TWO-GENERATION STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC MOBILITY

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Too often education, training, and social support programs fail to recognize that their students/participants/clients are members of a family, and that the progress and outcomes of any one family member is closely tied to the progress and outcomes of other family members.

This narrow focus limits the impact of these traditional investments on intergenerational poverty, educational attainment, and family economic security.
Strong evidence that child and parent outcomes are interlinked and that there are long-term, negative consequences to growing up in poverty:

- Children whose mothers have < HS diploma are more likely to live in poverty and less likely to: be in preschool; be on grade level in reading or mathematics; graduate from high school; have health insurance than children whose mothers have a bachelor’s degree

- Parental stress and poor mental health have been linked to impaired child development across a broad range of measures.

Parents with higher education levels have more stable employment and related benefits that allow them to make greater investments to support their child’s development.
TOWARDS A FAMILY FOCUS

The Two-Generation Continuum

- child-focused
- child-focused with parent elements e.g., parenting skills or family literacy
- whole family
- parent-focused with child elements e.g., child care subsidies or food assistance
- parent-focused

Source: Ascend at the Aspen Institute
> Align and coordinate programs for parents with programs for children across education, human, health, and other services.

> Develop services that support both generations together.

> Target improved outcomes across a range of educational, economic, health, and other factors.

> Engage with families over a long-time horizon to achieve lasting impacts and build resilience.
TARGETED OUTCOMES

PARENT
• Improved parenting skills
• Increased educational attainment
• Improved earnings, job stability, and job quality

CHILD
• Meets developmental milestones
• Increased executive functioning skills
• Improved school readiness and achievement

FAMILY
• Increased economic security
• Increased literacy
• Increased engagement
• Increased well-being

STRONGER COMMUNITIES
REFERENCES

> Creating Opportunity for Families http://www.aecf.org/


> Transforming U.S. Workforce Development Policies https://www.kansascityfed.org/

> Two-Generation Approaches http://jff.org/