

TWO GENERATIONS. ONE FUTURE. ASPEN INSTITUTE ASCEND NETWORK

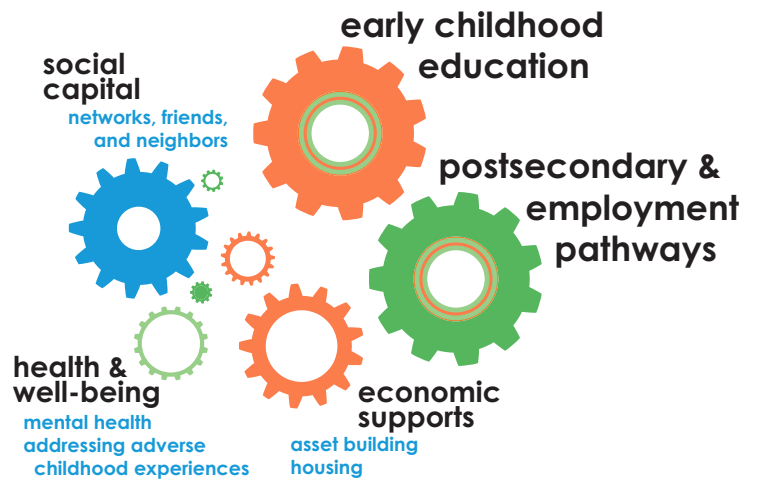
To learn more about Ascend at the Aspen Institute and two-generation approaches, visit:
 web: ascend.aspeninstitute.org [@aspenscend](https://twitter.com/aspenscend) [/aspenscend](https://facebook.com/aspenscend)



The goal of the Aspen Institute Ascend Network is to mobilize empowered two-generation organizations and leaders to influence policy and practice changes that increase economic security, educational success, social capital, and health and well-being for children, parents, and their families. Two-generation approaches meet the needs of and provide opportunities for children and their parents together. The Ascend Network

is comprised of leading organizations and experts working to create a portfolio of two-generation solutions through practice, policy, evidence building, and political will.

TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES



NETWORK MEMBERS



NETWORK THEMES

Platforms for Scale

Head Start
 Community colleges
 United Ways
 Women's Funds & Community Foundations
 Community Action Agencies
 Promise Neighborhoods

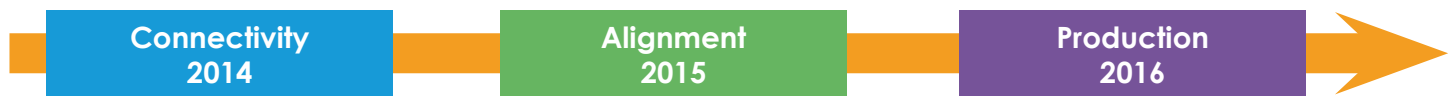
State Policy Innovations

Early childhood
 Human services
 Postsecondary education
 Measuring impact

Evidence Building

Executive function
 Cultural competence
 Technology and apps
 Justice-involved families

BUILDING A RESULTS-FOCUSED NETWORK



Using the best of network theory,¹ Ascend is building a results-focused action and learning network. This includes thoughtful development of connections among members (connectivity); fostering a shared identity and value proposition (alignment); and accomplishing specific goals (production).

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND COMMITMENTS

Network members receive targeted support and tools, including peer technical assistance, in-person and virtual action and learning convenings, and access to the Aspen Institute's online and media platforms. Action Partners and Learning Partners receive exclusive invitations to the Aspen ThinkXChange, the premier, national two-generation convening.

Ascend Network members are invited to participate in opportunities to deepen connections, accelerate learning, and leverage the Aspen Institute platform. During the next two

¹ Plastrik, P. & Taylor, M. (2006) Net Gains: A Handbook for Network Builders Seeking Social Change. Retrieved from <http://networkimpact.org/downloads/NetGainsHandbookVersion1.pdf>

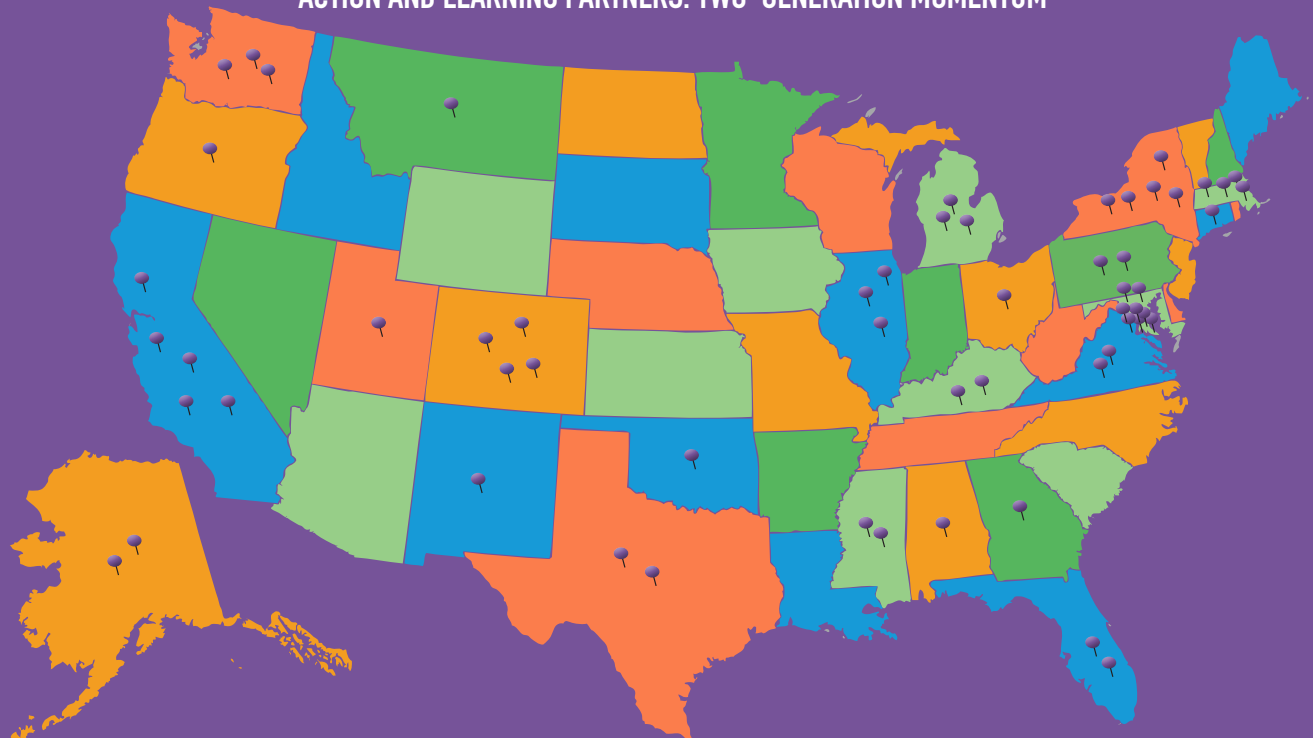
years, Network members will identify, design, scale, and share:

- New two-generation models that integrate early childhood education, postsecondary education, economic supports, social capital, and health and well-being;
- Best and next practices to build family resilience and new mindsets among practitioners and policy experts;
- Technology and storytelling as tools for greater impact; and
- Effective approaches to leveraging and aligning resources.

"I'm going to make sure that she is more ambitious than me. I'm going to make sure she hangs around the right kids and gets a network going in school and college."

- From focus group with low-income Latina mothers
Los, Angeles, California, 2011

ACTION AND LEARNING PARTNERS: TWO-GENERATION MOMENTUM



ASCEND NETWORK ACTION PARTNERS

Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

California | http://www.nhsa.org/initiatives_and_partnerships/abriendo_puertas__opening_doors_network
Building on their successful, evidence-based parent engagement curriculum for Latino parents of children 0-5, Abriendo Puertas will develop and launch a free bilingual mobile application ("app") to scale the curriculum beyond the 30,000 families reached to date. The goal of the app is to improve parent and child outcomes by providing families with information to strengthen their children's education outcomes, increase their access to economic supports, and build social capital.

ANDRUS

New York | <http://andruscc.org>
ANDRUS, a child- and family-centered social service organization, will develop a tool that uses predictive analytics to help assess a child's risk for exposure to toxic stress. This tool has the potential to break the intergenerational impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by enabling ANDRUS - and other service providers - to undertake early involvement, engagement, and intervention with both children and their parents.

AVANCE, Inc.

National | <http://www.avance.org>
Evidence-based criteria are often used to evaluate and increase funding for programs that target vulnerable populations, like the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program; however, there are no consistent evidence-based criteria and protocol across funding streams. Thus, the pathway to move from the status of a "promising" to an "evidence-based" program is confusing and challenging. A task force will explore streamlining and standardizing the process to meet evidence-based standards at both the state and federal level with an emphasis on maintaining rigor while also easing the process by which promising programs are evaluated in order to, ultimately, expand the reach of two-generation programs.

Bell Policy Center

Colorado | <http://bellpolicy.org>
The Bell Policy Center will advance a number of two-generation policy solutions in Colorado in several key areas, including: postsecondary education reform to expand opportunities for

adult academic success; a restructuring of the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program to increase quality and affordability while removing barriers to economic self-sufficiency; an expansion of the reach and impact of Adult Basic Education, with a focus on pathways to postsecondary education and credentials; expanded access to quality services for young children, including early childhood education; and a continued pursuit of new strategies to reform Colorado's restrictive budget structure.

CASA de Maryland

New York | <http://casademaryland.org>
CASA, the largest Latino and immigrant organization in Maryland, will leverage their U.S. Department of Education Investing in Innovation and Promise Neighborhood grants, along with Ascend Fund resources, to implement Learning Together, a two-generation, place-based parent engagement initiative to build parents' skills, confidence, and social capital to foster their children's early literacy. Ascend Fund resources will specifically support work to pilot, evaluate, and refine the family literacy component.

Center for Institutional and Social Change, Columbia Law School

New York | <http://www.changecenter.org>
Building on previous work with College and Community Fellowship, the Center for Institutional and Social Change, in collaboration with the New York Reentry Network, will create a research-based program model, tool set, and a knowledge base that will enable the pilot of a collective impact, two-generation strategy by a network of organizations focused on educational access for formerly incarcerated adults - specifically serving parents and caregivers.

Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office

Mississippi | <http://www.cdf-sro.org>
The Children's Defense Fund's Southern Regional Office (CDF/SRO) will develop a two-generation pilot that will support 25 African-American single mothers and their children in achieving educational success through access to early childhood and postsecondary education. The families are part of the CDF/SRO Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids early learning initiative in the Promise Neighborhood of Indianola, Mississippi. In addition to education and financial literacy training, an expanded early learning home visiting program and intensive

case management will help each family improve their social capital.

Community Action Project of Tulsa County

Oklahoma | <http://captulsa.org>

Community Action Project of Tulsa County (CAP) will build on their successful track record with CareerAdvance®, one of the premier two-generation programs in the country, which provides sectoral workforce training for health careers to parents of children in 0-5 early learning centers. CAP Tulsa will develop new programming for parents of children in their 0-5 early learning centers, who are English language learners, a growing and marginalized population within the spectrum of low-income families.

Crittenton Women's Union

Massachusetts | <http://liveworkthrive.org>

Crittenton Women's Union will develop an intergenerational economic mobility demonstration project that builds pathways towards economic independence for low-income adults while achieving educational readiness and success outcomes for their children. The program will partner with the low-income parents of children being served at a new learning center outside Boston, MA. The strategy is built on the concept of co-investment, so that families assess their level of motivation and commitment to program participation before services are offered. Once on board, the families will be coached through a team approach to set and achieve goals in the areas of economic mobility.

Endicott College Boston

Massachusetts | <http://www.endicott.edu/VanLoan/Boston>

In partnership with the Jeremiah Program, Endicott College's new Boston center will implement a pilot program with a cohort of 12-15 students, made up exclusively of low-income, single mothers and their children. This program will provide postsecondary coursework for families currently served by Boston's robust network of Head Start and quality early learning programs. Through empowerment and life skills training, high-context coaching, career-track postsecondary education, and access to quality early education for children, this pilot builds on the best elements of two-generation programs led by two Ascend Fellows.

Focus: HOPE

Michigan | <http://www.focushope.edu>

The HOPE Village Initiative is a two-generation, place-based community change initiative around the Detroit Focus: HOPE campus. As part of the initiative, they will launch a Parent Learning Exchange. The Exchange will build supports and connections for parents of children at the Center for Children to enhance the self-sufficiency of the family and the foundations of early learning. Specifically, they will engage parents via social media tools to archive and record stories of achievements in the neighborhood.

Harvard University, Graduate School of Education

New York | <http://www.gse.harvard.edu>

Dr. Stephanie M. Jones and staff will develop, implement, and evaluate a two-generation program that supports low-income children's academic and social-emotional development while simultaneously building skills and social capital among their parents. Working in two South Bronx schools, the project will extend an intervention that targets self-regulation and executive function skills in PreK-3rd grade classrooms (SECURE: Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Understanding and Regulation in education), and launch an aligned set of parent-focused strategies that build knowledge, skills, and social support among parents.

Hostos Community College

New York | <http://www.hostos.cuny.edu>

Hostos Community College, part of the City University of New York college system, will pilot a two-generation program targeting low-income student-parents that will accelerate degree completion through free summer courses (often not covered through financial aid programs), while simultaneously engaging their children in high quality intensive educational programming through an onsite learning center and summer camp.

Los Angeles Valley College

California | <http://www.lavc.cc.ca.us>

The Los Angeles Valley Community College, one of nine campuses within one of the largest and most diverse community college systems in the country, will increase the educational, economic, and social outcomes for student-parents and young children by replicating a family resource center on multiple community college campuses within the Los Angeles area and beyond.

Montana Budget and Policy Center

Montana | <http://www.montanabudget.org>

The Montana Budget and Policy Center will build the evidence base for policy reform at the state and national levels to raise labor standards, recalibrate risk between employers and employees, and reflect the 21st century labor market of underemployed and jobless workers and their families. With a focus on single mothers and the Native American population, the Center will examine the labor market disconnect with two public programs that currently provide the bulk of assistance to able-bodied workers who are jobless – Unemployment Insurance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

National Council of La Raza

National | <http://www.nclr.org>

National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States, will identify quality standards for two-generation programs serving immigrant Latino parents and their children in early childhood education and adult education/workforce development programs. NCLR will package these standards into a toolkit for the field, to include case studies and recommendations on core components of two-generation programs.

National Head Start Association

National | <http://www.nhsa.org>

The National Head Start Association's Two Generations Together project will increase awareness of two-generation adult education and job training models that complement early learning programs across the Head Start and early childhood education fields. The project will provide in-depth information about effective two-generation Head Start program models and disseminate funding strategies and resources in order to replicate and expand the number and scope of innovative two-generation Head Start programs across the United States.

National Human Services Assembly

National | <http://www.nassembly.org>

The National Human Services Assembly will identify administrative policy barriers and effective “work-arounds” related to two-generation programs that help reconnect out-of-school and out-of-work young people (15-24) who have dependent children. Motivated by practitioners' stated need for a better understanding of how to negotiate barriers,

the project will result in increased use of two-generation approaches by individual programs as well as policy recommendations that could systemically increase support for two-generation approaches.

The JeffCo Prosperity Project

Colorado | <http://www.jeffcoschoolsfoundation.org/jeffco-prosperity-project.html>

The JeffCo Prosperity Project (with The Action Center as its fiscal agent) will use a two-generation approach to address growing poverty in suburban metro-Denver. The Action Center will partner with Jefferson County Human Services and the JeffCo Schools Foundation to realign and better connect education, health, mental health, job training, and other supports for children and parents. The pilot will begin with 20 Head Start children and their families through the completion of the 3rd grade.

The Manaus Fund - Valley Settlement Project

Colorado | <http://www.manausfund.org/partners/valley-settlement-project/>

The Valley Settlement Project is a two-generation approach to improving the outcomes of children and adults living in poverty between Aspen and Glenwood Springs, Colorado. The project goals are to cultivate child school readiness and elementary achievement, and increase parent economic stability through education/skill building and improved social capital. Six interconnected programs provide services to children and families, including the Parent Mentor Program, which trains parents to help students in classrooms while also receiving their own professional development. Ascend Fund resources will support the evaluation, coordination, and improved reporting of results of the Parent Mentor program.

The National Crittenton Foundation

National | <http://www.nationalcrittenton.org>

The National Crittenton Foundation (TNCF) and its family of agencies support girls, young women, and their families in overcoming major obstacles and toxic stress. TNCF implemented the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) survey in its 27 affiliate agencies, and will develop and disseminate a toolkit, “Understanding ACEs: Impact on Policy and Practice from a Two-Generation Approach” (working title) for service providers, advocates, and policymakers.

The University of Chicago

Illinois | <http://www.uchicago.edu>

Dr. Ariel Kalil and Dr. Susan Mayer and their team at the Center for Human Potential at the Harris School of Public Policy will collaborate with Children's Home + Aid, a Head Start provider and one of the oldest and most respected social service agencies in Chicago. Together they will pilot a curriculum called "It All Adds Up," combining apps for tablets and videos to a) instruct and demonstrate for parents how to develop and practice math talk in everyday activities with their child; and b) provide culturally relevant basic financial literacy information to parents.

The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham

Alabama | <http://www.womensfundbirmingham.org>

The Women's Fund of Greater Birmingham will collaborate with a community college, early childhood site, and local Walgreens stores to implement a two-generation pilot. The pilot, "Tech Support: Prescription for Success," provides a fast track workforce program for low-income women that leads to higher wages, benefits, and opportunities for advancement as pharmacy technicians, an in-demand career in Birmingham. At the same time, it offers quality, customized early education programs for their children.

United Way for a Greater Austin

Texas | <http://www.unitedwayaustin.org>

United Way for a Greater Austin will develop a multi-partner collaborative two-generation approach that pairs superior community-based workforce development through Austin Community College training programs for parents with high-quality community-based early education services for children. The project will be led by a two-generation coordinator to streamline partnership development.

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

Ohio and Kentucky | <http://www.uwgc.org>

Applying lessons from the human-centered design field, the United Way of Greater Cincinnati will develop a two-generation program for their tri-state Partners for a Competitive Workforce program. It will design a program targeting mothers that supports their participation in the advanced manufacturing workforce program and provides their children access to STEM educational programs. This United Way will test whether children's participation in STEM educational programs can be designed

to be mutually reinforcing of their mother's participation in this non-traditional career field.

Utah Children

Utah | <http://www.utahchildren.org>

Recently passed state legislation in Utah created a framework for substantive discussion and action to address intergenerational poverty, including the development of five- and ten-year state action plans. As a member of the state Advisory Committee for this effort, Utah Children will document the results and process of Utah's intergenerational poverty initiative and share new policy solutions and improved frontline case management practices with other states.

Washington State Budget & Policy Center

Washington | <http://budgetandpolicy.org>

The Washington State Budget and Policy Center, in partnership with the Statewide Poverty Action Network, will develop a cross-sector campaign to reform the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program using a two-generation approach that aims to improve family economic security by strengthening low-income parents' career pathways to living wage jobs and also improving access to affordable, high-quality early learning opportunities.

Women's Foundation of Mississippi

Mississippi | <http://www.womensfoundationms.org>

The Women's Foundation of Mississippi will develop and implement a two-generation approach at two Mississippi community colleges, connecting high-quality early childhood education and postsecondary education for female student parents and their children. The Foundation will partner with local organizations, including those providing public and mixed-income housing, to create a toolkit that other community colleges can adapt and apply.

ASCEND NETWORK LEARNING PARTNERS

All Our Kin

Connecticut | <http://www.allourkin.org>

All Our Kin trains, supports, and sustains community child care providers to ensure that children and families have the foundation they need to succeed in school and in life. All Our Kin programs help child care professionals succeed as business owners; working parents find stable, high-quality care for their children; and children,

the workforce of tomorrow, gain an educational foundation that lays the groundwork for achievement in school and beyond.

Asociacion Puertorriquenos en Marcha

Pennsylvania | <http://www.apmphila.org>

Through a comprehensive array of life-improving social services, Asociacion Puertorriquenos en Marcha (APM) quickly assesses and institutes meaningful remedies for societal problems prevalent in today's world. APM creates job opportunities, aids individuals with debilitating illnesses, revitalizes neighborhoods, and supports families and individuals with caring and compassion.

Children's Home Society of Washington

Washington | <http://www.childrenshomesociety.org>

The Children's Home Society of Washington works to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children.

Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Florida | <http://www.cfsarasota.org>

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County uses partnership and collaboration to make charitable giving work in Sarasota County. The Foundation is the anchor partner for a two-generation pilot with Alta Vista Elementary School and the local Red Cross.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Alaska | <http://citci.org>

Cook Inlet Tribal Council works in partnership to develop opportunities that tap the ability, confidence, and courage of the Alaska Native community.

Educational Alliance

New York | <http://www.edalliance.org>

Educational Alliance offers a wide range of programs that integrate education, social services, arts, and recreation throughout Downtown Manhattan. As a Jewish organization, Educational Alliance serves people of diverse ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds that live, work, and learn in New York City. Educational Alliance strives to nourish the total person, strengthen family connections, and build inclusive communities.

Evanston Community Foundation

Illinois | <http://evanstonforever.org>

The Evanston Community Foundation works

to help Evanston thrive now and forever as a vibrant, inclusive, and just community, by building, connecting, and distributing resources and knowledge through local organizations for the common good. The Foundation is the anchor partner for a two-generation pilot with local early childhood centers and Northwestern University.

Family Independence Initiative

National | <http://www.fii.org>

The Family Independence Initiative enables America to see the power and potential of low-income families, and enable families to come together and access the resources they want to thrive. The organization catalyzes a marketplace of opportunity and investment for low-income families in the U.S. and helps create a movement that transforms the stereotypes, practices, and policies that currently undermine families' efforts to get ahead.

Family Resource Center Association

Colorado | <http://www.cofamilycenters.org>

The Family Resource Center Association provides public advocacy, capacity building, and resource development to strengthen its statewide network of family resource centers as they bring help and hope to Colorado families.

Family Scholar House, Inc.

Kentucky | <http://www.familyscholarhouse.org>

Family Scholar House works to end the cycle of poverty by giving single-parent students the support they need to earn a four-year college degree.

First Alaskans Institute

Alaska | <http://www.firstalaskans.org>

True to identity, heritage, and values, the First Alaskans Institute supports Alaska Natives in being informed and engaged in leading the decisions that shape their future.

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc.

Maryland | <http://www.garrettcac.org>

Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. works to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more self-sufficient with essential services in collaboration and cooperation with partners.

LIFT

National | <http://www.liftcommunities.org>

LIFT helps community members achieve economic stability and well-being by working to

establish a new standard for holistic and enduring solutions in America's fight against poverty.

Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy

California | <http://www.laane.org>

LAANE is a leading advocacy organization dedicated to building a new economy for all. Combining dynamic research, innovative policy, and the organizing of broad alliances, LAANE promotes good jobs and thriving communities.

Northern Virginia Community College

Virginia | <http://www.nvcc.edu>

With a commitment to the values of access, opportunity, student success, and excellence, Northern Virginia Community College delivers world-class in-person and online postsecondary teaching, learning, and workforce development to ensure the Commonwealth of Virginia and surrounding communities have an educated population and globally competitive workforce.

Ounce of Prevention Fund

Illinois | <http://www.ounceofprevention.org>

The Ounce of Prevention Fund gives children in poverty the best chance for success in school and in life by advocating for and providing the highest quality care and education from birth to age five.

Partners for Education at Berea College

Kentucky | <http://www.partners.berea.edu>

A private, liberal arts institution, Berea College is renowned for its institutional commitment to the Appalachian region. Much of Berea's service to Appalachia is led by the college department Partners for Education, which builds partnerships with community groups, business and schools to improve educational outcomes in Appalachian Kentucky.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Advisory Council

Pennsylvania | <http://www.phila.gov/ParksandRecreation/getinvolved/Pages/AdvisoryCouncils.aspx>

The Philadelphia Recreation Advisory Council is a partnership between community members and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation created to provide supports and services that meet the recreational needs of Philadelphians.

Prosperity Works

New Mexico | <http://prosperityworks.net>

Prosperity Works builds the capacity of organizations and advocates for policies that

generate economic prosperity for all New Mexicans.

Reach Out and Read

Massachusetts | <http://www.reachoutandread.org>

Reach Out and Read prepares America's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encourage families to read together.

Sheltering Arms / Atlanta Civic Site

Georgia | <http://www.shelteringarmsforkids.com>

Sheltering Arms serves working families with high quality, affordable child care and education and comprehensive support services, and provides professional development for early childhood educators and community outreach. Sheltering arms is part of the Atlanta Civic Site, a neighborhood initiative that works with parents to ensure they have access to employment and asset-building opportunities and their children are on a path to educational success.

The Elizabeth Ministry

District of Columbia | <http://www.theelizabethministry.org>

Elizabeth Ministry supports the positive development of pregnant, parenting, and disconnected female youth at risk of becoming pregnant. The organization supports their development into healthy, contributing, empowered young women, capable of loving and nurturing their children, and investing in their own self-development if they are comprehensively supported and encouraged.

The SOURCE, Inc.

Michigan | <http://www.grsource.org>

The SOURCE is an employee support organization designed to help employees keep their jobs, receive training to enhance their employment, and move into better positions within or across companies by utilizing the best resources of the government, area nonprofits, and private employers.

United Way of the Bay Area

California | <http://www.uwba.org>

The United Way of the Bay Area is a catalyst that enables people to strengthen their communities by investing in one another.

Urban Institute

National | <http://www.urban.org>

The Urban Institute gathers data, conducts research, evaluates programs, offers technical

assistance overseas, and educates Americans on social and economic issues to foster sound public policy and effective government.

Vera Institute

National | <http://www.vera.org>

The Vera Institute of Justice combines expertise in research, demonstration projects, and technical assistance to help leaders in government and civil society improve the systems people rely on for justice and safety.

Visible Men Academy

Florida | <http://www.vmacademy.org>

Visible Men Academy is an all boys K-8 public charter school that provides boys with outstanding academic, character and social development in a nurturing school environment. Through an innovative Parent Success Program, VMA will identify the most prominent needs of our parents to coordinate community resources and support to position parents to be strong advocates for their children's education and for their own future.

Washington Area Women's Foundation

District of Columbia | <http://thewomensfoundation.org>

The Washington Area Women's Foundation mobilizes the community to ensure that economically vulnerable women and girls in the Washington region have the resources they need to thrive.

Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP

Washington | <http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com>

Washington State Association of Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Programs (ECEAP) are champions for high quality early learning through professional development, collaboration and advocacy for Head Start, Early Head Start, and ECEAP.

West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology

Michigan | <http://www.wmcat.org>

Through innovative, impactful programs in career training and arts engagement, the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology provides a culture of opportunity for people to make economic and social progress in their lives.

ASCEND FELLOWS

Katie Albright

As Executive Director of the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center, Katie Albright is developing and implementing a framework to improve social capital – trusted networks and connections – and mental health outcomes for children and their parents together. This framework, part of the “Strengthening Families” approach, includes a pilot program assessing families' mental health needs and connecting families to other services, including partner organizations such as the Children's Advocacy Center. Through the project, Katie and her team will also develop new tools to measure two-generation risk factors and implement an action plan for linking families to services within and beyond the child welfare system. By identifying and responding to the needs of children and their parents, and measuring the impact of services on each child and adult, the agency will prevent child abuse and bolster its capacity to support high-need families across two generations.

Cara Aley

In her previous position as the Chief Operations Officer of American Mojo, Cara Aley gained valuable insight into running a mission-driven company with a two-generation lens. American Mojo was a social venture providing single mothers in Lowell, Massachusetts, with living-wage factory jobs and professional development, paired with quality child care and health benefits. Cara will soon build on these lessons with a new social enterprise focused on single mothers and entrepreneurship in the Bay Area.

Reggie Bicha

Reggie Bicha is the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services. He is leading a system-wide integration of the two-generation approach across this state agency with more than 5,000 employees and a \$2 billion budget. He hopes to demonstrate how a state agency can produce measurable outcomes for children and families through a three-pronged focus. These include:

- Developing a dual approach to employment for both parents (including custodial parents through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and non-custodial parents through child support) to improve parent and child economic well-being;
- Increasing pathways for children of low-income families to realize a college education and learn financial savings habits through matched college funds; and
- Increasing the percentage of children in low-income families participating in high-quality child care, leading to improved kindergarten readiness for these children.

Reggie's two-generation action plan builds on studies that have shown early development of financial habits based on saving may last a lifetime, as well as research that has demonstrated that children who participate in high-quality child care are more prepared for kindergarten and achieve better long-term outcomes. He is also committed to shifting the culture and viewpoint of policy makers to recognize that child care for all children is more than just a work support for parents, and in fact, is an important educational strategy for Colorado.

Mia Birdsong

Mia Birdsong is Vice President at Family Independence Initiative (FII), an organization dedicated to supporting the self-determination of low-income people and communities.

Mia is developing a toolkit for families seeking to employ the principles of social capital in their own lives and communities. The toolkit will support children and their parents by identifying the key components central to developing strong social capital, taking lessons from FII's work in Oakland, California; Boston, Massachusetts; and New Orleans, Louisiana, as well as the work of FII Fellows, a program of twenty leaders from families who have participated in FII that launched in the fall of 2013.

Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale is the Associate Provost for Faculty at Northwestern University and a Professor of Social Policy and Human Development in the school's Institute for

Policy Research. In partnership with the Evanston Community Foundation, Dr. Chase-Lansdale is applying lessons learned from the Community Action Project of Tulsa County's CareerAdvance® to a two-generation program in Evanston, Illinois. CareerAdvance® provides skills training and postsecondary education to parents of children enrolled in the organization's Head Start and Early Head Start centers. At the same time, she is using her experiences to author new research that will review and critique the theories and empirical evidence for a two-generation approach in moving young families toward educational success and economic security.

Dr. Chase-Lansdale is also partnering with Ascend Fellows Dr. Mario Small and Henry Wilde to promote social capital – trusted networks and connections – among parents in Head Start centers.

Karla Davis

In her former position with the Tennessee Department of Labor, Karla Davis became interested in how state programs targeting one population – either parents or children – could be transformed to support the whole family's move toward educational success and economic security. Currently, Karla is working on a study of the barriers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors that prevent families from accessing two-generation resources and services. This study will be part of the *Aspen Institute Anthology on Two-Generation Solutions* to be published in 2014.

Steven Dow

Steven Dow has served as Executive Director of Community Action Project of Tulsa (CAP) since 1992. CAP's anti-poverty strategy focuses on providing high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive family economic support through both direct services and public policy efforts. Under Steven's leadership, CAP has spearheaded one of the country's premier two-generation programs, CareerAdvance®, leveraging federal grants such as the Health Profession Opportunity Grant (HPOG) to support workforce development partnerships for Tulsa parents. In the 20 years Steven has been leading the organization, it has grown from a small agency with a staff of 2 and budget of \$165,000

to one with an annual operating budget of \$53 million and a staff of nearly 600. CAP currently serves 2,100 young children in its early education program, and its economic support programs reach more than 18,000 Tulsa households annually. CAP has received national recognition for its innovative and effective approaches, having been honored in the initial class of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Counts National Honors program, selected as a member of the Fannie Mae Foundation Alliance, named as a National Head Start Center of Excellence, and the recipient of both Choice and Promise Neighborhoods planning grants.

Dr. Christopher King

Dr. Christopher King is the Director of the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources and a lecturer at The University of Texas at Austin's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Dr. King is spearheading the development and publication of the *Aspen Institute Anthology on Two-Generation Solutions*, written by leading experts from across sectors to highlight the opportunities, challenges, and implications for practice, policy, and research.

Building on the work of the Community Action Project of Tulsa's CareerAdvance® model, for which he serves as an evaluator, Dr. King hopes to replicate best practices from a strong workforce development component for parents in programs that primarily serve children. He is also developing a state policy overview for policy experts and leaders, highlighting opportunities to integrate services for children and their parents together through blended funding streams and evidence-based practices. Dr. King is also advising on the expansion of two-generation approaches with the United Way for a Greater Austin.

Andrea Levere

Andrea Levere is President of CFED (Corporation for Enterprise Development) and a leading expert on asset-building strategies for low-income American families. CFED is a \$12+ million dollar organization that works across more than forty states. CFED's Assets and Opportunity Network educated more than 830 state policy makers in 2012 alone. Andrea has been at the forefront of the development of children's savings accounts (CSAs), financial tools that provide children and

youth with savings to help them get ahead economically and transform their aspirations for the future. The impact of CSAs does not stop with children, however. CFED research shows that CSAs can have a positive impact on parents as well, as the accounts are a means to get low-income parents banked, increase their financial capability, and build their own long-term goals.

Andrea is designing and implementing CSA pilots in communities around the country to increase the financial resources and capabilities of low-income families. One of these pilots is with Reggie Bicha and the Colorado Department of Human Services to prototype CSAs for low-income children in the state. With this initiative, Andrea is demonstrating how large-scale systems can integrate and deliver CSAs successfully. She is also informing state and federal policy to improve economic stability for children and their parents together.

Steve Liss

Steve Liss, a former TIME photojournalist and the founder of AmericanPoverty.org, is telling the story of the change that is possible when families participate in two-generation programs. Through two powerful short documentaries and a series of photos, Steve has captured the strategies and outcomes of two-generation programs, including the Jeremiah Program, run by Ascend Fellow Gloria Perez; and Acelero Learning, founded by Ascend Fellow Henry Wilde. The films also tell the stories of the families who are moving toward educational success and economic security through these programs. These videos are being widely distributed to program leaders and policy makers. They are also part of a long-term strategy aimed at building momentum for two-generation approaches among young people, helping them to fulfill their potential as agents of social change through the AmericanPoverty.org Student Leadership Program.

Dr. Meera Mani

As Director of the Children, Families, and Communities Program at The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Dr. Meera Mani is creating conditions for healthy, stable, and thriving children and families by catalyzing a two-generation policy and communications strategy for the field. The Packard Foundation does annual grantmaking of more than \$250

million in both national and local grantmaking programs. Partnering with Ascend at the Aspen Institute, Dr. Mani is developing two-generation policy recommendations through an analysis and synthesis of promising solutions, changing demographics, and evidence-informed practice. In addition, she has supported Ascend in executing a communications strategy that captures a common narrative and lifts up the voices of families.

Dr. Mani is also designing a philanthropic strategy that uses the two-generation frame, targeting funding opportunities that improve outcomes for children 0 to 8 years old and the adults involved in their lives.

Dr. C. Nicole Mason

Dr. C. Nicole Mason, a visiting professor at Spelman College and the former Executive Director of the Women of Color Policy Network, is at work on a book, *Another Tomorrow: Poverty and the Meaning of Success and Opportunity in America Today*. The book will explore the opportunities and challenges of using public policy to move families toward educational success and economic security using a two-generation strategy, as well as her own personal journey as the daughter of a single mother and as a single mother herself. She is also examining the programs and policies that have been most effective in supporting women-led families to pass a legacy of opportunity from one generation to the next. Dr. Mason recently completed an Economic Security and Well-being Index for the five boroughs of New York, in partnership with the New York Women's Foundation.

Margaret McKenna

Margaret McKenna is the former President of the Walmart Foundation and President Emeritus of Lesley University. A lawyer by training, Margaret has produced two resource documents that provide an overview of workforce training programs and examine the impact of scholarship programs on low-income single mothers. As a member of the Boston School Committee, Margaret is also working on coordination of services for single parents and children in the Boston Public Schools.

Wes Moore

Wes Moore is a youth advocate, Army combat veteran, national bestselling author, and innovative social entrepreneur. His first book, *The Other Wes Moore*, became an instant New York Times bestseller. He is also the host of "Beyond Belief" on the Oprah Winfrey Network.

Reverend Vivian Nixon

Reverend Vivian Nixon, the Executive Director of College and Community Fellowship (CCF), is developing a two-generation model to provide formerly incarcerated mothers and their children with educational opportunities, economic supports, and access to stronger social capital, such as trusted networks and community organizations. CCF assists these women in pursuit of higher education, leadership skills, and career paths that lead to economic security. In 13 years of operation, CCF has maintained an 82 percent retention rate, an 80 percent graduation rate, and a recidivism rate of fewer than 2 percent. Many (40 percent) go on to earn an advanced degree.

As part of Rev. Nixon's efforts to integrate a two-generation approach into the New York City-based program, she is working with an evaluation and learning partner to incorporate access to health education, career development services, and early childhood development opportunities for students into existing CCF programming.

Dr. Eduardo Padrón

As the President of Miami Dade College (MDC), Dr. Eduardo Padrón is reimagining the student experience to ensure student parents achieve educational success and create a legacy of economic security for their children through a unique partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families. This partnership will improve and expand eligibility and access for students served by MDC's Single Stop service, which connects students with benefits. Dr. Padrón is leveraging the college's position in the community by directly connecting with a determined and resilient population of Miamians who are committed to their educational success and economic security. He is also revamping MDC's college prep curriculum, providing intensive pre-college "boot camp" preparation

for underprepared students, and offering mentor programming with local professionals as part of a focus on improving student supports.

Dr. Padrón's goal is for MDC students to enter the mainstream economy with the skills and knowledge to be successful, and to establish individual and family economic security through education completion and meaningful work opportunities.

Gloria Perez

As the President and Chief Executive Officer of Jeremiah Program, a leading nonprofit organization based in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, Gloria Perez has committed to scaling the program's impact for children and their mothers to cities around the country. Jeremiah Program helps single mothers and their children break the cycle of generational poverty. Currently, the Program is working with leaders in Austin, Texas, and Fargo, North Dakota, to replicate its model, which provides housing, and life and career coaching for single mothers enrolled in postsecondary education, as well as on-site high-quality early childhood education for their children. As part of this replication effort, Gloria is developing customizable options for other family-serving organizations to provide sustainable two-generation services to their communities.

In partnership with Ascend Fellow Dr. Richard Wylie, president of Endicott College, Gloria is also developing the Jeremiah-Endicott program, a collaboration that will address the barriers that prevent low-income single mothers and their children from realizing educational success. In its early stages, this partnership will offer access to quality early childhood education, empowerment and life skills training, coaching, and support for career-track education for low-income single mothers and their children. These families will all also have access to Endicott College's uniquely-designed cohort degree program.

Dr. Mario Small

Dr. Mario Small is currently the Dean of the Division of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago. This summer he will join the faculty at Harvard University. His qualitative and quantitative research in Boston, New York,

and Chicago has covered a number of issues relevant to the two-generation strategy: the dynamics behind social networks; the differences in the experience of poverty from city to city; the significance of organizational conditions for networks of mothers and children; and the relevance of inter-organizational relationships to the experience of poor people.

Dr. Small is using this experience to partner with Ascend Fellows Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale and Henry Wilde to promote social capital – trusted networks and connections – among parents in Head Start centers.

Henry Wilde

In his role as Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Acelero Learning, Henry Wilde oversees operations for the organization, which is explicitly dedicated to closing the achievement gap for young children served by Head Start. Mr. Wilde is partnering with Ascend Fellows Dr. P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale and Dr. Mario Small to promote social capital – which includes trusted networks and connections – among parents in Head Start centers. The team is organizing a pilot program at Acelero that tests the impact of intentionally created parental networks on child and family outcomes, and determines if leveraging these parental networks will support improved outcomes for their children in Head Start. The approach to the intervention is straightforward: at Acelero, a family advocate provides parents with resources, guidance, and instruction in parenting and child development. Parents are expected to pass these skills on to their child, whose test scores are used as a measurement of improvement. The pilot program is designed to create incentives for parents to share information and support and encourage each other. In this way, parental networks supplement the role of the family advocate. Results of the project will be released in 2014-2015.

Dr. Richard Wylie

Dr. Richard Wylie is President of Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, and founder of Keys to Degrees, an on-campus program for enrolled student parents and their children that provides housing as well as high-quality early childhood education. Dr. Wylie leads a team conducting programmatic research, elevating success stories, and influencing policy for

postsecondary education and student parents. Through this work, he hopes to expand the Keys to Degrees model from 11 colleges, with two emerging member universities, to 16. This national replication effort encourages and supports colleges and universities across the country to serve as pathways to economic security for vulnerable student parents. He also seeks to expand an alliance of colleges and universities with similar residential two-generation programs across the country, many of which have developed models based on Keys to Degrees. Dr. Wylie is also partnering with Ascend Fellow Gloria Perez through an emerging two-generation program at Endicott College's Boston campus to prototype a new model and delivery system that will increase the number of participants and reduce costs for institutions providing two-generation services.



ABOUT ASCEND

Ascend at the Aspen Institute is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move vulnerable children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. We take a two-generation approach to our work - focusing on children and their parents together. We bring a gender and a racial equity lens to our analysis.

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