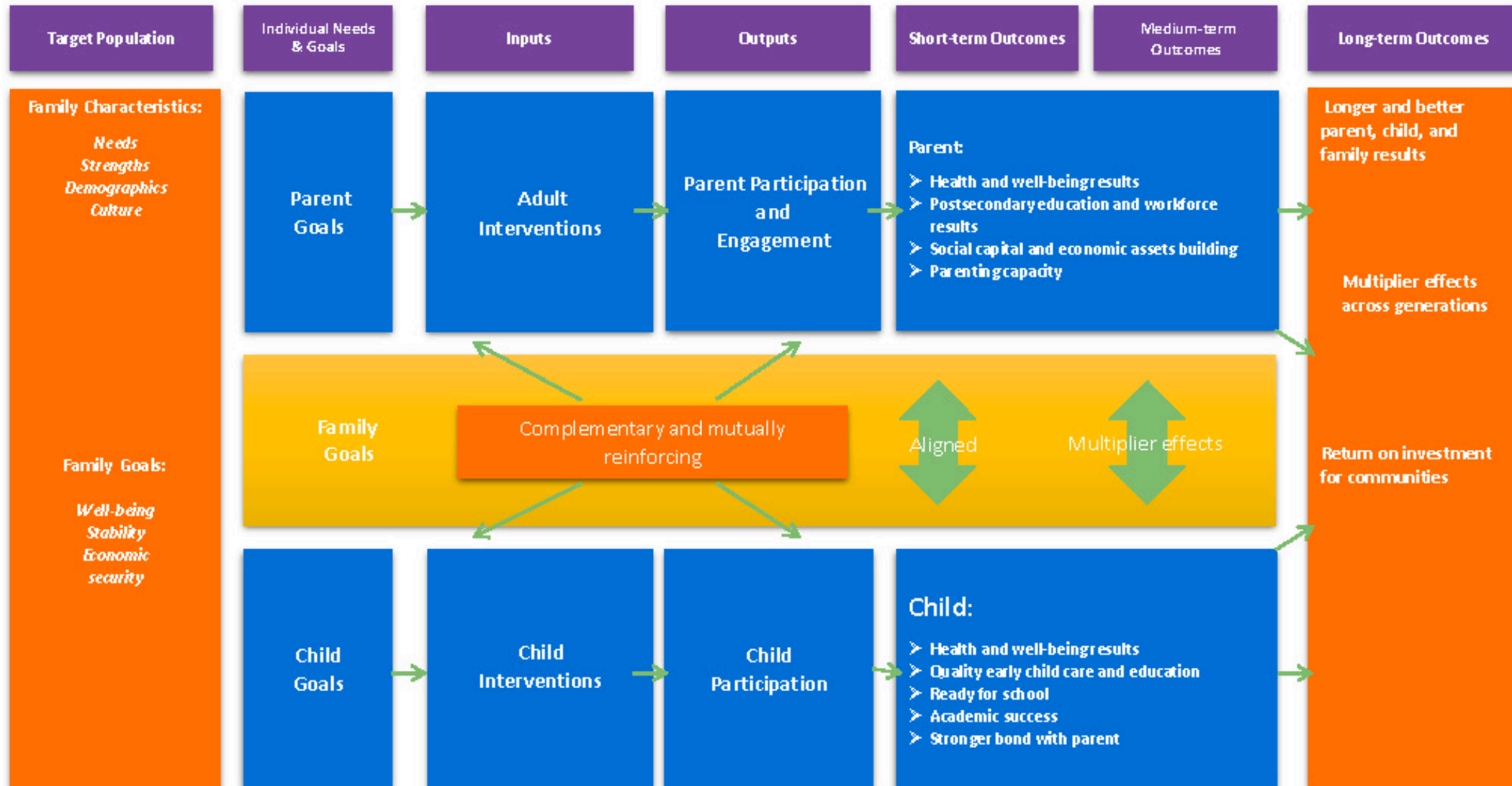


Theory of Change

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.



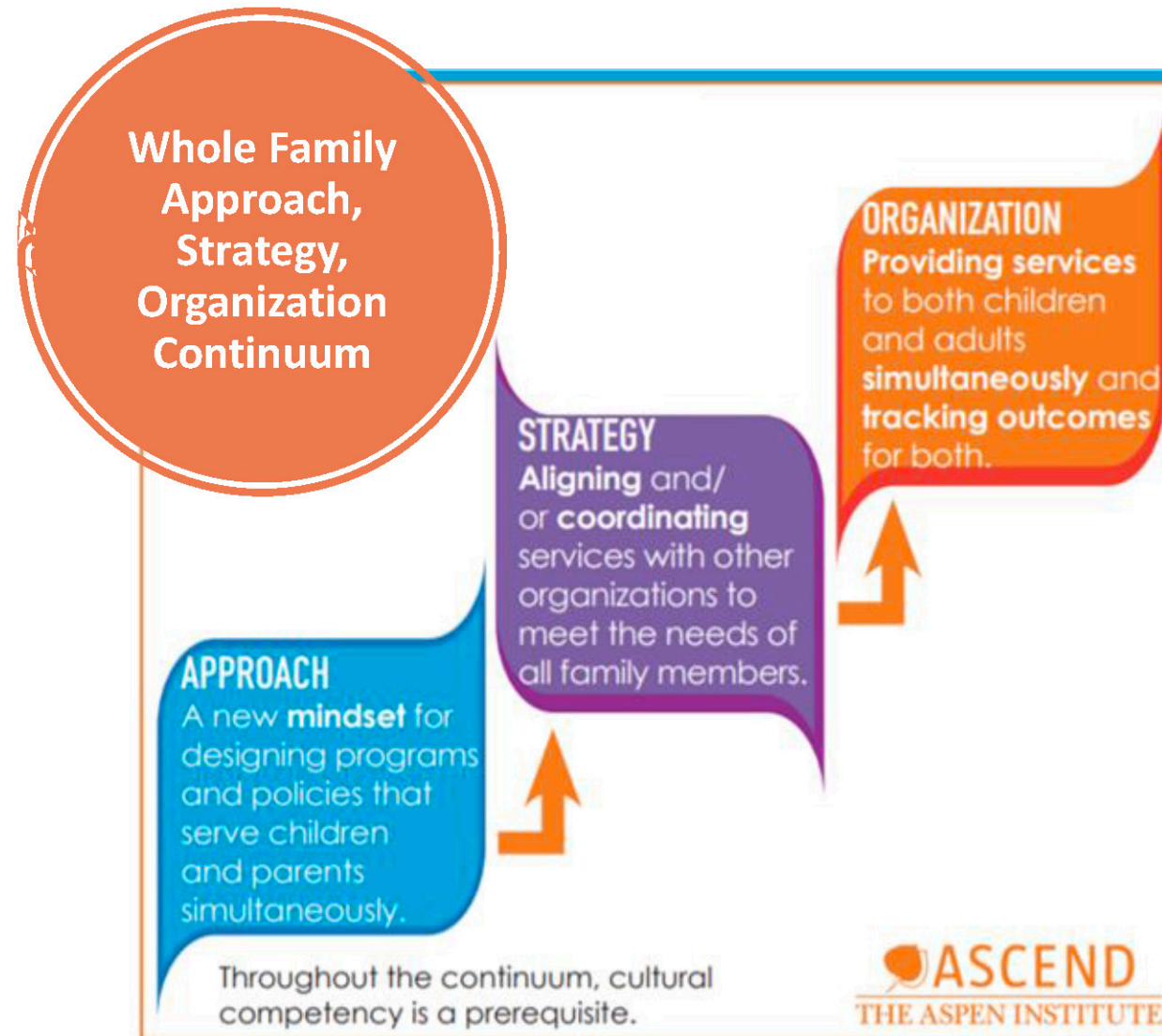
Sample 2Gen Logic Model



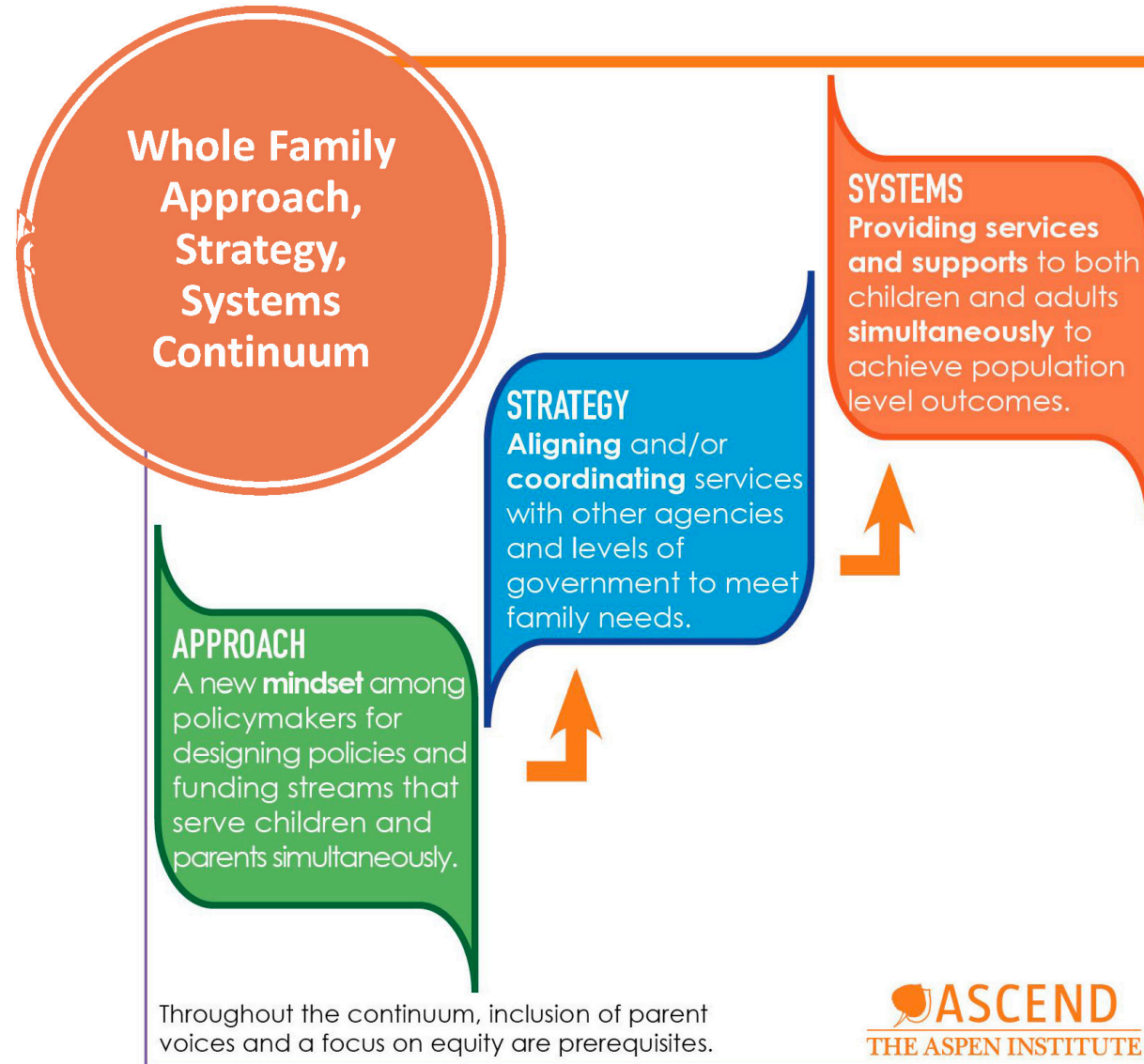
2Gen Logic Model Example



Building organizations that serve whole families



Building systems that serve whole families

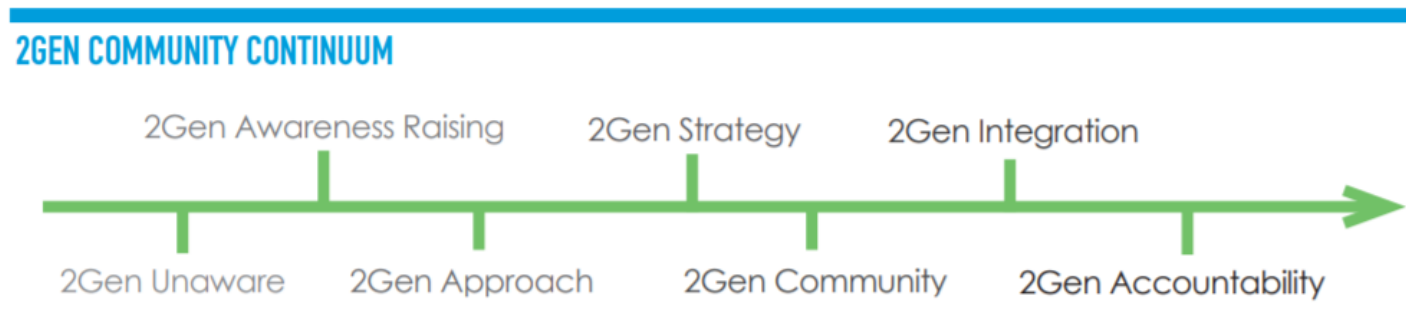


Key Challenges and Barriers to 2Gen Implementation

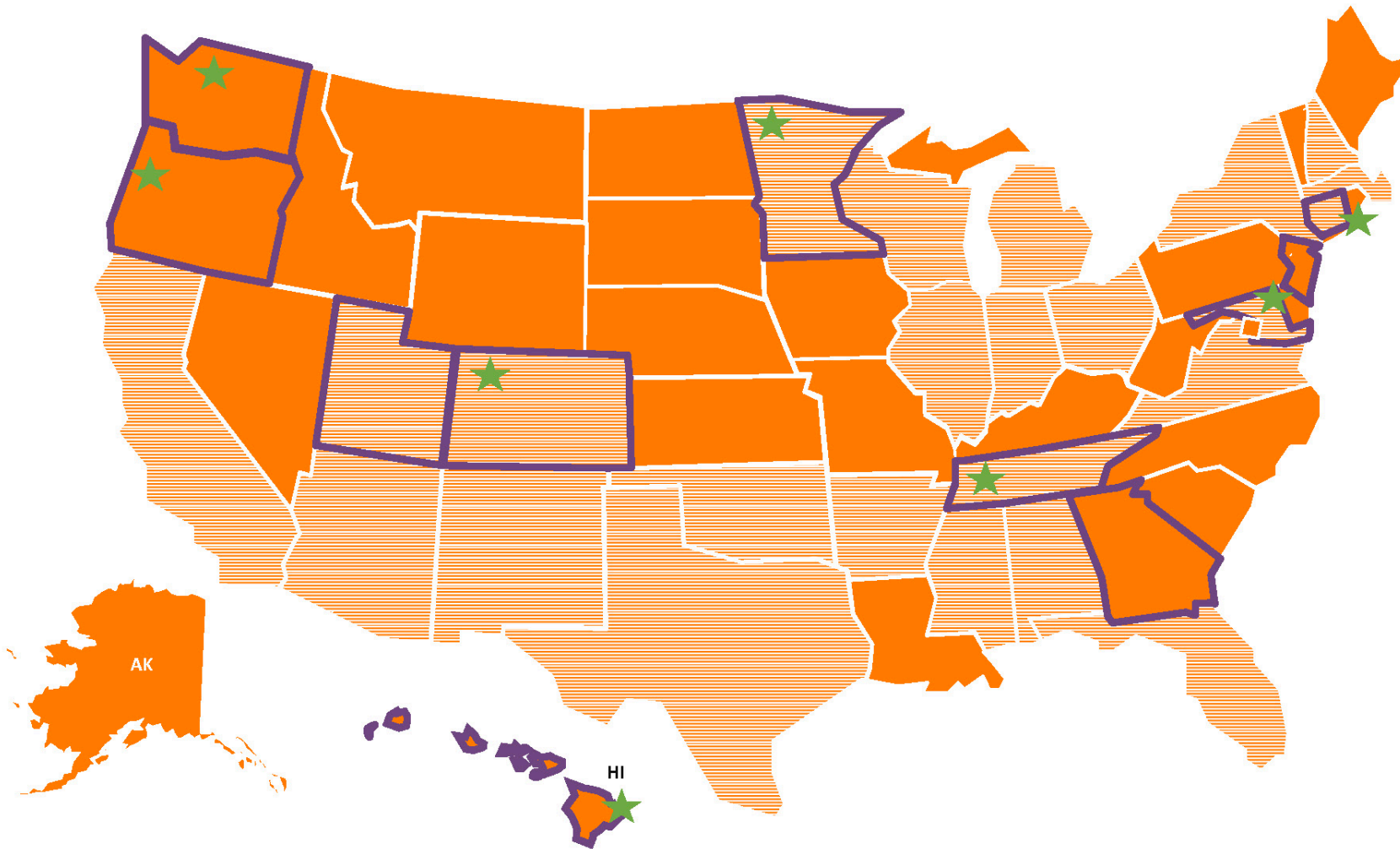
- 🗣️ Lack of clear collaboration partners and/or terms of agreement
- 🗣️ Staff buy-in and capacity
- 🗣️ Parent recruitment and retention
- 🗣️ Knowledge of and access to blended funding streams
- 🗣️ Policy barriers: lack of aligned resources and policies

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



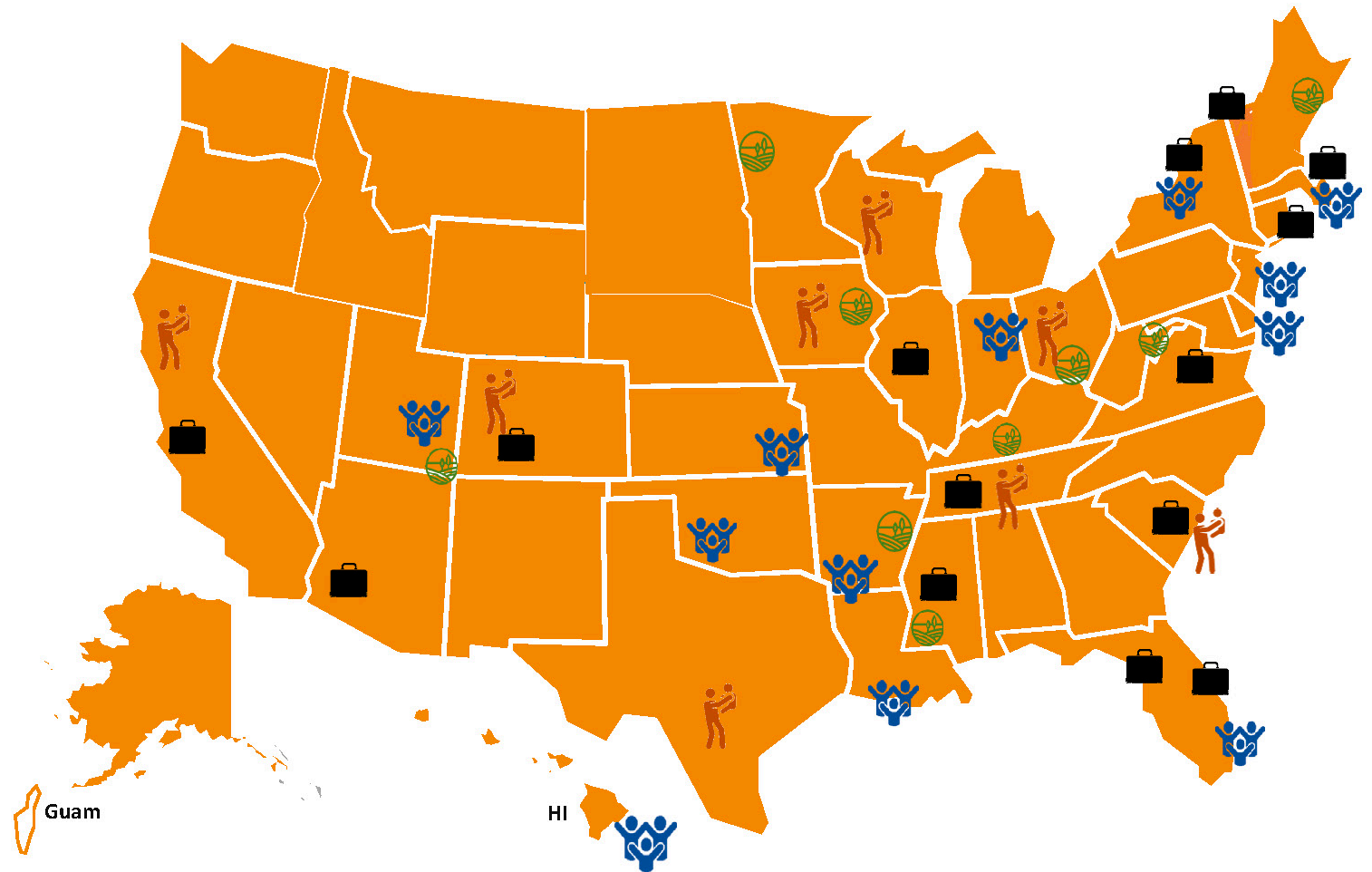
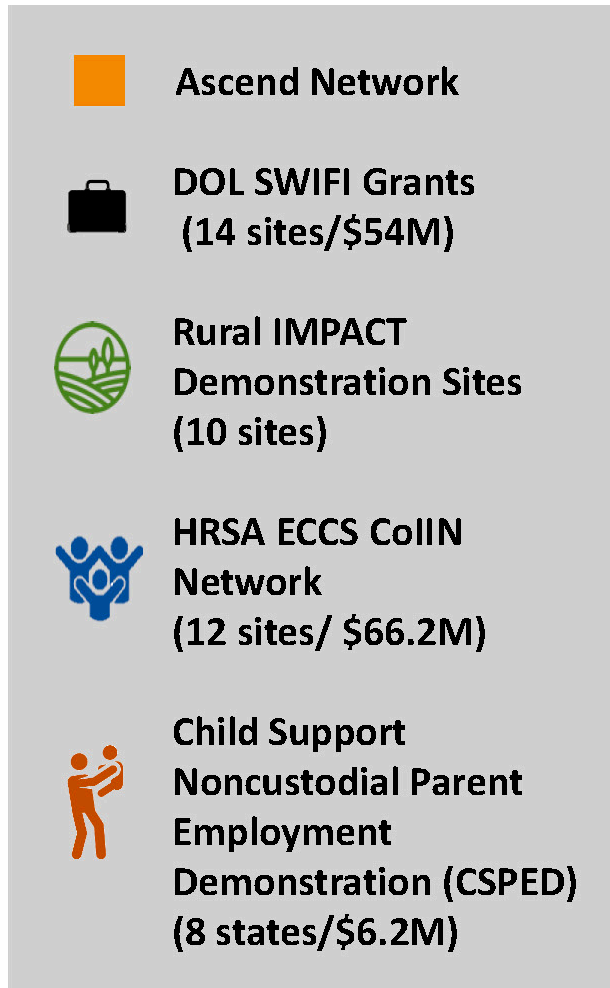
362 Ascend Network Partners active in **50** states and the District of Columbia, serving more than **3 million** people

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



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

MATHEMATICA
Policy Research

Northwestern | RESEARCH

2Gen Evaluability Assessment:



OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

Tools and Publications

A banner with a dark blue background. At the top, the text "TWO GENERATIONS. ONE FUTURE." is displayed in white, with a white speech bubble icon between the words. Below this, a paragraph of white text reads: "Ascend at the Aspen Institute is a hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. Ascend takes a two-generation approach to our work — focusing on children and their parents together — and we bring a gender and racial equity lens to our analysis." In the center, there is an orange button with the text "LEARN MORE" in white. At the bottom, there is a horizontal bar with four colored segments (orange, blue, green, purple) and the words "RESOURCES", "NETWORK", "FELLOWS", and "POLICY" in white capital letters.

PLACE MATTERS

Place matters in the lives of families. Homes are the anchor for families. For one, health is years of Affordable Service is a set of public



**MAKING TOMORROW BETTER
TOGETHER**

A GUIDE TO OUTCOMES FOR ZGEN POLICYMAKERS

STANLEY JACOB LIEBOWITZ
JANUARY 1996



Healthy Families Checklist

The chart also outlines specific HeadStart policies and design choices adopted in Colorado to implement a two-generation approach to improve the lives of children and families.

How Colorado Medicaid implements a two-generation approach to support families in Colorado

Medicaid provides health insurance coverage to low-income children, pregnant women, parents, and caregivers across the nation. At this large scale, Medicaid builds the well-being of millions of young children and their families, so they can reach their full potential. Using a five-generation framework, Medicaid can be designed to support the social capital, health and well-being, educational attainment, and economic security of children and families, together so they can maximize their health and their

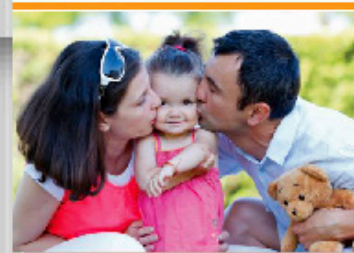


FRAMING TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES TO SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Graduate from the PeaceWorks Institute



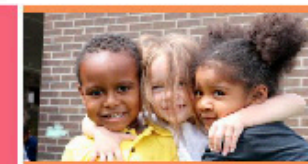
BUILDING A THRIVING TENNESSEE
A 2025 APPROACH



THE FATHER FACTOR

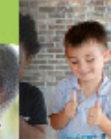
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GOOD+

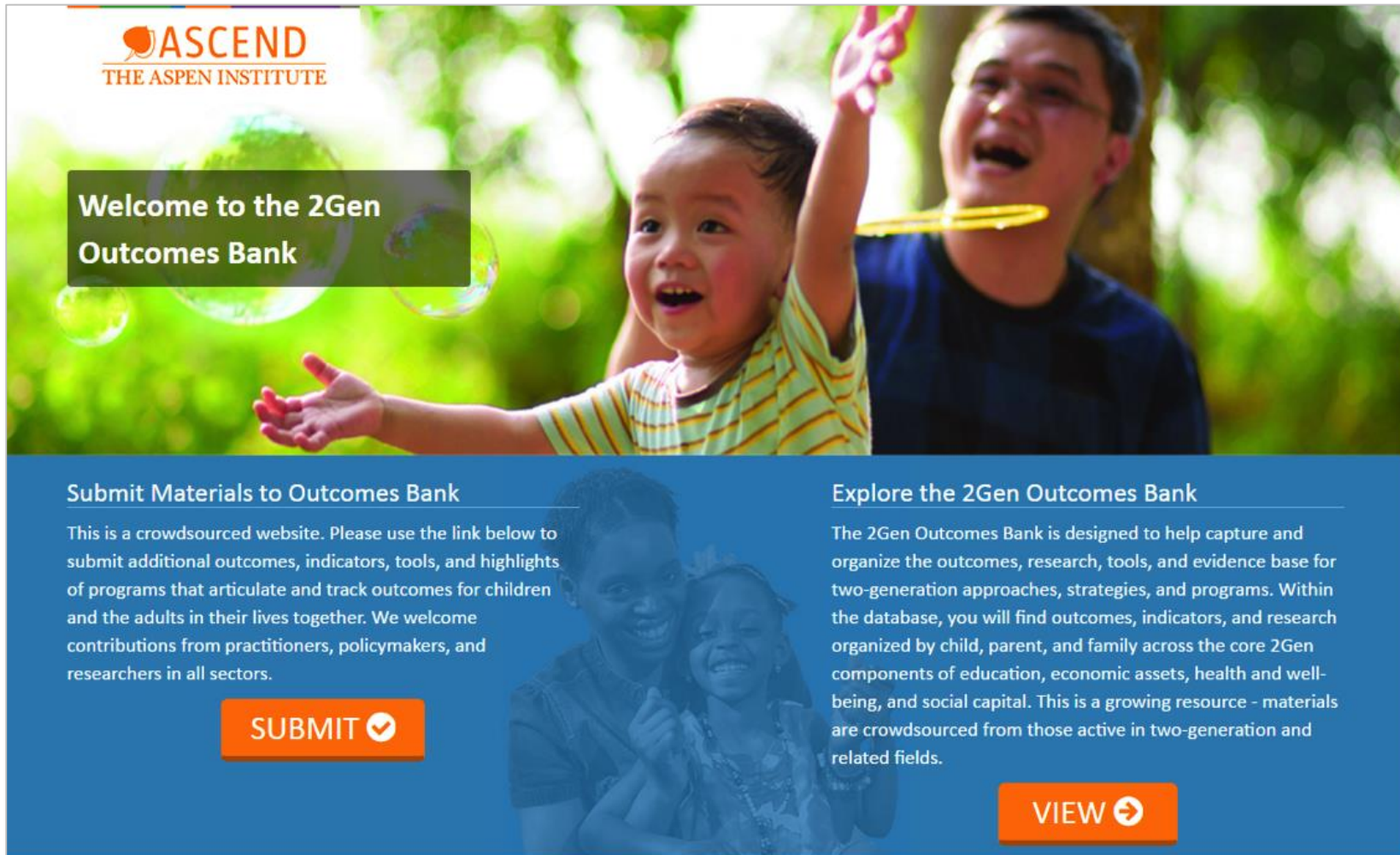


What are the Effects of Two-Generation Human Capital Program on Children's Outcomes in Head Start?

OTHER FACTOR



Outcomes Bank



ASCEND
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

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.

SUBMIT ✓

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.

VIEW ➔

Stay Connected!

