

THE 2GEN INVESTMENT CASE

MAKING THE MOST OF CAPITAL IN ALL ITS FORMS



ascend
aspen institute

DEAR COLLEAGUE,

Philanthropy is uniquely positioned to seed innovation and spark movements needed to help families in diverse communities across the US build prosperity and well-being. Since 2010, philanthropy has fueled a new movement of practitioners, systems leaders, and policymakers that are re-embracing a two-generation (2Gen) approach. The goal is to build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously supporting children and the adults in their lives together.

The Foundation for Child Development coined the term “two-generation approach” in the late 1980s, and it was the first to invest in evaluations to understand if the approach was working. Our work today relies heavily on what was learned from those evaluations. The modern 2Gen approach, or 2Gen 2.0, as Ascend Fellow Lindsay Chase-Lansdale calls it, is a vibrant movement of practitioners, systems leaders, policymakers, funders, and researchers across the US and in three other countries. We all center the experiences and expertise of families as we work to accelerate intergenerational economic mobility for all families.

As the national catalyst and convener for cross-sector leaders advancing 2Gen approaches, Ascend at the Aspen Institute is pleased to share our newest report — *The 2Gen Investment Case: Making the Most of Capital in All Its Forms*. For the first time, we document that over \$500 million in public and private sector investments have been made in 2Gen approaches in the last decade. In this report, we share what has been learned from those investments. The report provides a comprehensive view of key pilots and initiatives with a 2Gen approach, and it outlines important themes, lessons, and considerations for funders new to 2Gen approaches.

We hope this report will be an important resource for all public and private sector leaders implementing grantmaking strategies to expand family economic mobility. 2Gen approaches have a strong record of success when grounded in what has been learned from earlier and current efforts.

Thank you to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for supporting the development of this report. And we are grateful to the Ascend 2Gen Funders Learning and Action Community (LAC) whose members participated in a yearlong series of convenings to surface learnings from 10 years of philanthropic investments in 2Gen approaches as well as to identify opportunities for funders to collaborate. Ascend is deeply grateful to Karen Murrell of Higher Heights Consulting and Training who served as the lead author of this report and helped facilitate the 2Gen Funders LAC.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding opportunities and creating better outcomes for families using a 2Gen approach. Please be in touch to share your questions, insights, and recommendations. Together, we can go further and climb higher.

Sincerely, _____

ANNE MOSLE

Vice President, Aspen Institute;
Founder and Executive Director,
Ascend at the Aspen Institute

MARJORIE R. SIMS

Managing Director,
Ascend at the Aspen Institute

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Capitalizing Good Ideas to Transform the Lives of Children and Families

BY ANNE MOSLE, FOUNDER OF ASCEND AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Ascend at the Aspen Institute began with a big idea: Create a space for a new way of working with diverse, cross-sector leaders who are passionate about building intergenerational wealth and health for all families grounded in the core principles of economic, gender, and racial equity. We set out to convene and connect diverse leaders who shared the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty. From the start, Ascend leveraged the best of Aspen Institute ideals and influence to bring in voices, views, and experiences from parents, practitioners, policymakers, and philanthropists.

Three core assumptions anchored Ascend's early mission:

★
01

No single discipline, sector, or organization can solve the problems facing our countries and communities nor rise to the challenge of envisioning the future that might be, the future we are called to create.

★
02

Achieving intergenerational family economic security requires acknowledging and addressing the historical and current context by critically analyzing the economic, political, social, and demographic landscape.

★
03

The traditional paradigm of capital is too limiting; to have the impact we want, we need to honor and harness the many streams of “capital” available to us.

Over the past 12 years, anchored in these core assumptions, Ascend has embraced radical collaboration, mission-driven leadership, and the power of lived expertise to transform—not tweak—systems to be responsive to today's children and families as well as rising generations. Ascend has demonstrated the power of change capital, which combines intellectual, human, social, and financial capital to advance policy and systems transformation. When we recognize and unlock capital in all these forms, we fully ignite human potential.

Resourcing 2Gen to Be a Game Changer for Families

I have been working on these issues long enough to know there are a plethora of good ideas and dedicated organizations working to improve child and family well-being. But ideas don't make meaningful change until we try them, track results, and make long-term investments in the most promising ones. *The 2Gen Investment Case: Making the Most of Capital in All Its Forms* details how combining human, social, and intellectual capital with financial capital is a force multiplier. This report showcases how we have unlocked \$500 million (and counting) to seed, surface, and sustain a two-generation (2Gen) approach to building family health and economic well-being. This ultimately is how we make 2Gen a game changer for families — and invest to win.

The very idea of 2Gen is a type of capital — intellectual capital. It is a concept that can be traced back to Indigenous wisdom, early movements such as settlement houses, and federal programs such as Head Start. Further shaped by dedicated practitioners and researchers — such as those involved in the Abecedarian Project, Perry Preschool Project, Foundation for Child Development, CAP Tulsa CareerAdvance, and Jeremiah Program — 2Gen continues to evolve and enhance evidence-based efforts and innovation. 2Gen approaches open doors of opportunity — and nurture motivation — for two generations at once, for example, where parents drop off children at child care and go to community college or job training programs. Pragmatic practices like this honor and unlock human capital, which is one of the most valuable sources of capital we have. When we encourage practices such as shared goal setting, coaching, and connecting families to community resources that come with culturally resonant and respectful support rather than stigma, we increase social capital.



Embedding gender, racial, and economic equity along with respect for lived experience are central to the modern case for 2Gen and have strengthened the movement from its early days. Ascend has been at the forefront of the 2Gen evolution to co-create, coalesce, and galvanize the field. In the past decade, Ascend has built the largest national 2Gen network with nearly 600 members in all 50 states, Tribal communities, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico — and growing global interest. In addition, Ascend has convened, advised, and partnered with 130 Parent Advisors, 160 Ascend Fellows, and 30 foundations and philanthropists to co-create, test, and fund 2Gen innovation and implementation.

A key ingredient to the strong interest in the approach is social capital — the power of trusted relationships and networks. Ascend intentionally serves as a catalyst and convener, curating leadership experiences and expertise across sectors, fields, and communities. This has resulted not only in important intellectual and social capital dedicated to improving families lives but also in significantly increased financial capital.



Today, we have a generational window of opportunity and obligation to fund 2Gen approaches at the level necessary to spread, scale, and sustain best and next practice, shape policy, and ultimately change systems at the local, state, and national levels to realize justice and opportunity for all.

Galvanizing System-Shifting Change Capital

The 2Gen Investment Case documents a unifying success story that shows that when we galvanize and focus financial resources, we can go from pilot capital to system-shifting capital. It details how to capitalize on promising solutions and have significant impact. It is — in clear, simple terms — a proof point illustrating how a new mindset and approach can change the trajectory for millions of families.

Imagine what would be possible if we shift from the current paradigm of mission chasing money to money fueling mission. As more communities and states embrace the 2Gen approach, we can expect the financial capital dedicated to 2Gen approaches to grow from the current, conservative estimate of \$500 million to over \$1 billion. We can use this report's findings as a roadmap to make a case for other good ideas ready for a quantum leap forward, informed by data and science, lived experience and expertise, and insights from on the ground innovation and best practice. Together, we can shape and strengthen the political readiness and will for an exponential increase in investments that can make children's and families' well-being one of our greatest achievements.

We need to ask simple, but essential, questions: Does the funding model build or break social capital? Does it incentivize cross-system collaboration? Does it allow us to track outcomes for both children and the adults in their lives?

Take-Aways to Align Change Capital to Reach and Positively Impact More Families

We have generated more than a half billion dollars for 2Gen approaches that have gone from idea to life-changing solutions through the change capital formula of human + intellectual + social + financial. As we examine how we have accomplished that, here are seven takeaways.

01 | ALIGN CAPITAL TO BACK NEW WAYS OF THINKING

For 2Gen, this has meant focusing resources on the earliest years and following new systems thinking, not old system tinkering.

02 | TAP PHILANTHROPIC AND PUBLIC FUNDING STREAMS AND CREATE BUY-IN AT THE ONSET

Philanthropic capital proves models worth trying, and government funding gives new models the reach to make the difference. For long-term sustainability and scale, efforts must attract both kinds of capital from the start and not as an afterthought.

03 | FOCUS RESOURCES TO INCENTIVIZE SERVICES AND SYSTEMS TO STREAMLINE AND LINK EXISTING PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR BIG PAYOFFS WITHOUT STARTING WHOLE NEW PROGRAMS

A big part of the 2Gen approach has been linking programs for parents with programs for children to unite families instead of creating silos within them. Applying a 2Gen child and adult outcome framework is a proven, productive, and pragmatic organizing tool that provides a clear family framework — offering population-level outcomes that can feel distant or daunting and avoiding the disconnected output and activity trap.

04 | INVEST “PATIENT CAPITAL” THAT GIVES ROOM FOR GROWTH

For 2Gen to be embedded at the local, state, and federal level, we needed to grow and support a field of practitioners, policymakers, researchers, caregivers, and parents. It took time for this field to modernize, build relationships, and mature as

reimagined systems took hold. We have needed capital throughout each phase to move innovations from idea to impact.

05 | ENGAGE IN PARTICIPATORY GRANTMAKING AND INVESTMENTS THAT INVOLVE FAMILIES AS CO-EQUALS

Engaging parents as co-designers and not just program recipients is a critical mindset shift and practice. We have developed new methodologies and funding models to demonstrate how involving parents and caregivers in program design, implementation, and evaluation improves funding strategies, results, and relationships. By investing financial resources with an intentional commitment to human and intellectual capital, we can show participatory grantmaking in action along with its results.

06 | FUND INTER-SECTOR AND INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF SERVING WHOLE FAMILIES, NOT JUST PARTS OF THEM

By investing in mission-aligned public sector leaders at important levers of change, like those working in health and human services, we can build on front-edge state efforts like [Washington state’s Poverty Reduction Initiative and Task Force](#), which was sparked by Department of Social and Health Services leadership. From the beginning, state agency leaders successfully built political will; ensured cross-agency buy-in; and created and funded new models, structures, and processes to embed racial and economic equity, lived experience, and community engagement. They ultimately steered more than

\$1 billion in funding informed by 2Gen approaches to child and family well-being. We have an opportunity to shift from traditional models of public-private partnership to future-forward community-public-private partnerships with a clear focus on intergenerational family prosperity and well-being.

07 | CREATE MORE STREAMLINED AND AGILE EVALUATION CAPACITY THAT MEASURES INTERCONNECTIVITY, TRACKS MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTIONS, AND APPLIES REAL-TIME LEARNING TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES AND PROCESSES FOR STRONG CASE-MAKING

With technology advances, we can measure impact like never before. It is essential to build on existing case studies with data and apply new rapid-cycle evaluation tools, lived experience, and technology.

Strong numbers attract strong capital streams. These insights offer keys to unlock the trillion-dollar sleeping giant of the public health and human services sector and lay a foundation for a new community-public-private partnership model. While The 2Gen Investment Case documents \$273 million in seven state 2Gen efforts to align workforce and training services with early care and education services, this is just the beginning of what is possible with health and human services public agency funding. Steering existing and new resources toward family-centered programs will require adopting a clear whole-family outcome framework and radical collaboration between government, philanthropy, private sector, nonprofit, and on-the-ground innovators.

The Right Mix of Financial Capital to Get the Results We Want

As The 2Gen Investment Case shows, a mix of financial capital is required for good ideas like 2Gen to become standard operating procedure at the state and federal levels.

01 | PHILANTHROPIC “RISK” CAPITAL

Philanthropic capital is often the first type of capital that allows ideas to become practices. 2Gen approaches are informing and influencing the grantmaking strategies of leading philanthropies like the Bainum Family Foundation, Bezos Family Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and many others. The Doris Duke Foundation, for example, is explicit about funding generations together. In 2024, the foundation unveiled a \$32 million investment in Opportunities for Prevention and Transformation Initiative, called OPT-IN for Families. This initiative aims to transform the current child welfare system

that relies on coercion and family separation into a prevention-oriented 2Gen, child and family well-being system that better serves the youngest families and sets them up for long-term success.

02 | STATE-BASED “PROVE IT” FUNDING

States across the political spectrum are using the 2Gen approach to work across agencies to not only reduce poverty but also build new pathways to prosperity. The Georgia State Department of Early Care and Learning has embraced a 2Gen approach that has reengineered how early childhood and child care agency staff work with the state technical college system to more effectively target and time existing funding and support, such as child care vouchers for student parents. The Department

has increased both financial capital through a statewide 2Gen pilot and intellectual capital through the creation of the first-ever state 2Gen Academy. Now, with more than 25 states, along with a growing number of counties, embedding or exploring 2Gen approaches, we are at the dawn of a new era in policy and systems innovation.

03 | FEDERAL “EXPAND REACH” FUNDING

Real systems change kicks in when state- and local-level successes inform and change federal guidelines and funding. In 2024, the US Department of Health and Human Services’ Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) adopted a modern 2Gen approach with an explicit commitment to equity. The most recent reauthorization doubled the program’s funding, including set-aside funding for Tribal programs. To increase its reach, effectiveness, and capacity, the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program will look to the [2Gen framework](#), established by Ascend. Two percent of MIECHV funds will be set aside to support existing workforce approaches and career pathways for mothers and strengthen maternal health by integrating mental health screenings and primary care access into perinatal and postnatal supports in home visiting. “In this space of early childhood home visiting, thinking upstream also means we have to think about a 2Gen approach,” noted Dr. Michael Warren, MCHB associate administrator. Just as importantly, MIECHV is unleashing the power of strong community partnerships in its goals to serve more families more equitably and effectively. MIECHV’s recent increased matching grants to states emphasize strong community partnerships, incorporating lived experience, and collaborations with local philanthropy. These grants explicitly underscore the importance of human and social capital as critical enhancements that will accelerate inclusive



innovation to produce better outcomes and serve families more holistically.

04 | OPPORTUNISTIC PUBLIC FUNDING

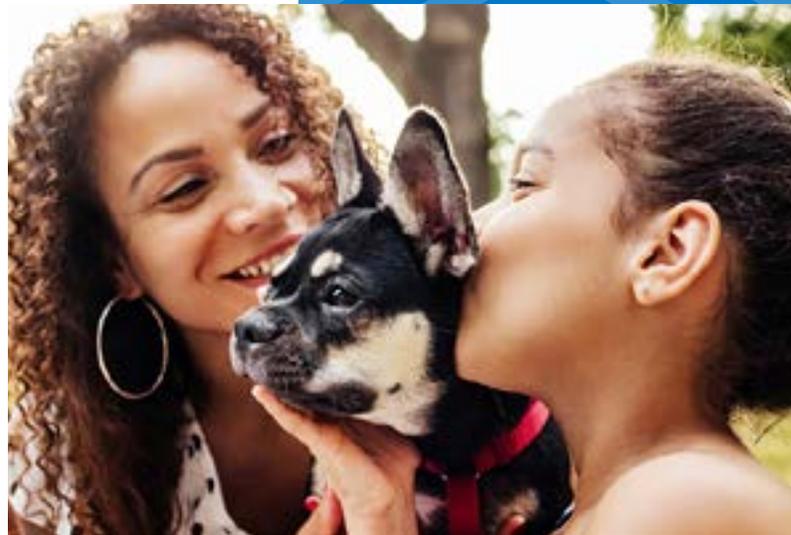
The 2Gen approach is flexible enough to tap unlikely sources of federal funding to improve outcomes and achieve better results. As part of the American Rescue Act of 2021, the National Science Foundation invested \$2.9 million in CUNY Hostos Community College, a Hispanic-Serving Institution in the South Bronx, to increase STEM degree completion by addressing the needs of student parents. This is an example of a 2Gen approach applied beyond the human services frame through unexpected sources of federal funding. When a powerful, timely

idea permeates systems and society, it manifests in intentional and unintentional ways.

The Power of Embracing a Change Capital Mindset

As Meera Mani from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation said, “*The 2Gen Investment Case* report is our clarion call to think bigger and ascend higher. With braided funding, representing philanthropic, private, and government resources, we can dramatically improve outcomes for children and their families, and, more importantly, we can improve lives.”

What began as a back-of-an-envelope estimate of public and philanthropic resources raised for and allocated to 2Gen solutions has emerged as this detailed compendium of the investments, initiatives, and capacities that support scaling up effective and efficient approaches to building family prosperity and well-being at the organizational, local, state, and national levels. *The 2Gen Investment Case* details what happens when we embrace a change capital mindset and turbocharge intellectual, human, and social capital with financial capital. It offers an investment roadmap for the next level of 2Gen innovation and impact.



Our country is only as healthy and successful as our families. If we want a better future for all our children and families, we must invest intentionally and adequately. This report is both a new tool and a call for increased investment to fuel the growing and emerging generation of leaders who are building and transforming the systems, services, and structures for today’s families as well as future generations. The breadth and depth of the modern 2Gen movement counters the current climate of political polarization, cynicism, and short-term thinking with concrete and constructive progress and possibility. In the words of James Baldwin, “those who say it can’t be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.” This is not project work but life-changing work. Together, with these important lessons in hand, we can create a society where all children and families realize their dreams.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Members of the 2Gen Funders Learning and Action Community at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. From left to right, clockwise: Anne Mosle, Nisha Patel, Maicharia Weir Lytle, Raquel Hatter, John Farnam, Quanic Fullard, Marjorie Sims, Daniel Williams, David Daniels, Marie Hocker, Nicole Witherbee, Daniel DuHamel, Paula Collins-Sammons. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Executive Summary

Over the past decade, more than \$500 million has been invested in advancing two-generation (2Gen) approaches to build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives.

This report aims to provide new and seasoned funders, in both the public and private sectors, with tools to help them ensure they are investing in 2Gen approaches that maximize outcomes for children and families. Although significant advancements have been made in strengthening practices, systems, and policies through 2Gen approaches, much remains to be done.

Drawing on key learnings and insights from funders, practitioners, philanthropic advisors, and a literature scan, this report sets out a synopsis of the current state of 2Gen approaches, actionable investment strategies, and opportunities for future focus.

Ascending with a 2Gen Approach

In the aftermath of the Great Recession in 2010, Ascend at the Aspen Institute Founder Anne Mosle and a small group of catalytic funders set out to transform how our society and our systems listen to, learn from, and lead with families with low incomes. Transformation was needed because no matter how much we tinkered with or invested in the same old, separate service-delivery vehicles, the destination we sought — intergenerational, whole-family success — kept eluding us.

We embraced and elevated a 2Gen approach: the understanding that by designing health and human service programs to support children and families together, the resulting structure is stronger and better for both generations, and communities do better as



Anne Mosle speaking at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange.
Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

everyone achieves their full potential. The 2Gen approach is a necessary revisioning of the human services culture and mindset, reflecting Indigenous wisdom, the philosophy of the Settlement House movement, the founding vision of the Head Start and family literacy programs, and many other family-centered approaches. As children, parents, and families grow and change across their lifespan, 2Gen approaches align opportunities to help families pursue their goals and thrive, optimizing each person's potential along the way.



Ascend Parent Advisor Nicole Alkire with her daughter. Photo by Lea Black for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

In 2012, after a year of listening to the experiences of families as well as convening program experts, policymakers, and funders, Ascend published [Two Generations, One Future](#). This report makes the modern case statement for the 2Gen field that honors lived expertise and centers equity with an intersectional lens. Simultaneously, we launched the Ascend Fellowship to build a cadre of game-changing leaders from multiple sectors and disciplines championing systems and policy change for children and families. Two years later, we launched the national Ascend Network with 58 inaugural Partners, laying the groundwork for the 2Gen field's innovations and expansion. Then, in 2021, with a decade of accomplishments and learnings from our Fellows and Network Partners, we released the landmark [State of the Field: Two-Generation Approaches to Family Well-Being](#) report. Ultimately, that report demonstrates Ascend's theory of change in action.

Today, as the galvanizing force for the modern 2Gen movement, now reaching more than 15 million families, Ascend partners with diverse leaders and organizations to center our economic, education, health, and social systems on whole families. As of the release of this report, 160 Ascend Fellows and 580 Network Partners are propelling a national movement of practitioners, policymakers, philanthropic leaders, and researchers to seed and sustain 2Gen approaches in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico as well as across the globe in Ireland, Rwanda, and Guatemala. We co-create and champion solutions to improve outcomes for children and the adults in their lives at the same time. And, together, our community of leaders have helped unlock more than \$500 million in public and private investments that aim to make intergenerational family well-being and prosperity one of the United States' greatest achievements.

To facilitate connections to these supports, all 2Gen policies and programs are grounded in and guided by five core principles:



MEASURE AND ACCOUNT FOR OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

Programs and policies should measure how well they serve the whole family.



ENGAGE AND LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF FAMILIES

Undergirding all of Ascend's work — from principles to practice to policy — is a commitment to listen to families and ensure their perspectives and experience inform program and policy design.



ENSURE EQUITY, PARTICULARLY RACIAL EQUITY

Two-generation strategies should evaluate and fix structural problems that create gender and/or racial and ethnic disparities in the ways that programs provide services and assistance.



FOSTER INNOVATION AND EVIDENCE TOGETHER

Policies and organizational cultures should integrate innovation into emerging evidence and evaluations of effectiveness.



ALIGN AND LINK SYSTEMS AND FUNDING STREAMS

Rarely will single funding streams fully address all the needs of children, parents, and families. Programs will need to blend and coordinate funds to deliver two-generation services. Aligning and linking systems at the state and community level — eligibility standards, performance benchmarks, and coordinated administrative structures — while simultaneously pursuing improved outcomes for both parents and children will lead to two-generation success.

The Evolution of 2Gen Funding

From the beginning, Ascend recognized that unlocking capital is about investing in new people, new places, and new ways to create equitable platforms that grow power along with pathways to grow prosperity. We sought to serve as the hub of a network of entrepreneurial leaders and innovators across the public, social, and private sectors. Moreover, we intentionally sought out visionary philanthropic partners who recognize that financial, intellectual, and social capital are interlocked — and that, ultimately, unlocking capital is about igniting human potential in all its forms.



Natalya Walker, Jmelle Harris, and Raquel Hatter speaking at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

To date, the \$500 million in 2Gen funding has been spread across diverse programs and sources:



AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, funding has been disbursed to increase coordination and alignment across agencies and systems that impact both adults in employment and job training programs and young children in early education programs. This report highlights federal efforts that collectively invested \$114 million in 2Gen approaches.

STATES have also made significant investments in efforts to align workforce and training services with early care and education services. Several states have taken steps to increase coordination of services and support to families with low incomes. This report reviews seven states that have embraced a 2Gen approach, investing more than \$273 million combined.

THE PHILANTHROPIC COMMUNITY has played a significant role in catalyzing 2Gen approaches. Private funders interviewed for this report have invested nearly \$200 million in 2Gen pilots and initiatives across 35 states.

Thanks to these bold funders, we have gathered the following insights, which are illustrated throughout this report with data, case studies, and learnings:



BE AWARE OF MONITORING & EVALUATION CHALLENGES. When measuring outcomes, funders often underestimate the complexity of implementing a fully integrated 2Gen approach, with challenges including the need for integrated databases, onerous data collection processes, and a proactive approach to data policy.

ENGAGING FAMILIES AND AMPLIFYING FAMILY VOICE ARE ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS. Parents must not only provide feedback but also actively participate in decision-making and co-creating and designing strategies. Moreover, organizations must show how parent insights and suggestions are influencing policies and systems.

ENSURING EQUITY, ESPECIALLY RACIAL EQUITY, IS A PRIORITY. Funders can promote equity by educating themselves and grantees, being explicit about

equity expectations, considering equity in funding decisions and procurement, incorporating family voice, and identifying policy inequities.

LEAN INTO PEER LEARNING. Peer learning cohorts provide opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation. Fostering learning cohorts, where organizations can learn from and support each other, is a proven effective strategy.

APPLY CROSS-SECTOR LESSONS. Funders are increasingly interested in applying lessons from nonprofit organizations implementing 2Gen approaches to policy and systems change. Policy work does not always require new laws or programs. Instead, it can align current policies, streamline practices, and strengthen linkages among existing programs.

OUR THEORY OF POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE



A Way Forward for Funders

For funders new to the 2Gen approach, listening to families to understand how a 2Gen approach can address their needs is essential. All funders should assess their goals and objectives, consider their funding approach (e.g., funding pilots, individual programs, policy advocacy), and assess the readiness and interest of potential grantees. Flexibility, realistic expectations, and a mix of funding approaches can maximize impact.

Opportunities identified for future focus include: refining ways the 2Gen approach is communicated, developing strategies to assess an organization's readiness to implement 2Gen approaches, building the capacity of 2Gen practitioners and technical assistance providers, addressing staffing needs for 2Gen approaches, and continuing to support research and evaluation efforts.

Funders of the 2Gen approach have a significant opportunity to learn from the past 12 years of building the field in order to drive change for children and the adults in their lives together – for the next 12 years and beyond.

INVESTMENT FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDERS



Attendees at the 2019 Early Childhood Development and Health Forum. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Investment from Public and Private Funders

Over the past decade, more than \$500 million has been invested to advance 2Gen approaches across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Significant investments in 2Gen approaches have been made with public funding at the federal, state, and local level as well as with private grant funding. Although this report does not reflect estimates for every investment in 2Gen approaches, the initiatives referenced in this report alone represent an investment of more than \$500 million.

Additionally, some states are using a portfolio approach to weave 2Gen approaches in all their investments. Washington state has incorporated 2Gen approaches throughout its [10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty](#). The plan includes investments in early learning, affordable housing, behavioral health, human services, and tax credits for families. In total, Washington will invest \$3 billion to boost family financial security.

Public funding has been used to encourage program administrators in different agencies to work together to plan and coordinate service delivery to serve the whole family. State and local policymakers across the country have identified ways to use public funding sources to simultaneously support children and adult caregivers in their families.

Private funders have invested in 2Gen approaches in various ways, including funding individual nonprofit organizations to implement 2Gen approaches, supporting pilots among a cohort of organizations, providing technical assistance and capacity building, funding policy and systems change, and investing in research and evaluation. Following are examples of publicly funded 2Gen pilots and initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels as well as those funded by private philanthropy.



Aysha E. Schomburg and Katie Albright at the 2023 Aspen Forum on Children and Families. Photo by Stephen Jaffe for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Federal Investment

Federal funding to support 2Gen approaches is being disbursed to increase coordination and alignment across agencies and systems that impact adults in employment and job training programs and young children attending early education programs. These programs operate separately and do not serve families holistically. Employment and job training programs help adults build skills needed to get and keep a job but often do not address other parental needs. Similarly, early childhood education programs often miss the opportunity to link the adult caregiver to programs and supports needed to help the family thrive and achieve economic mobility.

Federal funding has been deployed to support specific 2Gen pilots and initiatives. Below is information about six 2Gen initiatives. Collectively, these initiatives, operating in 36 states, invested more than \$100 million in 2Gen programs and services. See the appendix for a description of each 2Gen initiative listed below.



Paula Collins-Sammons speaking at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

SELECT 2GEN INITIATIVES FUNDED PRIMARILY WITH FEDERAL FUNDS	
Administration for Children and Families Office of Family Assistance 2Gen Peer Learning	\$ N/A
Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration	\$ 18,400,000
US Department of Labor Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI)	\$ 54,000,000
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems, Health Resources & Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau	\$ 30,600,000
The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	\$ 11,100,000
White House Rural Council Rural IMPACT	\$ N/A
TOTAL	\$ 114,100,000

OPRE Investments in 2Gen Research and Evaluation

The Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), has continued to build the evidence base for fully integrated, intentional models for 2Gen service delivery with adequate intensity and quality of services for both parents and their children. The projects are listed below, along with the relevant reports and briefs.

01 | Head Start University Partnership Grants: Dual-Generation Approaches

BRIEF

Approaches to Meeting the Needs of Children and Parents Together in the Context of Head Start: Four Head Start University Partnership Grants

02 | Integrated Approaches to Supporting Child Development and Improving Family Economic Security

BRIEF

Features of Programs Designed to Help Families Achieve Economic Security and Promote Child Well-being

BRIEF

Conceptual Frameworks for Intentional Approaches to Improving Economic Security and Child Well-being

BRIEF

Using Research and Evaluation to Support Programs that Promote Parents' Economic Security and Children's Well-being

REPORT

Exploration of Integrated Approaches to Supporting Child Development & Improving Family Economic Security

03 | Next Steps for Rigorous Research on Two-Generation Approaches (NS2G)

BRIEF

Defining a Two-Generation Logic Model

BRIEF

Using a Structured Learning Process to Strengthen Two-Generation Service Delivery

BRIEF

Using Rapid Cycle Learning to Build Momentum for Change in Two-Generation Service Delivery

BRIEF

The Two-Generation Mutual Reinforcement Measurement Tool: Development and Pilot Study Findings

REPORT

Strengthening Two-Generation Initiatives that Support Child Development and Improve Family Economic Security: Insights from the Next Steps for Rigorous Research on Two-Generation Approaches Project

Note that OPRE does not publish grant recipients' reports; findings are generally published in academic journals.

Geographic Impact of Federally Funded 2Gen Initiatives

	CSPED	ECCS	ACF	OFA	Rural IMPACT	SWFI
Alaska				■		
Arizona					■	■
California	■			■		■
Colorado		■				■
Connecticut	■		■			■
Florida						■
Hawaii		■		■		
Illinois		■				■
Iowa	■			■	■	
Kentucky					■	
Louisiana		■				
Maine		■	■	■	■	
Maryland					■	
Massachusetts		■	■			■
Michigan		■				
Minnesota	■	■			■	
Mississippi					■	■
Missouri		■		■		
Nevada		■				

	CSPED	ECCS	ACF	OFA	Rural IMPACT	SWFI
New Hampshire			■			
New Jersey		■				
New Mexico		■				
New York		■				■
North Carolina						■
Ohio	■			■	■	
Oklahoma					■	
Pennsylvania		■		■		
Rhode Island			■			■
South Carolina	■					
South Dakota		■		■		
Tennessee	■					
Texas	■					
Utah		■			■	
Vermont		■	■			■
Virginia		■				■
Washington		■				

Commonly Tapped Federal Funding for Employment and Training



Paula Collins-Sammons, Tracy Wareing Evans, Dr. Nicole Witherbee, and Emily Bauer speaking at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Programs and Early Education Programs¹

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/JOB TRAINING FUNDING SOURCES

- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG):** CSBG is a federally funded anti-poverty block grant operated through a state-administered network of community and faith-based, nonprofit organizations. CSBG affords sufficient flexibility for states to promote 2Gen approaches via incentive programs, technical assistance, and strategic collaboration.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education & Training (SNAP E&T):** With SNAP E&T funds, states can receive additional federal funding on a cost-reimbursement basis for providing allowable services to SNAP recipients.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** States can deploy the TANF block grants in ways that are much more flexible than the traditional, formulaic funding, which can lead to some flexibility for 2Gen approaches.
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):** WIOA is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy. WIOA requires states to strategically align their core workforce development programs to coordinate the needs of both job seekers and employers.

¹King, Chris; Coffey, Rheagan; Smith, Tara. "A Getting-Started Guide for State and Local Policy Makers." November 2013. <https://www.fcd-us.org/assets/2016/04/Dual-Gen-Getting-Started-Guide.pdf>

CLOSE UP

Rural Impact

In 2015, the federal government implemented a demonstration program, Rural Integration Models for Parents and Children to Thrive, or Rural IMPACT, to provide federal leadership and community-level resources to address rural child poverty and the need for 2Gen approaches. The National Community Action Partnership and the American Academy of Pediatrics jointly facilitated the learning community for 10 rural sites over two to three years. Ascend at the Aspen Institute and the Aspen Community Strategies Group also provided technical assistance to the sites. Rural IMPACT is an example of the power of public-private partnerships. Although the 10 sites received no direct federal funding to implement Rural IMPACT, the total federal investment in site supports during year 1 was about \$838,585. This included the costs of VISTA volunteers, professional coaching, other TA resources, and in-person meetings and site visits. Private foundations provided critical investments to conceptualize and develop the initiative and to support local efforts. Funders included the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Great River Economic Development Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, San Juan Foundation, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION FUNDING SOURCES

- **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF):** This funding comes to the states as a block grant, and the states then determine the standards for funding disbursement. The quality of child care options varies widely, and the funding emphasizes child care interventions rather than early childhood education. However, the block-grant nature of the funding could allow states to prioritize 2Gen approaches and set quality standards.
- **Head Start/Early Head Start:** Unlike other child care funding, Head Start and Early Head Start funds flow directly from the federal government to the local providers. Although the emphasis is on early childhood education, the programs are traditionally part-time, academic-year programs. Additional funding must be secured to extend Head Start/Early Head Start into a full-day program that operates year-round.
- **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** TANF funds can be spent directly on child care, or via CCDF. The investment emphasis is typically on child care, not early childhood education.

State Investment

At the state level, there are efforts to increase coordination and alignment across agencies and systems that impact families. States are exploring ways to align workforce and training services with early care and education services. Many states have developed their own funds to link children's participation in state-funded pre-K with parents' participation in workforce development programs.²



With growing recognition of the need for systemic approaches to strengthen resources and supports for families, several states have taken steps to increase the coordination of services to better serve families with low incomes. These opportunities include reforming policies, cross-training staff, sharing and using data in new ways, and streamlining and aligning programs and practices.³ Adopting a 2Gen approach to serving families does not necessarily begin with new laws, new money, or new programs. States can focus on aligning current policies, streamlining current practices, and strengthening linkages among existing programs in existing child- and adult-service delivery systems.⁴

Dr. Meera Mani speaking at the 2019 Aspen Forum on Children and Families. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

²National Governors Association and CLASP. "Parents and Children Thriving Together: The Role of State Agencies in Crafting a Statewide Two-Generation Strategy." February 2018. https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/NGA_CLASP_TwoGen.pdf

³National Governors Association and CLASP (2018).

⁴National Governors Association and CLASP (2018).

In addition to linking systems and services, state leaders have invested in community-based 2Gen pilots and initiatives. This report reviewed six states that have embraced a 2Gen approach and invested more than \$100 million collectively. See the appendix for a description of each state 2Gen pilot/initiative.

SELECT 2GEN INITIATIVES FUNDED PRIMARILY WITH STATE FUNDS	
Colorado 2Gen Opportunities Pilot Program	\$ 1,000,000
Georgia 2Gen Capacity Building (Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning [DECAL])	\$ 100,000
Maryland 2Gen Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program	\$ 950,000
Minnesota Department of Human Services	\$ 21,877,336
Tennessee 2Gen Community Partnerships	\$ 244,941,917
Virginia 2Gen Whole Family Pilot	\$ 4,500,000
TOTAL	\$ 273,369,253

States have embraced 2Gen approaches in a variety of ways. Five states participated in a formal state policy network (Parents and Children Thriving Together) to explore ways to improve coordinated service delivery to better serve families. Several states introduced policies that were informed by 2Gen approaches to better serve families holistically. Many states focused on integrating service delivery to serve families holistically by launching a 2Gen initiative or hiring a staff person to coordinate 2Gen approaches across programs and state agencies. Finally, several states incorporated 2Gen approaches in their human services department or they sought to coordinate or align their early childhood and health systems.

2Gen Approach

	Parents and Children Thriving Together Network	2Gen Policies	2Gen Grants to Community Initiatives	Employs a 2Gen Coordinator	Human Service Dept Uses 2Gen Strategies	Aligning Early Childhood and Health Systems
Colorado	■	■	■	■	■	■
Connecticut		■		■	■	
District of Columbia					■	
Georgia	■	■	■			
Hawaii		■		■	■	
Maine						■
Maryland		■	■	■	■	
Massachusetts						
Minnesota	■	■		■		
Mississippi					■	■
New Jersey	■	■				
Oregon	■	■		■		■
Rhode Island					■	
South Carolina						■
Tennessee		■	■	■	■	
Utah					■	
Virginia		■	■			
Washington		■	■	■		

Local Investment

2Gen approaches and initiatives are also being implemented at the city and county levels. In 2019, the National Association of Counties formally adopted a 2Gen approach and encouraged the federal government to recognize “that local and state governments are best positioned to help their citizens when federal programs are flexible and support all generations within a family.”⁵ Even before this formal policy shift, counties were out front on the 2Gen approach. The city of Austin, and Travis County, Texas, partnered with the 2Gen Coalition to create economic and social opportunities for families. Young parents receive a basic stipend and free child care while participating in the program.⁶



Jackie and Mike Bezos speaking at the 2019 New Mexico Forum on Early Childhood Development and Family Well-Being. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute[®]

⁵Ascend at the Aspen Institute. “State of the Field Two Generation Approaches to Family Well-Being.” https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/State_of_2Gen_2021.pdf

⁶National League of Cities. “Partnering with Cities: Leveraging ARPA Funds for Early Childhood Success.” August 25, 2021. <https://www.nlc.org/article/2021/08/25/partnering-with-cities-leveraging-arpa-funds-for-early-childhood-success/>

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Tennessee Department of Human Services

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (DHS) aims to establish various partnerships to provide services with an emphasis on improving education, providing economic supports, promoting health and well-being, and encouraging social capital consistent with the 2Gen approach. The department engages entities, including local government and for-profit and nonprofit direct service organizations, that have program models, experience, and expertise that can help the department achieve significant and measurable progress toward placing families on a better path to economic security.

“DHS strives to structure services to address intergenerational poverty and create a pathway to prosperity for families in Tennessee. Their approach is focused on services designed to grow an individual’s capacity to support themselves and their families while reducing dependency on state assistance and services.”

Philanthropic Investment

The philanthropic community, including national, place-based, and family foundations, has made significant investments in 2Gen approaches. Private funders have used a variety of strategies, including investing in individual nonprofit organizations and a cohort of nonprofit organizations to support research, evaluation, technical assistance, policy and systems change, capacity building, and more.

Private funders whose investments were reviewed for this report have invested close to \$200 million in 2Gen approaches and initiatives across 35 states and are listed below. These efforts represent a myriad of ways that funders invest in 2Gen approaches, including the following.

-
- ★ 01 Seeding pilot programs
 - ★ 02 Funding individual nonprofit organizations
 - ★ 03 Funding policy/advocacy
 - ★ 04 Supporting cohorts of nonprofit organizations focused on advancing 2Gen approaches and peer learning

⁷The Prosperity Agenda. "Coaching Up Close: Adopting Family-Centered Coaching Across a Larger Organization: Maricopa County." <https://familycenteredcoaching.org/coaching-toolkit/coaching-up-close-large-organization/>

CLOSE UP

Maricopa County⁷

Maricopa County, Arizona, is the second largest county in the United States. The Maricopa County Human Services Department (HSD) has successfully implemented Family-Centered Coaching (FCC) throughout the large organization. The organization is made up of five divisions, all with multiple funding sources, and about 400 employees who serve over 55,000 participants in a typical year. Since 2018, the department has been developing organizational resources and practices to get all staff onboard. Maricopa County HSD decided to invest in FCC training because top leadership wanted to enhance and support its 2Gen initiative. FCC's components of trauma-informed care, coaching, and strength-based approaches aligned with the organization's vision of how direct services are offered. FCC has also, however, helped Maricopa County HSD combat the inherent siloing that happens across larger organizations. The department is now better able to offer holistic and seamless services to care for the whole family.

2Gen Pilots and Initiatives*

Whole Family Approach to Jobs (WFAJ)

Advancing Family Economic Mobility (AFEM)

2GenACT (Accelerating Capacity and Tools)

Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families (BOOST)

Educare Learning Network 2Gen Acceleration Program (Educare)

Employment Equity for Single Moms (EESM)

Family-Centered Coaching (FCC)

Family-Centered Community Change (FCCC)

Family Economic Success/ Early Childhood Education (FES-ECE)

Maine 2Gen Initiatives

Mobility and Opportunity for Valuable Employment by Upskilling Parents (MOVE UP)

Economic Mobility Initiative

Family Centered Employment

Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT)



Anne Mosle with Hillary Pennington at Ascend's launch convening in March 2011. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Next Generation Initiative (NextGen)

ROCA Young Mothers Program (ROCA)

Siemer Institute

Supporting Transitions to Employment for Parents (STEPS)

The Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud (IDJ)

Women's Funding Network (WFN)

Working Poor Families Project (WFPF)

**See the appendix for a description of each state 2Gen pilot/initiative listed here*

Select Philanthropic Investments in 2Gen Pilots / Initiatives

Select Philanthropic Investments in 2Gen Pilots / Initiatives

	AFEM	BOOST	Educare	EESM	FCCC	FCE	FES-ECE	IDJ	ME 2Gen	MOVE UP	NCAP	NextGen	PACTT	Roca	Siemer/UW	STEPS	WFAJ	WFN	WFPF	
Alabama																				
Alaska																				
Arkansas																				
Arizona																				
California																				
Colorado																				
Connecticut																				
District of Columbia																				
Florida																				
Georgia																				
Hawaii																				
Idaho																				
Illinois																				
Indiana																				
Kansas																				
Kentucky																				
Louisiana																				
Maine																				
Maryland																				
Massachusetts																				
Michigan																				
Minnesota																				

Select Philanthropic Investments in 2Gen Pilots / Initiatives

Select Philanthropic Investments in 2Gen Pilots / Initiatives

	AFEM	BOOST	Educare	EESM	FCCC	FCE	FES-ECE	IDJ	ME 2Gen	MOVE UP	NCAP	NextGen	PACTT	Roca	Siemer/UW	STEPS	WFAJ	WFN	WFPF	
Mississippi	■			■																
Missouri						■					■					■				
Montana											■									
North Carolina																				■
New Hampshire																	■			
New Jersey													■							
New Mexico						■														
New York		■	■		■		■			■	■									■
Ohio			■		■	■				■										■
Oklahoma						■	■													
Oregon		■									■		■							
Pennsylvania										■	■	■								
Rhode Island																				■
South Carolina											■									
Tennessee											■	■								
Texas			■		■	■				■										■
Vermont																				■
Virginia											■									
Washington										■	■	■								■
Wisconsin		■				■														
Puerto Rico								■												

SELECT 2GEN INITIATIVES OR PILOTS FUNDED PRIMARILY WITH PRIVATE FUNDS	
Whole Family Approach to Jobs	\$ 350,000
APHSA Advancing Family Economic Mobility (AFEM) Initiative	\$ 4,166,674
Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group 2GenACT (Accelerating Capacity and Tools)	\$ 807,890
Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families (BOOST)	\$ 4,400,000
Educare Learning Network 2Gen Acceleration Program	\$ 542,052
Employment Equity for Single Moms	\$ 1,763,284
Family-Centered Coaching	\$ 1,560,000
Family-Centered Community Change	\$ 20,550,000
Family Economic Success/Early Childhood Education	\$ 2,620,000
Maine 2Gen Initiatives	\$ 10,800,000
Mobility and Opportunity for Valuable Employment by Upskilling Parents (MOVE UP) and Supporting Transitions to Employment for Parents (STEPS)	\$ 11,600,000
National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) Economic Mobility Initiative	\$ 3,675,000
Family Centered Employment	\$ 1,860,000
Parents and Children Thriving Together	\$ 1,500,000
Next Generation Initiative	\$ 15,750,000
Roca Young Mothers Program	\$ 1,299,612
Siemer Institute/United Way	\$ 13,000,000
The Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud, IDJ (Youth Development Institute)	\$ 975,000
Women's Funding Network	\$ 1,400,000
Working Poor Families Project	\$ 675,000
Estimated Private Investment Using a 2Gen Portfolio Approach	\$ 77,653,500
TOTAL	\$ 176,948,012

How Foundations Can Maximize 2Gen Investments

Drawing on her decades of experience supporting 2Gen approaches in both the philanthropic and the public sector, Dr. Raquel Hatter, managing director of the human services program at the Kresge Foundation and former state commissioner, reflects on lessons learned and opportunities for philanthropy to accelerate the progress of their 2Gen investments.

“I am consistently amazed by the creative work-arounds community-based organizations and families are engaged in to realize the outcomes of a 2Gen approach for families,” explains Hatter. “Time and again, they prove that a two-generation approach is an effective way to build economic success and the well-being of families. However, to fully embrace and leverage the power of 2Gen, we need to change up entire systems. This includes — and goes beyond — program-level or organizational improvements to realize impact.”

According to Hatter, foundations can support this shift in the following ways:

ESTABLISH A STRONG KNOWLEDGE BASE OF THE 2GEN APPROACH.

Hatter encourages foundations to ensure that foundation staff, charged with supporting 2Gen, have a strong proficiency and command of the 2Gen approach so they are better positioned to assess ongoing progress and impact. With in-depth knowledge of the guiding principles of 2Gen, 2Gen levers, and effective implementation of 2Gen, philanthropies will be able to identify gaps in the system and determine their cause. Understanding the entire context — even if there are parts funders are not investing in — will help grantmakers design stronger 2Gen strategies.

BE AWARE OF POLICY BARRIERS OR SYSTEM STRUCTURES THAT INHIBIT THE ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF FAMILIES.

When it comes to the enabling conditions of 2Gen, Hatter points to the critical need to engage families in systems change efforts. This better equips funders with understanding how current systems and barriers, within and beyond social and human services, show up in the lives of families and impact their ability to realize multigenerational success.

For example, access to capital can be a gamechanger for families working to build economic wealth. For many families — especially those in BIPOC communities — building wealth is tied to owning their own business. However, families with low incomes who are trying to launch a business not only face challenges accessing capital but also find that self-employment is not a readily acceptable way to meet the work requirements of supports such as TANF, SNAP, and WIOA. Additionally, under-resourced BIPOC families often live in communities where municipalities generate revenue through an array of structural fees and fines that extract resources from families and create debt.

A funder might not tackle all these barriers directly but it’s important to understand how these roadblocks (e.g., regressive tax policy, racial wealth gaps, predatory practices by financial institutions) impact families and ultimately slow the work funders are investing in. Until these policy barriers and inadequate structures are addressed, 2Gen efforts can only go so far.

UNDERSTAND NOT ONLY HOW TO USE DEMOGRAPHIC DATA TO ADDRESS INEQUITIES AND INJUSTICES, BUT ALSO THE HISTORY OF HOW THOSE INEQUITIES AND INJUSTICES CAME TO BE.

Hatter notes that conversations about racial equity and racial justice often focus on the end point. However, to move the needle on equity and justice, it is important to understand the history of the data and how it came to be. “Disaggregated data is important and so is getting at the root cause of why we have these inequities,” she notes. “Disaggregated data allows us to see the outcomes, but it doesn’t go back far enough to tell us why we have these problems in the first place.” This historical review is important because it manifests the nature of the intentionality and sophistication of inequity and injustice. A historical understanding of the barriers that are undermining wealth building across BIPOC communities also helps grantmakers operate with more precision when addressing issues like the racial wealth gap and inequitable tax policy.

EMBRACE PARTNERSHIPS, INCLUDING ALLIANCES WITH STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY PARTNERS, THAT CAN ADVANCE THE WORK OF LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Community organizations that partner with and walk alongside families are well positioned to understand the needs of families. Some funders may not fund direct policy efforts. However, it is important for organizations and families to collaborate with state and national policy partners. Philanthropies can play the role of convener and use their influence to connect community groups with state and federal policy players without directly funding policy efforts. Ideally, a comprehensive funding strategy should include a plan for bringing all the necessary players together.



FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE MAKING PROGRESS DESPITE CUMBERSOME SYSTEMS THAT ARE NOT SOLUTIONS ORIENTED.

However, if we fix the systems, families will ascend to much greater heights.

DR. RAQUEL HATTER, KRESGE

“Families, communities, and organizations are making progress despite cumbersome systems that are not solutions oriented, nor family driven. However, if we change the systems, families will ascend to much greater heights,” says Hatter, noting that philanthropy can maximize its 2Gen investments by focusing on these four areas and ensuring they work in concert with 2Gen efforts throughout the country. In the words of Hatter, “As funders we have to assess and get in where we fit in to ensure families win!”

LESSONS FROM FUNDERS AND PRACTITIONERS



Ascend Parent Advisor Ariel Ventura-Lazo with his family. Photo by Sammy Mayo Jr. for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Lessons from Funders and Practitioners

Several lessons can be drawn from funders, practitioners, and published reports. More than 30 informant interviews were held with funders and practitioners. The following section summarizes the main themes and lessons that were shared in the interviews and a literature scan of published reports. The themes include measuring outcomes, family voice, equity, peer learning, and policy and systems change.

Measuring Outcomes

Nonprofit organizations and public agencies implementing 2Gen approaches at the highest level must identify the family's goals and track outcomes for the children and adults in the family at the same time. Funders often underestimate the complexity of what's needed to implement and evaluate a fully integrated 2Gen approach.⁸ For example, they minimize the complexity of measuring outcomes for 2Gen approaches.⁹ There is wide variation across 2Gen approaches; they are heterogeneous, and each initiative is unique. The primary target audiences of 2Gen approaches may differ, and therefore the services offered will vary. Services can be embedded in programs that serve either children or adults or both. This variation can impact pace and overall client outcomes. 2Gen approaches require intensity, intentionality, and quality, which take time.

There is a growing understanding that it takes time for 2Gen approaches to mature and produce outcomes. Some funders are beginning to understand that more time is needed because of all the different facets of 2Gen approaches and the iterative nature of the implementation process. Providers and funders are realizing that



Vinice Davis. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

⁸The Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Investing in Innovation: Reflecting on the Family Economic Success—Early Childhood Education Pilots." May 2018. <https://www.aecf.org/resources/investing-in-innovation>

⁹The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2018).



THE BIG TAKEAWAY IS THAT THERE ARE LIMITED OUTCOME STUDIES IN THE 2GEN SPACE.

We are still answering key questions about implementation and measurement. We're building the capacity and readiness to tell the collective outcome and impact story.

Allison Holmes, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

the timeframe for 2Gen approaches to mature and produce outcomes tends to be longer due to the involvement of multiple organizations, agencies, or systems that need aligning.

The maturation process is iterative. There's likely to be significant revamping, re-tooling, and re-assessing all along the maturation process. It is often a case of 'The more you know, the more you know that you don't know.'

Neither simple nor linear, the variety and complexity of 2Gen approaches create numerous challenges in measuring and reporting outcomes. Funders need to continuously assess an organization's readiness to implement and evaluate, paying attention to what information is currently available, and what is not feasible to request at a particular point in time. Below are some of the most noted challenges for measuring outcomes.

Challenges for Measuring Outcomes

-  Lack of integrated databases to track and report outcomes. Or if there are integrated database systems, the data is siloed, and multiple databases are still used.
-  Data collection is often onerous and burdensome. It is important to consider what data is being requested and for what purpose.
-  Creating a unified data policy and data culture across organizations is a lengthy and formidable task.
-  Moving from a reactive to a *proactive* approach to data policy at all levels can be time-consuming and not well received by already overworked staff.



Letty Bass speaking at the 2016 2Gen FunderXChange.
Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Engaging Families

Both empirical and anecdotal research has demonstrated the effectiveness of involving parents in designing, implementing, and evaluating programs. Often known as “family voice,” this engagement is a guiding principle for the 2Gen approach. Although incorporating the voice of the end user is helpful in many arenas, it is critical for 2Gen approaches because families know best what they need to thrive. If practitioners and policymakers are not incorporating intel from families into program and service design, they may not be creating supports that are grounded in families’ realities, dreams, and hopes.

Family voice is far more than listening to suggestions or fielding complaints from families. It includes families sharing input, co-creating, and designing strategies and programs, and participating in decision-making. Parental involvement in decision-making is the key to having programs and policies that support families’ strengths and needs.

Although there is a power differential between parents and funders or policymakers, a thoughtful approach can make parents comfortable and yield a meaningful dialogue. When done well, incorporating family voice ensures parents and providers are equal partners and everyone is motivated and involved. Such an environment helps 2Gen providers better understand the whole family, its needs, and its requirements, not in the abstract but through firsthand knowledge.

There are several different ways to incorporate family voice, including parent councils or advisories, regular meetings, focus groups, and hiring parents as interns, part-time employees, or contractors. Although the models may vary, the goal is to regularly involve parents and to share input and co-design programs and services.

It is critical that organizations solicit parent and family input in a way that prioritizes dignity and respect. Creating an environment in which parents feel comfortable honestly expressing their needs and opinions is a critical component of a successful strategy to engage families. In addition to financially compensating parents, other supports, such as child care and food, have made it easier for them to participate in meetings to share input.

¹⁰The Annie E. Casey Foundation. “Data Governance for Two-Generation Programs Planning Tool Kit.” October 2019. <https://www.aecf.org/resources/data-governance-for-two-generation-programs#key-takeaway>

CLOSE UP

The Annie E. Casey Foundation¹⁰

Effective data management practices enable an organization to make smart decisions about supporting children and families while avoiding cumbersome data collection activities, redundancies, and missed opportunities. To help organizations overcome these challenges, The Annie E. Casey Foundation developed a [Data Governance for Two-Generation Programs Planning Tool Kit](#).

The toolkit helps 2Gen practitioners harness data in their decision-making, funding strategy, and service delivery. Supplemental resources in the toolkit include a guiding framework, a brief that identifies elements of data capacity, and an infographic that charts progress. Together, these resources guide organizations in refining practices for managing and using data; creating a data governance protocol; and using data to design programs, meet performance outcomes, and collaborate across departments.

For many states and agencies, involving parents in formulating programs is a new and challenging paradigm. For the strategy to be effective, organizations must first resolve several questions:

- 

How can agencies get past internal resistance to involving parents in the process, which is a clear departure from the current approach to doing things?
- 

How can agencies help parents accept that they are “co-equals” and that their opinions are respected and valued by all?
- 

How can agencies move beyond soliciting ideas or feedback to partnering with families to co-create and co-design solutions?
- 

What is the feedback loop to let parents know how their input is being implemented?
- 

While compensating parents is a motivator, what form can funds take so they do not endanger other benefits parents are receiving?

Incorporating family voice is not just for grantees. Funders embarking on a 2Gen approach benefit from listening to the families who will be served and understanding how families identify their own needs. Funders should plan on incorporating what they learn into initiative design and measurement and continue listening throughout their investments. They should use this feedback, and feedback gathered from sites and other stakeholders, to refine their approaches.



Merle Chambers speaking at the 2012 Aspen ThinkXChange. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Washington State Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF)¹²

The Washington State DCYF Parent Advisory Group (PAG) is a sounding board for decisions, ideas, and questions that shape the future of DCYF. The PAG is made up of parents and caregivers of children from birth through nine years old and functions as a forum for decisions, ideas, and questions. DCYF recruits parents and guardians interested in providing advice and guidance, sharing their experiences, and “parent-testing” policies and programs. PAG members represent the unique experiences and perspectives of their families, including but not limited to the following characteristics:

- Rural, remote, urban, and military communities
- Access a variety of early learning services for their children or not currently connected to services
- Diverse family structures (for example, headed by both or single parents, grandparents, kinship care, foster parents, or blended families)
- Experience with immigration and being new to a community
- Impacted by incarceration
- Culturally, linguistically, and ethnically diverse
- Children with varying developmental and special needs

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) developed a forum to incorporate family voice. In 2022, it hosted four roundtable discussions with the public focused on the African American and Black experience in accessing ACF programs and services such as Head Start, foster care, child support, child care, homeless and runaway youth services, and refugee services.¹¹

Ensuring Equity

Since 2Gen approaches seek to align services for children and adults, the services must be equitable. Over the last decade, there has been an acknowledgment that most health and human services policies are not designed for the families of today, and many were explicitly designed to perpetuate inequities. One such acknowledgment came from the White House in 2021.

President Biden signed Executive Order 13985, [“Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.”](#)¹³ That order emphasized the enormous human costs of systemic racism and persistent poverty and provided a powerful and unprecedented mandate for all federal agencies to launch a whole-of-government approach to equity. Over the past two years, agencies have taken historic steps toward ensuring that federal programs are serving the American people in an equitable and just manner and supporting communities that have been locked out of opportunity. Additionally, President Biden signed a second Executive Order, “Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.”¹⁴ This second order reaffirms the administration’s commitment to delivering equity and building an America in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

¹¹HHS Administration for Children and Families. “Black Experience Community Roundtables.” June 29, 2022. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/outreach-material/black-experience-community-roundtables>

¹²Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). “Recruiting Parent Advisory Group Members.” May 12, 2021. <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/news/recruiting-parent-advisory-group-members>

¹³The White House. “FACT SHEET: President Biden Signs Executive Order to Strengthen Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Across the Federal Government.” February 16, 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/02/16/fact-sheet-president-biden-signs-executive-order-to-strengthen-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-across-the-federal-government/>

¹⁴The White House. “Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through The Federal Government.” February 16, 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/02/16/executive-order-on-further-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

There are several things funders can do to promote equity as they make investments in 2Gen approaches. Below are recommendations from funders and practitioners.

EDUCATE THEMSELVES ABOUT THE INEQUITIES AND THEIR IMPACT

Funders themselves need to have a measure of fluency about equity and racial equity. A practitioner noted, “A certain level of fluency about equity is necessary for funders in order for them to support grantees and help them connect all of the dots in a meaningful way.”

EDUCATE GRANTEES

Help grantees understand the root causes of disparities. Illuminate institutional structural barriers of racism and demonstrate how they disrupt economic security. Provide information, partnerships, or resources to support the grantee’s own internal capacity development efforts.

UTILIZE FAMILY VOICE TO SUPPORT EQUITY

Actively involving parents in the process of creating and improving programs and policies can help embed racial equity in 2Gen initiatives. Checking in with families and listening to their perspectives provides needed insights that can buffer programs against bias and inequity.

RETHINK PROCUREMENT

Procurement policy can play an important role in addressing inequities. By ensuring that procurement policies do not lean so heavily on large, often white-run, organizations, funders extend their outreach to more racially diverse populations who are often ignored or overlooked.

IDENTIFY POLICY INEQUITIES

Provide technical assistance and support state agencies to identify specific policies that have equity implications.

CONSIDER EQUITY WHEN MAKING FUNDING DECISIONS

Philanthropic investments often flow to larger, more established organizations. When making funding decisions, move beyond “safe bets” and consider diversity within the nonprofit’s leadership ranks and board. Trust-based philanthropy and participatory grantmaking are increasingly being used to help funders address the inherent power imbalances between funders, nonprofits, and the communities they serve. Trust-based philanthropy requires a constant and continuous examination of the implications of these power imbalances and biases.

BE EXPLICIT WITH GRANTEES ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS TO ENSURE EQUITY

Be clear with grantees about ways they can operationalize and address inequities. Define it and share what it looks like in practice. Highlight the pragmatic pieces that ensure a focus on equity. How are grantees using data? Is the data disaggregated? How is the data being used to identify gaps and disparities? What is the narrative behind the numbers?

TALK ABOUT EQUITY

Funders have mixed views about the best way to discuss equity and racial equity in a way that keeps people at the table. Some funders working in conservative states have experienced that simply saying the words “racial equity” results in responses like “I’m out,” or “I don’t know what you mean,” or “Why do we have to talk about this equity thing again?” Other funders choose to be strategic about language, focusing on goals like economic inclusion or equitable investments instead of poverty alleviation.

Fostering Innovation Through Learning Cohorts

Peer learning cohorts have emerged as an effective strategy for funders to enable organizations to share information, exchange ideas, and gain practical advice from their peers. Learning cohorts include designated organizations that convene (in-person or virtually) on a regular basis. The cohorts offer facilitated information exchange, training, coaching, and program evaluation, and they can disseminate ideas and best practices. In some cases, technical assistance with program implementation is also provided. Funders looking to maximize their 2Gen investment support learning cohorts for their grantees.

Successful learning cohorts can take a variety of forms. With smaller groups, one general meeting that allows all to be heard and offers a diversity of 2Gen points of view has worked well. When there are a larger number of participants, cohorts can be conducted as general sessions followed by smaller breakout sessions. Either format works equally well in person or virtually. Whatever the format, the underlying goal is vibrant peer-to-peer interaction.

In addition to finding the optimum size for the learning cohort, it is important to include not just top-level executives, but everyone in the grantee organization who is needed to implement a 2Gen approach. As a result, organizations can form a “guiding coalition” that gets people at all levels thinking about how to create their own 2Gen best practices. With that organization-wide involvement, the likelihood of making the organizational changes that support 2Gen approaches increases significantly.

One funder points out that this cross-organizational involvement is necessary because 2Gen is not just a program, it is “about organizational change and people’s ability to build that muscle.”

All these dimensions of learning cohorts depend largely on correctly staffing them. Ensuring that cohorts are facilitated by those with knowledge in the areas being covered and also comfortable with the size and format of the learning cohort are key ingredients to success. One funder acknowledged that staffing

missteps, where facilitator expertise was presumed, led to a less-than-successful learning cohort.

It is important to note that while funders play a key role in planning, organizing, and implementing learning cohorts, they also must listen and convey to their grantees that they, too, are part of the learning process, a key factor in building both trust and participation in the learning cohorts.

Additionally, successful learning cohorts do not tell people what to do. They are forums for sharing what others have learned so that participants can adapt information and best practices to their 2Gen “place and space.” Effective learning cohorts surround participants with expertise and support, which they can take back to their organizations to try out, and then return to discuss the results and receive additional feedback.



I’M A REAL FAN OF COHORTS AND KNOW FIRSTHAND THEIR VALUE.

The assumption that you can take a thing and you can do the thing just because you read about it is naive. 2Gen is an applied practice. That requires far more than ‘follow this toolkit.’ It requires one to apply 2Gen practices in real time to advance and improve the work.

DR. MARCIA CONÉ, FORMERLY OF WOMEN’S FUNDING NETWORK



Letty Bass, Dr. Meera Mani, Anne Mosle, and Jackie Bezos speaking at the 2019 Aspen Forum on Children and Families. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Participants in 2Gen approach learning cohorts are enthusiastic about the practical value of their cohorts and about the opportunity to develop a network of peers who can be called upon, not just during formal sessions, but whenever needed.

Feedback Loops and Connecting 2Gen Policy and Practice

Funders are increasingly interested in applying lessons community-based organizations have learned implementing 2Gen approaches to inform state and national policy and systems change and ensuring those policies and system changes then work for families in the ways they need to.



OUR WORK ON THE POLICY FRONT HAS BEEN ON ‘LITTLE-P’ POLICY.

We influence platforms and people in positions of authority.

TIFFANY DAY, DAYLIGHT SOLUTIONS, LLC

Policy work can focus on state or national policy change, which requires legislation and executive action. These changes can be labor- and time-intensive. Another approach is to focus on policies that are typically at the department or agency level and generally address organizational practices, agency priorities, internal and external distribution of resources, and

regulations. These types of policy changes can create quick wins and sometimes lead to larger changes that typically are not as labor- or time-intensive. 2Gen approaches have addressed policy change at all levels.

CLOSE UP

United Way Greater Cincinnati

United Way of Greater Cincinnati’s impetus to invest in 2Gen approaches came with the realization that “good, siloed work wasn’t good enough” to really support families in their community. For the organization, 2Gen was the right framework for that needed interconnection.

It focused its philanthropy on creating learning communities, or cohorts, to build 2Gen approaches among partners at different starting places. The **Develop** Cohort focused on new ways for organizations to be more family centered by leveraging design thinking practices and centering community voice. In the second, the **Improve** Cohort, participants analyzed how to make what was already a good practice even better by enacting more rigorous quality improvement and 2Gen outcomes. The third, the **Strengthen** Cohort, focused on how already family-centered organizations could reach beyond their organizations to better help families by exploring systems change solutions.

United Way of Greater Cincinnati gathered continual feedback from community partners about the cohort experience and its influence on advancing 2Gen practices and solutions. The most common feedback was lack of opportunity to connect with partners outside of their designated cohort and the desire for more choice in the capacity-building experiences. In the second year, United Way of Greater Cincinnati went beyond the original three cohorts and, instead of linking participants to one group, shifted to building an open

2Gen approaches have also successfully informed state policy change. Facilitating change in state policy can be a complex and multifaceted process, but there is a role for philanthropy. Success often depends on local context and conditions, so the first step is ensuring that the enabling conditions that will pave the way for policy change are in place. Below are some necessary critical conditions and roles funders can play in facilitating the condition.

ENABLING CONDITION	FUNDER ROLE
 EXPERT RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS	Fund research and data analysis that provide evidence for policy change.
 PUBLIC DEMAND FOR CHANGE	Support advocacy groups, grassroots efforts, and communication campaigns that generate widespread public support for change.
 CHAMPIONS	Educate and inform leaders, such as policymakers, elected officials, or government leaders, to create a strong political will for change.
 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	Convene relevant stakeholders who will be impacted by the change (e.g., business leaders, trade associations, interest groups) to build support for policy change.
 COALITION BUILDING	Facilitate connections between like-minded organizations that can broaden the support base for change.

network. Activities, still focused on advancing 2Gen mindsets, practices, and principles, were open to any partner. United Way of Greater Cincinnati hosted a “101 Design Thinking Session” where in a couple of hours, participants could learn best practices and how to apply them. A three-part Systems Thinking workshop was developed and hosted. United Way subsequently hosted several panels covering a variety of specific practices, such as approaches to serving targeted populations, to help partners share their expertise. It also hosted networking events to help partners build relationships and connect with each other.

As it continued to evolve and fine-tune its offerings, United Way of Greater Cincinnati pivoted significantly in two ways. First, its assessment of potential partners became more value-based. The organization sought out information on exactly how potential partners were family-centered and how they worked at being inclusive and reducing barriers to their services. Second, it listened more carefully to what its partners wanted and needed. And it structured its cohorts around peer group interaction and outreach. Additionally, it built trust with its partner grantees by showing that, like them, their staff were eager learners seeking to grow and expand their services to the community.

In addition to creating enabling conditions, private funders have taken the following steps to effect policy change: consider local context, understand the funder dynamic, co-create with families, find the right grantee or public agency, build relationships and partnerships, and take a nonpartisan or bipartisan approach.

CONSIDER LOCAL CONTEXT

Assess state and local efforts already underway that support family well-being. In some places, there are already 2Gen policies or programs to build on. Determine how philanthropy can add value. Are there new and different partners that philanthropy can bring to the table? Explore ways to build a movement that is diverse and includes a broader section of the population.

UNDERSTAND THE FUNDER DYNAMIC

If a private funder is collaborating in a public-private partnership, its role is different from serving as a programmatic investor. For example, a private funder that invests \$1 million into a \$5 billion human services system is more of a co-partner than a traditional funder and will be unable to drive the timing in such a public-private partnership. The timing of budget season often dictates when legislative proposals will be reviewed rather than a funder's grant cycle. In short, the funder's role in a public-private partnership has a different dynamic.

CO-CREATE WITH FAMILIES

Throughout, this report emphasizes the value of involving parents and families in the creation and implementation of 2Gen initiatives. Parental involvement in policy and system changes brings with it a wide range of benefits. By engaging and working with those who will be impacted by policy change, not only will there be a greater authenticity to the policy, but there will also be greater buy-in from the community. Additionally, having parents in the room so government officials can hear their compelling stories firsthand and in real time is powerful. One funder commented that you “should almost think of parents as staff” when working to change in policy and systems.

CLOSE UP APHSA, ACF, W.K. Kellogg Foundation

In January 2021, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF) provided funding to the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), working in partnership with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), for the Advancing Family Economic Mobility (AFEM) Initiative. Since that original investment, Doris Duke Foundation and other local funders have made additional investments. The AFEM initiative is committed to creating sustainable pathways to economic mobility and well-being for families who are low income through policy, practice, and systems change. It offers an opportunity to strengthen family-serving systems by capturing and scaling state-led bipartisan practice and policy innovations and to inform federal efforts for economic recovery. This project builds on lessons learned from prior WKKF investments, like the Whole Family Approach to Jobs (WFAJ) initiative, and is an expansion and the next phase of the work that demonstrates the importance of adapting system change to each state, region, and context; supporting leadership to implement family-focused policy and programs; building consensus across the aisle; engaging a broad set of public-private, cross-sector stakeholders, including government, business, nonprofits, philanthropy, and parents; creating a national advisory group; investing in a pilot state; providing technical assistance; and building peer learning networks regionally and nationally. This effort

FIND THE RIGHT GRANTEE OR PUBLIC AGENCY

As funders look to connect organizations implementing 2Gen approaches in order to inform policy, the big questions are “Who do you actually fund?” and “Who is going to administer the funds?” These roles are not usually handled by government entities. Funders must find the intermediaries to facilitate the linkage between programs and policy. It takes time to identify the right partner, but this step is critical.

One funder suggested that having an agency at the state level with broad responsibilities for the 2Gen initiative can help link programs to inform policy. However, it can be challenging to identify the right agency. In Connecticut, the Office of Early Childhood is the home of the state’s 2Gen efforts. In other states, 2Gen is housed in the Department of Health and Human Services or the governor’s office.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Creating the right relationships and partnerships is essential to connecting programs and policy and ultimately creating systemic change. Identify organizations that embrace whole-family approaches and that hold shared values. Create a diverse set of partners that can use their influence to push for systemic change. The universe of partners can include parents, business leaders, employers, state leaders, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations. As you develop partnerships, take steps to build trust among the partners. Trust takes time to build and often needs to be built anew when there are regime changes and leadership transitions. Although creating trusting partnerships is not easy, once it is achieved, aligning around what you want to do happens faster.

TAKE A NONPARTISAN OR BIPARTISAN APPROACH

To scale 2Gen programs through policy, the programs must be perceived as nonpartisan or bipartisan and effective and efficient for all of government. Polling research demonstrates that voters overwhelmingly support 2Gen approaches. Both political parties agree it is an important way to help families find the success to which they aspire.

Ongoing messaging to government officials highlighting common areas of concern, such as helping people move out of poverty, supporting education of both children and adults, and providing opportunities for jobs and job training, is a key strategy for gaining

includes a three-pronged approach and the follow set of activities:

1. Mississippi as a demonstration state
APHSa worked with cross-sector agency leaders and stakeholders in Mississippi and created two working groups: 1) the Mississippi Statewide Action Learning Network (MALN), which is designed to bring together and align public-private stakeholders (11 state agency leaders, intermediaries, businesses, nonprofits, philanthropy, federal partners, and parents) across systems to identify tangible policy, practice, and systems opportunities and foster equitable systems change by advancing family-centered economic mobility approaches in Mississippi; and 2) the Mississippi Workforce HUB, which brings together leaders across the workforce development system, including human services, local workforce boards, education, parent leaders, and other key stakeholders, to co-create strategies to advance career pathways for in-demand quality jobs for Mississippi residents. Together, they have created a roadmap for AFEM and pilot work in Mississippi, resulting in aligned, strengthened, and equitable workforce systems; culture change; policy and systems change; and job quality.

2. Peer learning communities

Peer learning communities are central to generating, scaling, and spreading innovative practices and policies for advancing family economic mobility at the state and regional level. In 2022, APHSa established national learning communities comprised of state and county agency leaders committed to the AFEM vision. The learning communities focused on issues such as: benefits cliffs, race equity, parent engagement, child welfare prevention, systems navigation, and alignment.

bipartisan support. Additionally, developing relationships across the aisle with those who are likely to sponsor legislation is crucial to policy change. Advocates for change can be unlikely subjects. When considering bill sponsors, be strategic. Consider some of the unusual suspects who are deeply committed to family security or have a personal connection to the work.

Several 2Gen pilots and initiatives have successfully informed policy. Below are some state examples of 2Gen program-informed policies.

COLORADO

WFCO's grantee partner Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) successfully led the charge for a rule change to increase the TANF basic cash assistance grant by 10 percent.

CONNECTICUT

In 2015, Connecticut became the first state in the nation to pass legislation codifying a 2Gen initiative in statute. The 2Gen Benefits Cliffs Work Group, formed in June 2019, has led statewide efforts to address benefits cliffs through data collection and analysis and development of policy solutions. In summer 2021, the governor signed into law changes in Public Act Number 21-2 to the state's TANF program that include elimination of the "family cap" and, beginning in fiscal year 2024, requiring benefit increases to be provided in years when the program lapses funds, if certain conditions are met. The 2Gen Workforce Work Group played a role in recommending these changes.

GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) covers child care costs so parents with low incomes can return to school. Along with providing a subsidy, the program will also help families find high-quality early learning programs; maintain stability in their child care arrangements; and connect with resources to help them become self-sufficient by supporting the whole family. DECAL became aware of the need to support student parents through its partnership with the Technical College System of Georgia.

3. National Advisory Council (NAC)

NAC is the governing body that aligns the collective AFEM work to build equitable, whole-family approaches to supporting parents as workers. It is comprised of federal representatives from the Interagency Council on Economic Mobility, parents and other community leaders with lived experience, regional and state leaders, technical and policy experts, and philanthropic partners responsible for developing cross-sector economic mobility strategic priorities. Their leadership provides the roadmap for the AFEM initiative, informs federal systems change efforts, and disseminates innovative resources across multiple national networks such as approaches to serving targeted populations, to help partners share their expertise.

NEW ENGLAND STATES (CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, RHODE ISLAND, VERMONT)

These six New England states have made steady progress toward integrating whole-family approaches in their respective states through the Whole Family Approach to Jobs (WFAJ) initiative. Outcomes have included state changes in law, regulation, budget, and culture. Collaboration among family-serving systems and with the federal government is increasing. An independent evaluation, completed in 2019, confirms and clarifies the outcomes and the effectiveness of the strategies employed throughout this initiative. Each state made significant progress on their priorities. The initiative is currently part of a two-year evaluation by Mathematica looking at how two of the WFAJ learning communities on race equity and parent engagement have inspired change within states and increased collaboration among state partners. Mid-point evaluation findings show positive outcomes and new insights on the effectiveness of the peer-to-peer learning approach to support innovation and systems change within states.



Ascend Parent Advisor Drayton Jackson. Photo by Chona Kasinger for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

GRANTMAKING CONSIDERATIONS



Eduardo Padron, Reggie Bicha, Andrea Levere, and Meera Mani at the 2012 Ascend Advisory Board Meeting. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Grantmaking Considerations

This section provides funders with a broad-based look at the various considerations when assessing how, when, and whom to fund. The following information is based largely on input from those currently funding 2Gen programs and their grantees.

General Considerations

ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEED FOR PLANNING TIME

Because of the complexity of 2Gen programs — often involving public-private partnerships, community input, and parent engagement — success can depend on funding a pre-planning period. In their grant, funders need to consider including adequate time for their grantees to brainstorm and map out their 2Gen initiatives. One funder sees it as “a planning period of the grant that is conducive to allowing agencies to really formalize their models.” This work can help grantees think about how their 2Gen work can inform policy and pave the way for policy and systems change.

TAKE A LONG-TERM APPROACH AND MANAGE EXPECTATIONS

2Gen approaches aim to address intergenerational poverty. This is a long-term goal that will not be achieved overnight. According to a funder, it takes a few years to put everything in place and see the results. Funders must recognize that organizational capacity must be built before benefits to families can be measured.

USE THE FUNDER PLATFORM FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

Increasing awareness and advocacy about 2Gen approaches and the work of their grantees is an important role funders can play. Since government grants generally do not pay for communications, funders can step in to tell the story of the important



Atiya Weiss speaking at the 2023 Aspen Forum on Children and Families. Photo by Stephen Jaffe for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

work their grantees are performing, including bringing government officials to 2Gen organizations, generating media interest in program and family outcomes, and discussing 2Gen approaches with other funders.



WE KNOW THAT LONG-TERM COMMITMENT IS REALLY IMPORTANT FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND FOR IMPACT.

What we're learning through our grantmaking in 2Gen whole-family approaches is that it takes a long time for an agency to move from a siloed approach to a 2Gen approach.

DANIEL DUHAMEL, MARGARET A. CARGILL PHILANTHROPIES

USE CONVENING POWER

Convenings have been identified by both funders and grantees as an important and productive approach that connects grantees with new and sometimes unusual partners. Funders have the power to engage a variety of partners and encourage new partnerships.

SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance (TA) has long been a standard, overarching strategy for assisting 2Gen pilots and initiatives. Technical assistance is the process of providing targeted support to an organization with a development need or problem. It is an effective

method for building the capacity of an organization. It involves transferring knowledge or building skills and can include hands-on support, training, peer-to-peer learning, coaching, facilitation, webinars, and resources such as toolkits and briefs. Investment is needed to ensure technical assistance is tailored to recipients' needs and contexts, is co-designed with recipients, and provides concrete and actionable steps.

SERVE AS THE GLUE CONNECTING DIFFERENT ENTITIES

Funders are in an ideal position to deploy philanthropic dollars to connect various stakeholders engaged in 2Gen approaches. Aligning organizations or agencies that have different missions and goals is no easy feat and often requires staffing or structures to facilitate coordination. Philanthropic dollars can support a 2Gen coordinator or resources to support 2Gen group convenings.

BALANCE TRUST-BASED PHILANTHROPY WITH TRACKING OUTCOMES

Many funders struggle to find the right balance between using a trust-based approach with grantees and tracking outcomes. It is a difficult dilemma, as summarized by one funder: "I don't know the answer. I'm struggling. I am not all in with just giving the money, not asking any questions, and assuming all will be great."

Some acknowledge that their current tracking and reporting procedures are onerous. Others rely exclusively on trust-based philanthropy, acknowledging that grantees know their communities and how to best serve them and that the rigors of conventional tracking and reporting are unnecessary. Some funders are taking a middle-of-the-road approach in which they ask their grantees to tell them what they want to measure, rather than dictating what needs to be measured.

MAKE GRANTMAKING MORE FLEXIBLE

Many public and private funders are working to make their grantmaking process more flexible. The Colorado Department of Human Services (CO DHS) provides an example of how the process can be simplified, more user-friendly, and more accessible to grassroots organizations. Among the changes it made:

- Aligning budget years with state and federal fiscal years, which greatly simplified processes, especially when blending funding sources.
- Offering a variety of ways to submit reports (including video submissions or site visits) and allowing reports to be submitted in Spanish.
- Providing technical assistance by offering a training video on its website and hiring someone whose sole responsibility is technical assistance.
- Analyzing funding recipients by redesigning the RFP template to track whom DHS are funding.



Amanda Morrall and Tiffney Marley at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Additional Considerations for Programmatic Funding

INCLUDE BARRIER-ELIMINATION FUNDS

Several funders suggest that all programmatic grants should include what one funder calls “barrier elimination funds.” This is a pool of funding that supports families in ways that public support does not. For example, this type of funding might be used for auto repairs, school supplies, uniforms, or computers for parents who want to advance their education or their career.

PROVIDE MULTIYEAR FUNDING

Many programmatic funders are taking the “long view,” understanding that it takes time to see the impact the 2Gen approach is having. One funder points out that a three-year grant is usually not enough time, and grants are often extended another three years or even longer, providing the time to see the outcomes.

DEVELOP AN EXIT STRATEGY

Many funders fail to define an exit strategy if a 2Gen approach is not a viable option for a grantee. If the grantee doesn’t have an authentic interest or capacity to implement a 2Gen approach, there should be an “off-ramp” allowing the funder and the grantee to part ways amicably.

Additional Considerations for Policy and Systems Change Investments

EMBRACE A DIFFERENT ROLE

The role of funders in policy and systems change investments is markedly different from their role in programmatic grants. Funders need to be more flexible and less prescriptive, as well as extremely mindful of the timing and cadence of the public sector. The goals of funders and policymakers may differ; flexibility and patience are essential.

SUPPORT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Although technical assistance is an important component of a general 2Gen approach investment strategy, it is particularly important when funding policy and systems change. Staff and leadership of public agencies rarely have the time and space to reflect, share lessons, and learn from peers and experts.

SHARE LESSONS LEARNED

Funders often have a wealth of knowledge from interactions with various grantees. While sharing lessons learned is helpful for any 2Gen approach, policymakers particularly appreciate the information. Although no two states are exactly alike, through reports and presentations, funders can share the lessons learned, which policymakers and local leaders can apply as suitable to their specific 2Gen approach.

COMPENSATE PARENTS

This report previously noted the importance of family engagement in co-designing programs and policies. However, parents need to be compensated for their time. Although public agencies are increasingly funding family engagement, this is not always the case. Philanthropy can play an important role in ensuring that resources are available to compensate parents, enabling them to more easily participate in the design and implementation of 2Gen programs and policies by eliminating financial barriers to involvement, such as transportation, child care, and time off from work. As one grantee pointed out: “It is hard to come up with state dollars to do that.”

SUSTAIN THE WORK ACROSS ADMINISTRATIONS

2Gen initiatives may lose steam during an administration change. Maintaining momentum across administrations and across party lines can be challenging. Funders can support grantees in thinking about strategies to sustain the work early on and engage staffers who will not leave if there is an administration change.



Sherece West-Scantlebury, Kwame Anku, and Gillian White speaking at the 2023 Aspen VisionXChange convening. Photo by Dan Bayer for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Considerations for Funders New to 2Gen Approaches

For a funder, selecting an investing strategy that meets its own objectives while making a significant difference in the grantee's work can be complicated due to the heterogeneous nature of 2Gen approaches. Funders considering making investments need to start by listening to families' needs, dreams, and hopes to then understand how a 2Gen approach can address them.

KEY QUESTIONS:



What are your goals and objectives? What is your foundation's mission? What works best within that framework: funding programmatic approaches, supporting policy advocacy work, or a mix of both?



How does 2Gen build on your previous investments? What can you build on? What are the options for 2Gen in your geographic focus area?



Do you want to work with existing partners? Do you want to fund a new set of partner organizations?



Do you want to be the solo funder or collaborate with other funders?



Where can your funding be additive rather than duplicative?



What areas are you interested in funding? Be specific. Zero in on where your funds can have the most impact.



Are your potential grantees authentically interested in 2Gen approaches? As you identify potential grantees, assess their interest and ensure they have a genuine desire to implement a 2Gen approach and that the approach is not being imposed on them.



Are your expectations realistic? New funders may need to right-size expectations about outcomes that can be achieved with their funding. It takes time for 2Gen approaches to mature and produce outcomes. Consider your level of investment and your funding time horizon and realistically assess the outcomes that are achievable.

CLOSE UP

Women's Funding Network, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Whole Family Approaches to Economic Mobility

Funders considering making 2Gen investments are encouraged to review a toolkit developed specifically for grantmakers: [Whole Family Approaches to Economic Mobility: A Funder's Guide to Supporting Multigenerational Policy and Practice](#) by the Women's Funding Network (WFN). This toolkit was made possible through a partnership between WFN and Ascend at the Aspen Institute with funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The toolkit provides a guide based on the experiences and research of women's funds and philanthropy from across the country that are investing in families and communities with a whole-family focus. It offers tools and resources to address community needs through multigenerational family programming and policies.

Funding Approaches

There are many ways to fund 2Gen approaches. As a result, funders can choose one strategy or mix and match based on the availability of funds and their funding objectives.

The most commonly used funding approaches include:

FUNDING PILOTS | Public and private funders can launch pilot programs to test 2Gen-specific innovations and assess their outcomes. Since pilots can be an important barometer to quickly learn what works, funders can support efforts to launch, evaluate, and scale pilot projects.

FUNDING INDIVIDUAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS | Funders can support nonprofits to serve families holistically with coordinated services that work to increase their well-being.

FUNDING POLICY/ADVOCACY | Funders can support efforts to influence policy and advance systems change.

SCALING A SPECIFIC PLATFORM | Funders can zero in on a specific platform with a goal to scale 2Gen approaches at the community and national level. Examples of platforms include workforce development organizations, early education organizations, or specific organization types, such as United Way agencies or Community Action agencies.

SUPPORTING COHORT MODELS | Funders can support a group of organizations that are all focused on advancing 2Gen approaches. The cohorts could be based on geography, a specific platform, or a mix of organizations.

FUNDING A MIX OF APPROACHES | Funders do not need to be constrained by one funding approach if they feel their funding can be maximized by contributing to more than one initiative.

TAKING THE PORTFOLIO APPROACH | Some funders choose to adopt a 2Gen approach for their entire grantmaking portfolio. For example, The United Way of Greater Cincinnati recognized the importance of this approach and restructured its work to focus solely on supporting 2Gen approaches.

AREAS FOR FUTURE FOCUS



Bonnie Hardage and attendees of the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Areas for Future Focus

2Gen approaches have grown, gaining traction in every state in the country and internationally, but there is still much to learn and much to be done to continue to scale the approach and help advance family prosperity. Below are five topics identified by funders for future exploration.

Communicating 2Gen

As a name, “2Gen” has received mixed reviews. For some, it is a concise and accurate description of working with families across generations. For others of a more conservative bent, it can seem too trendy or associated with the opposite political party. They and others prefer terms such as “whole-family approaches” or “multigenerational approaches.” And for others, the term 2Gen is either not understood or misunderstood. One funder summarized it this way: “People are finding different doorways to walk through to do the work, and not everybody is using the 2Gen word.”

It is important for funders to make clear that the 2Gen approach, above all else, is an economic mobility strategy. That message cannot get diluted. 2Gen is about increased economic success and well-being of families with the goal of breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

Assessing 2Gen Readiness

Interest in 2Gen approaches has escalated, and as a result, many organizations report that they begin implementation without fully understanding what the approach entails. Funders are often challenged with how to assess an organization’s knowledge and readiness to adopt a 2Gen approach. This makes it difficult to determine which organizations are best



Katie Beckmann speaking at the 2019 Aspen Forum on Children and Families. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

suited for investment. Some funders have developed “readiness assessments” to better understand the organization’s knowledge and capacity. These readiness assessment tools and approaches can be enhanced and shared broadly.

Building Capacity of Training Practitioners, Consultants, and TA Advisors

Many 2Gen peer-learning cohorts to date have engaged technical assistance (TA) advisors, consultants, or expert practitioners from other 2Gen organizations as coaches for emerging and maturing organizations. They help 2Gen practitioners advance from their existing stage or “starting point” to achieve their next goal or performance level. However, the field is experiencing several challenges related to technical assistance providers. The field is still quite young. As a result, there is almost no stock of people who have themselves fully implemented a 2Gen approach within an organization or system and then moved on to help others as a consultant. Many people who are serving as 2Gen consultants have worked as consultants in a range of poverty-alleviation and asset-building efforts; most have strength in some aspect of 2Gen approaches but need to build knowledge and muscle on all aspects.

The expert practitioners still leading nonprofit organizations who do occasionally serve as 2Gen coaches really enjoy doing it, but they are simply stretched too far. Thus, serving as a 2Gen coach makes it harder for the field-leading practitioners to pay close attention back home, and that poses a risk for the field as it builds a results base. Currently, there is not a large enough bench of people who can be tapped to coach other organizations and address the growing demand. Investment is needed to increase the capacity and number of 2Gen technical assistance providers.

Staffing for 2Gen Approaches

2Gen approaches rely on the ongoing relationship between staff and family members. Relationship building is crucial and difficult, if not impossible, to achieve when there is a shortage of staff or high staff turnover. As a result, funding aimed at hiring and retaining quality staff is crucial in 2Gen approaches.

The 2Gen Trajectory: Implications for Funding and Evaluation

Because 2Gen approaches usually involve multiple family members, funders, and providers, they often require longer timeframes for both funding and evaluation. In terms of funding, three questions are



*Dr. Darius Tandon at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange.
Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®*

especially important to ask early in the process to gain a realistic sense of program trajectories and to avoid misunderstandings down the road: What is the life cycle of the programs? How long does it take to implement a 2Gen approach? How do you determine whether organizations starting 2Gen approaches are “hidden gems?”

When evaluating 2Gen approaches, it is important to acknowledge that criteria often used in less complex programs can be inaccurate and can even disguise true progress. 2Gen approaches can often be organic and need to evolve as providers work with family members to help them achieve financial stability. Savvy funders have come to realize that a change in strategy or an increased timeframe can often be an asset and not a liability, indicating that the program is adapting to the needs of those it is designed to serve.

Combatting the Silo Effect in Public Agencies and Foundations

Both private foundations and public sector funders tend to be organized as “siloes departments,” an organizational structure that can impede the successful pinpointing and funding of 2Gen approaches. Both public and private funders can address the silo effect by collaborating on a unified strategy to funding 2Gen approaches. When various departments or agencies come together, interact, and communicate, barriers to funding 2Gen approaches can be broken down, with each department or agency contributing to creating a successful 2Gen program. It is a clear case of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

For example, on the state level, a Maine Human Services initiative helped various department heads realize the value to the community of the interconnectivity of their funding. It brought people together across departments who then saw that their department’s funding was maximized because funding from another department was also involved. As a result, they continued to collaborate on other initiatives to “braid their funding.”

A private funder indicated that the evolution to a less siloed organization meant that foundation-wide, employees became more focused on “how we think about families, about how they are situated, and how we engage them.”

CONCLUSION



Jason Gortney, Raheem Brooks, and Jesus Benitez (left to right) speaking at the 2018 Father Factor convening. Photo for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Conclusion

Over the last decade, numerous public and private funders have invested in 2Gen approaches, each using their own strategy. As funders continue to embrace 2Gen approaches, there is an opportunity to explore ways to better support them, connect them, and elevate best practices. It is an appropriate time to assess opportunities for collaboration.

Collaboration could take several forms, but the following three ideas have emerged:

- ★ 01 Information, tools, and resource sharing
- ★ 02 Creation of an affinity group
- ★ 03 Aligned or collaborative funding opportunities

Information, tools, and resource sharing can help elevate funder best practices. Sharing research, reports, and tools will equip funders with the information they need to respond to emerging 2Gen issues, opportunities, or challenges.



Daniel Williams speaking at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange, alongside Elizabeth Sullivan. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Below are potential resources suggested by funders that would be especially beneficial:



Develop a grantee assessment tool to evaluate knowledge/readiness to implement 2Gen approaches



Create an app that includes resources and updated information about the work of 2Gen funders and practitioners



Create communications tools or dashboards to track grantee outcomes



Draft a “how-to” blueprint for developing effective public-private partnerships



Develop a training course to build the capacity of 2Gen technical assistance providers



Conduct a meta-analysis of 2Gen approach research reports

Several funders expressed interest in exploring the creation of a 2Gen affinity group. Funders with different approaches but a common interest in connecting with and learning from their peers can benefit from each other. An affinity group provides a venue for funders to delve into timely issues, learn from subject-matter experts, and connect with one another. This group could also engage policymakers, giving funders another avenue to affect public policy and engage in advocacy. Some funders may prefer to address policy advocacy issues through an affinity group rather than as an individual funder. Creating a network of diverse, knowledgeable, and connected funders will enable them to share ideas, learn about new approaches, and collectively troubleshoot challenges.

Some funders are interested in maximizing their investments by aligning them with other funders or by partnering with other grantmakers for collaborative funding opportunities. These approaches bring funders together to leverage collective resources and act on issues they care about. With coordinated

funding strategies, grantmakers can work across sectors and address problems in comprehensive and intersectional ways.

For example, a diverse group of 10 funders invested in the 2023–2024 Ascend [2Gen Best Practices Accelerator Community](#). Each funder has demonstrated a commitment to deepening 2Gen approaches within their grantmaking strategies and learning from each other. Leading the design, implementation, and assessment of the Fund, Ascend will provide regular updates to the funders on the insights and opportunities resulting from the 15 projects Ascend selected to codify and scale 2Gen best practices.

Interest in and adoption of 2Gen approaches have accelerated significantly over the last decade. Now is an opportune time to develop the resources and structures that funders need to continue making these strategic investments, ensuring that 2Gen approaches are the standard for all family-serving organizations.

APPENDIX



Ascend Parent Advisor Savannah Steger and her family. Photo by Morgan Lock for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

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WHOLE FAMILY PILOTS
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STATE 2GEN PILOTS AND INITIATIVES





Colorado 2Gen Opportunities Pilot Program

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2018-2020	<p>2Generation Opportunities, or 2GO, is an effort to help Colorado communities innovate and create their own ways of engaging in a two-generation approach to service delivery. In November 2018, the 2GO pilot awarded 10 grants of \$100,000 each to both rural and urban community collaborators who proposed innovative ways to address complex systemic challenges that impede families’ ability to reach their full potential.</p>
PLATFORM	
Local human services, public health, family resource center, and nonprofit agencies	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Statewide	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$1,000,000	
FUNDERS	
Colorado Department of Human Services	
REPORTS	
<p>Colorado Guide to 2Gen 2Generation Opportunities pilot program</p> <p>2Gen Transformation Project Procedures Manual (January 2019)</p> <p>Family Voice Council and Compass</p>	



Georgia’s 2Gen Innovation Grants: Capacity-Building Implementation Funding

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2019-2020	<p>Georgia is advancing a two-generation approach to support children from low-income families with high-quality early learning while supporting their families in attaining the education, training, and, ultimately, the jobs that lead to economic self-sufficiency. The Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) made available two new funding opportunities to pilot or expand community strategies that connect the early learning, postsecondary, and workforce systems at the local level.</p>
PLATFORM	
501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations or government entities	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Five community agencies across Georgia	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$100,000	
FUNDERS	
Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)	
REPORTS	
<p><u>Two-Generation Innovation: Connecting Early Learning, Postsecondary, and Workforce in Georgia</u></p>	



Maryland 2Gen Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017-2018	<p>In 2017, Maryland issued an Executive Order creating a commission to study the possibility of using the 2Gen approach to transform how state agencies work with families. The commission focused discussions on four key areas for intervention through Maryland’s holistic family model: education, family economic stability, early childhood development, and health. Current programs address all four of these indicators; however, the commission determined that the success of the entire family depends on realigning current service delivery models.</p>
PLATFORM	
Maryland state agencies	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Statewide	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
The Maryland Department of Human Services granted \$950,000 to Maryland Community Action Partnership.	
FUNDERS	
Maryland Department of Human Services	
REPORTS	
<p><u>Final Report on the Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program, December 2018</u></p>	



Minnesota Department of Human Services

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2016- 2021 2Gen Policy Network (Cohort 1) 2019-2024 Whole Family Systems (Cohort 2)	<p>2Gen Policy Network (Cohort 1) was the first iteration of Minnesota’s system change work. It was designed to advance two-generation approaches to policies and practices that improve outcomes for children and parents together. The Minnesota Department of Human Services partnered with four organizations from 2016–2021, offering funding totaling \$4,980,000 in multi-year grants to these sites. Whole Family Systems Initiative brings together and expands on the work and lessons from the Economic Assistance and Employment Services Division’s 2Gen Policy Network (Cohort 1), the Child Care Services Division’s Early Childhood Systems Reform project, and the Child Safety and Permanency Division’s work to bring equitable outcomes in child welfare. In late 2019 and early 2020, these three divisions in the Child and Family Services Administration at the Department of Human Services combined funding to offer grants for a second cohort of seven local organizations; this initiative was called Whole Family Systems. The Minnesota Department of Human Services issued Whole Family Systems Grants (Cohort 2), totaling \$17.2 million over five years, to eight organizations throughout the state to uncover and address the systemic influences related to racial, geographic, and economic inequities, and to support coordination across the programs and systems that serve children and families. This included funding for innovation partnerships first to University of Minnesota Future Services Institute (2019–2022) and then to the BUILD Initiative (2022–2024).</p>
PLATFORM	
Multiple platforms	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Statewide	
INVESTMENT LEVELS	
\$4,677,336 (Cohort 1 2Gen Policy Network) \$17,200,000 (Cohort 2 Whole Family Systems)	
FUNDERS	
Minnesota Department of Human Services	
REPORTS	
For more information about Minnesota’s 2Gen Policy Network (Cohort 1) and Whole Family Systems (Cohort 2) and publications please see website: https://mn.gov/dhs/2-generation/	



Tennessee 2Gen & Community Grant Partnerships

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2014-	<p>The program was created as an additional method to invest TANF funds in ways that provide assistance to families with low incomes and help them move toward sustainable economic stability. The grants will support a wide range of services in the areas of education, health and well-being, and economic stability, and fostering safe, stable, and nurturing relationships. The grant recipients will be selected through a competitive application process and evaluated based on their ability to provide effective services and programs that address the specific needs of the community.</p>
PLATFORM	
Public-private partnerships – more than 50 programs	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Statewide	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$244,941,916.93	
FUNDERS	
Tennessee Department of Human Services	
REPORTS	
<p>2Gen Annual Report: Building a Thriving Tennessee Through 2Gen</p>	



Virginia 2Gen/Whole Family Pilot Project

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2019-2023	<p>The Virginia General Assembly funded a Two-Generation/ Whole Family Pilot Project. Starting in FY 2019, the Virginia state budget appropriated \$1.125 million per year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) budget for the pilot project, which aimed to test and evaluate concepts and specific interventions that represent two-generation or whole-family strategies to alleviate multigenerational poverty. The pilot project was designed to accelerate the development of whole-family strategies that move families out of poverty in various communities throughout the Commonwealth. The Virginia Department of Social Services completed a competitive process and awarded grants to six Community Action Agencies. These six agencies have been building capacity to provide a range of activities, including family-centered coaching, flexible funding for family barrier removal, and customized mental health supports. The National Community Action Partnership was selected in a competitive process as the technical assistance provider.</p>
PLATFORM	
Community action agencies	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Newport News, Emporia, Radford, Abingdon, Farmville, and New Kent, Virginia	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$4,500,000	
FUNDERS	
Virginia Department of Social Services (source of funding: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [TANF] block grant)	
REPORTS	
<p>What is the Two-Generation (2Gen) Whole Family Pilot Project?</p> <p>Report to the Virginia General Assembly on the 2Gen/Whole Family Pilot Project for 2021-2022</p> <p>2Gen Success Stories</p>	



Washington 2Gen Poverty Reduction Work Group

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2015–present	<p>In 2018, Governor Inslee created a Poverty Reduction Work Group (PRWG) and tasked it with developing a comprehensive, 10-year plan to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state. A diverse group of government, employer, and community stakeholders, powered by a steering committee of people experiencing poverty, met over two years to craft the eight strategies and 60 recommendations in the Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future: The 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington State.</p> <p>The goal of the 10-Year Plan is for all Washingtonians to experience justice, joy, and well-being for generations to come. Since its submission in January 2021, the plan has galvanized policymakers to invest over \$3 billion in policies and programs to improve well-being for children and families in communities throughout the state. Governor Inslee and the Washington State Legislature have taken steps to sustain the effort through a new Subcabinet on Intergenerational Poverty Reduction and a legislative-executive task force focused on poverty reduction. The effort is staffed by the Economic Justice Team in the Department of Social and Health Services, which supports the interagency collaboration needed to fully realize the goals in the 10-Year Plan.</p> <p>Washington state’s poverty reduction efforts have been recognized nationally as a 2Gen best practice by the American Public Human Services Association, Ascend at the Aspen Institute, and Leadership for a Networked World at Harvard University.</p>
PLATFORM	
State agencies, legislators, tribal nations, people with lived experience, employers, community-based organizations, philanthropy	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Statewide	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>\$66,800 in 2015</p> <p>The governor and state legislature have invested \$3 billion in policies, programs, and funding to support intergenerational well-being since the 10-Year Plan was submitted in January 2021.</p>	
FUNDERS	
<p>Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Kresge Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>	
REPORTS	
<p>Blueprint for a Just & Equitable Future: 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in Washington State</p>	

FEDERAL 2GEN PILOTS AND INITIATIVES





Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance 2Gen Peer Learning

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017-2018	<p>The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance selected 11 teams from across the country to participate a yearlong initiative to learn from peers and nationally recognized experts about 2Gen strategies that meet the needs of children and parents together. The community focused on using strategies that support workforce development for parents, provide access to high-quality educational experiences for their children, build social capital, and improve the well-being of children and families.</p>
PLATFORM	
<p>Multiple platforms: Several state TANF programs, two Tribal TANF/child welfare collaboration grantees, two Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) grantees, two Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood (HMRF) programs</p>	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Connections to Success – Missouri Cook Inlet Tribal Council – Alaska Encompass Community Services – California Hawaii Department of Human Services Iowa Department of Human Rights/ Department of Human Services Maine Department of Health and Human Services Pennsylvania Department of Human Services South Dakota Department of Social Services Zepf Center – Ohio</p>	



Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2012-2017	<p>On September 30, 2012, the Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) launched the National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration to test the efficacy of child support-led employment strategies. OCSE awarded eight competitive grants to state child support agencies to develop and implement programs that provide employment services to noncustodial parents in the child support system as part of a national demonstration framework.</p>
PLATFORM	
Child support/employment programs	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
California, Colorado, Iowa, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>\$18,400,000</p> <p>Each grantee received \$775,000 in 1115 demonstration funds over five years. Once federal financial participation (FFP) was added, the total amount of funding available to each grantee over five years was \$2.3 million.</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
HHS Office of Child Support Enforcement	<p>Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED): Findings from the Benefit-Cost Analysis</p> <p>Final Implementation Findings from the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED) Evaluation (December 2018)</p> <p>The National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration Fact Sheet #1 (CSPED)</p>



DOL Strengthening Working Families Initiative

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2016	<p>Approximately \$54 million in grants were disbursed to 14 grantees for the H-1B-funded Strengthening Working Families Initiative (SWFI) on June 14, 2016. The goal of SWFI was to assist in the removal of child care barriers faced by working parents in need of training to secure better jobs. Each partnership included representatives from the public workforce system, community-based and faith-based organizations, child care service providers, an economic development agency, an education and training provider, and at least three employers, or an industry association representing at least three employer partners.</p>
PLATFORM	
<p>Public-private partnerships with nonprofit organizations, local workforce development boards, institutions of higher learning, and municipalities</p>	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Sites in Roanoke, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery and Pulaski counties and the cities of Radford, Salem, and Roanoke (VA); Maricopa County (AZ); Alachua and Bradford counties (FL); Rochester (NY); Greenville and Laurens counties (SC); Los Angeles County; Vermont; Broward County (FL); Cook County (IL); Fayette, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton counties (TN); Denver-area counties; Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties (MS); Boston; and Southwestern CT</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$54,000,000	
FUNDERS	
<p>The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA)</p>	
REPORTS	
<p>SWFI grantee abstracts</p>	



Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Health Integration Prenatal-to-Three Program Awards

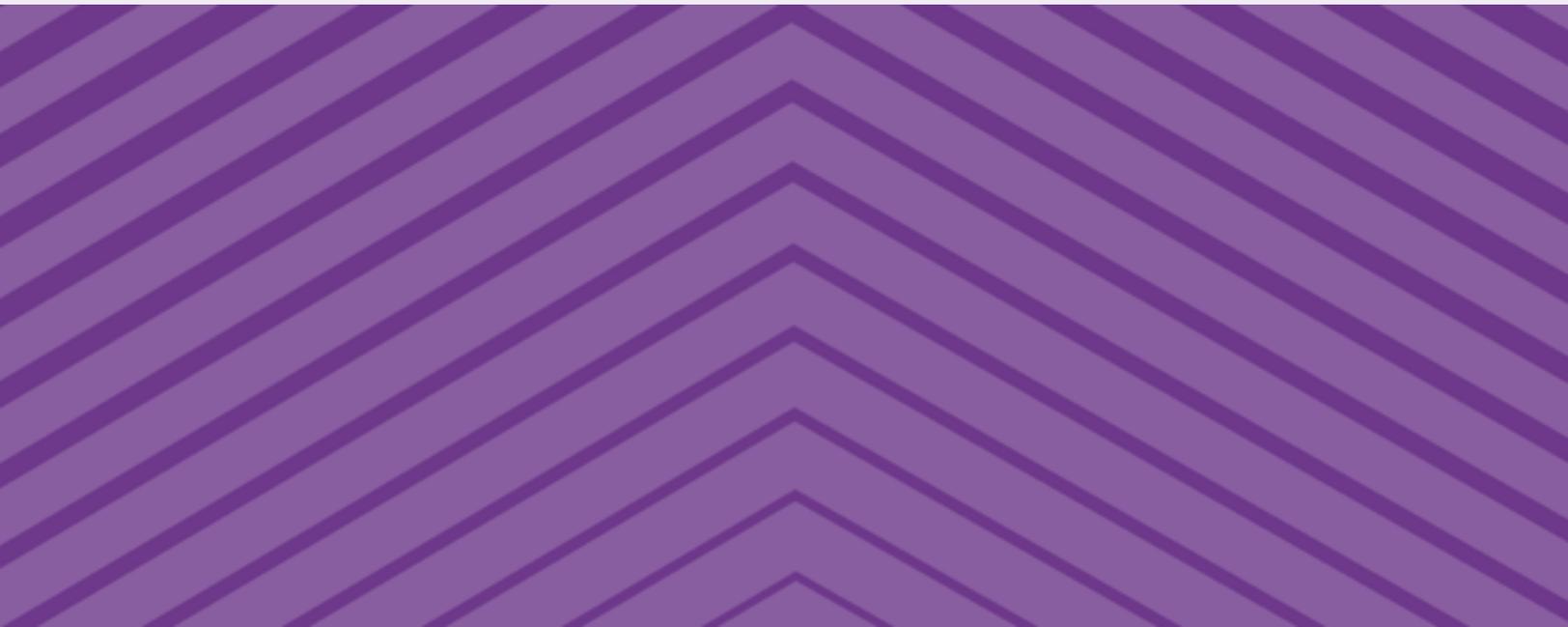
DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2018–present	<p>The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) program builds state capacity and infrastructure to integrate and strengthen maternal and early childhood systems. Its particular focus on the prenatal-to-age-3 period maximizes the opportunity to reach and support families during the earliest stages of parenting. These funds will advance cross-sector collaborations and partnerships, health system improvements, state-level policy and fiscal innovation, equity, and family leadership to promote early developmental health and family well-being among prenatal to three-year-old (P-3) populations.</p>
PLATFORM	
Early childhood systems	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
2021–2026: Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, and Washington	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>\$30,600,000 (2018–2023)</p> <p>HRSA currently awards \$5.1 million annually to 20 state-level entities (up to \$255,600 each)</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)	HRSA Maternal & Child Health: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)



White House Rural Council Rural IMPACT

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2015-2018	<p>In 2015, the federal government implemented a demonstration program, Rural Integration Models for Parents and Children to Thrive, or Rural IMPACT, to provide federal leadership and community-level resources to address rural poverty and the need for two-generation supports. Ten rural and tribal communities were announced as Rural IMPACT sites in September 2015.</p> <p>The Rural IMPACT federal team designed the demonstration to focus primarily on technical assistance (TA). With limited federal resources available for the new initiative, the federal team determined that greater change could be leveraged through intensive TA than modest direct funding apportioned across the 10 sites. The National Community Action Partnership and the American Academy of Pediatrics provided technical assistance to the demonstration sites. The Administration for Children and Families and the Health Resources and Services Administration at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provided funding for the technical assistance.</p>
PLATFORM	
Multiple platforms	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Berea (KY), Blanding (UT), Blytheville (AR), Hillsboro (OH), Hugo (OK), Jackson (MS), Machias (ME), Marshalltown (IA), Oakland and Cumberland (MD), and White Earth (MN)	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
Rural IMPACT is an example of the power of public-private partnerships. Although the 10 sites received no direct federal funding to implement Rural IMPACT, the total federal investment in site supports during year 1 was about \$838,585. This included the costs of VISTA volunteers, professional coaching, other TA resources, and in-person meetings and site visits. Private foundations provided critical investments to conceptualize and develop the initiative and to support local efforts.	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
Fundors included The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Great River Economic Development Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, San Juan Foundation, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.	<p>White House Blog: Opportunity for All: White House Rural Council Launches “Rural Impact” Effort to Help Rural Children and Families Succeed</p> <p>Implementation of the Federal Rural IMPACT Demonstration</p>

PRIVATELY FUNDED 2GEN WHOLE FAMILY PILOTS AND INITIATIVES





Whole Family Approach to Jobs

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017-2024	<p>Whole Family Approach to Jobs (WFAJ) is a six-state New England initiative to bolster family well-being and economic mobility by a partnership between HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the National Conference of State Legislatures but also included multi-sector teams of stakeholders—including parents, legislators, executive branch leaders, businesses, and local philanthropic and community-based organizations.</p> <p>Participants work on shared action steps, model policy direction, and having a consumer focus. A cross-sector approach brings housing, child care, employment, health care, and human services together. WFAJ learning communities choose and take on specific topics such as the innovations, the cliff effect, workforce and career pathways, parent engagement, and race equity. Outcomes have included state changes in law, regulation, budget, and culture. States have shared best practices, and replication across regions has occurred. Parents have become engaged as lived-experience partners and have taken active roles in listening sessions, conference design, and peer-to-peer outreach on available benefits and other topics.</p>
PLATFORM	
Regional state-federal and nonprofit public-private partnerships	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
ACF Region 1: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; light-touch partnership with ACF Region 4: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$350,000 (W. K. Kellogg Foundation) Additional local foundations and public partners matched the Kellogg Foundation grant.	
FUNDERS	
W.K. Kellogg Foundation, John T. Gorman Foundation, Rhode Island Foundation, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, Vermont Department of Labor, Connecticut Association for Human Services, CVS Health, Hogan Family Foundation, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Hartford Foundation for Charitable Giving, Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, and the Connecticut Department of Social Services	
REPORTS	
Whole Family Approach to Jobs: Helping Parents Work and Children Thrive Lessons From The Field	



APHSA Advancing Family Economic Mobility (AFEM) Initiative

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
<p>Jan 1, 2021–June 30, 2024</p> <p>This initiative is a national expansion of the Whole Family Approach to Jobs (WFAJ) Initiative that builds on the lessons learned and includes WFAJ in Region 1 and AFEM in Region 4, along with other components.</p>	<p>Utilizing grant funds and its expansive network of human-serving organizations, workforce partners, and other stakeholders, American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) partnered closely with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to develop public-private, cross-sector peer learning communities that facilitate conversations between agencies to foster new approaches to advancing economic mobility at all levels. These peer learning networks equipped human services agencies to develop new strategies focused on job quality, race equity, and serving the whole family to increase access to secure employment and career pathways for all families. APHSA’s work in Mississippi provides a strong foundation and serves as a national model for improving systems to be more aligned to what families need.</p>
PLATFORM	
<p>Human services, workforce/labor, education, child welfare, health, corrections, and early education agencies and organizations</p>	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Pilot state: Mississippi</p> <p>Two regional learning communities:</p> <p>#1: Whole Family Approach to Jobs in ACF Region 1 – New England states: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT</p> <p>#2: State Learning Community in ACF Region 4 – Southern states: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN</p> <p>Two national learning communities:</p> <p>#1 – Systems Navigation: LA, NE, IL, Los Angeles County</p> <p>#2 – Child Welfare Systems Prevention: MO, OR, OH, NY</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>\$3,166,674 (W.K. Kellogg Foundation)</p> <p>\$1,000,000 (Doris Duke Charitable Foundation)</p>	
FUNDERS	
<p>W.K. Kellogg Foundation (original funder), Doris Duke Charitable Foundation</p>	



Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group 2GenACT (Accelerating Capacity and Tools)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2016-2020	<p>The Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group, advised by a group of 2Gen funders, expert practitioners, technical assistance consultants, and Ascend staff, designed and delivered a set of activities intended to advance the substance and depth of practitioner knowledge leading to better-connected action in the 2Gen field across the nation. Primary activities included: (a) convening a 2GenACT Link Team of 15 expert practitioners and consultants who identified priority tools and activities to help 2Gen practitioners learn and connect; (b) conducting guided multi-day peer-learning site visits to places of 2Gen excellence attended by dozens of 2Gen teams from across the country, each of which put together an action plan on-site and received follow-up virtual coaching; (c) developing key “missing” written and media tools needed by 2Gen startup, early-, and mid-stage initiatives, and (d) redesigning the navigation and categorization of the Ascend 2Gen toolbox and updating and expanding its contents.</p>
PLATFORM	
2Gen practitioners and networks across sector and place	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
National	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>TBD (The Annie E. Casey Foundation – design and planning phase)</p> <p>TBD (The Annie E. Casey Foundation – implementation phase)</p> <p>\$385,000 (W.K.Kellogg Foundation – implementation phase)</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
The Annie E. Casey Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation	Ascend's 2Gen Resource Library



Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families (BOOST)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2019-2021	<p>The Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families (BOOST) initiative aims to strengthen partnerships between community colleges and human services nonprofits that connect people with low incomes in cities to critical human service supports and educational pathways that will help them climb the social and economic ladder. BOOST cities participate in a cohort-based learning community and seek to have impact at the program, organization, and system level. Jobs for the Future acts as the learning and management partner, supported by Equal Measure as the evaluation partner.</p>
PLATFORM	
Partnerships between human services nonprofits and community colleges	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Baltimore, MD; Green Bay, WI; Hartford, CT; New York, NY; Portland, OR; and Syracuse, NY	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$3,600,000 plus \$800,000 for the learning community	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
The Kresge Foundation	Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families (BOOST)



Educare Learning Network 2Gen Acceleration Program

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2015-2018	<p>To identify new opportunities to expand 2Gen, the Buffett Early Childhood Fund launched its Acceleration grants, an experiment designed to inspire innovation and promote connection across the Educare Learning Network. In 2015, the first Acceleration grant was awarded to Sheltering Arms in Atlanta, Georgia, to lead a three-year, collaborative effort at four Educare schools in Arizona, Atlanta, Central Maine, and New Orleans.</p>
PLATFORM	
Educare schools	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Atlanta, Central Maine, New Orleans, and Phoenix	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$542,052	
FUNDERS	
Buffett Early Childhood Fund	
REPORTS	
Accelerating 2Gen Approaches at Educare	



Employment Equity for Single Moms (EESM)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2019 (planning grant) 2020–present (implementation grant)	<p>The Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative (MLICCI) is a statewide, nonprofit policy advocacy organization focused on seeking a more equitable child care subsidy system in Mississippi through policy, practice, and systems change that addresses access, quality, and affordability. This is in service to advancing employment equity for single moms, recognizing that child care is the most essential work support for working mothers. MLICCI helped secure a major win for families in May 2023, when the child support enforcement requirement (enacted in 2004) was removed in the qualification process for child care assistance, resulting in thousands more parents being able to enter or advance in the workforce. Mississippi was one of only 13 states to force custodial parents to sue noncustodial parents to qualify for child care assistance. This was one of the biggest barriers to parents working or attending job training programs.</p> <p>To that end, the Employment Equity for Single Moms (EESM) initiative was launched in 2020 after a 10-month planning grant in 2019. It is an evidence-based, two-generation, statewide initiative that prepares single mothers for higher-paying jobs while ensuring child care and subsidies for their children and overcoming gender inequities in the workforce, resulting in sustained systemic change. This is achieved through targeted outreach and recruitment, training and credentialing, and job placement and retention, all of which is undergirded by interagency collaboration and cross-sector partnerships, leveraged and aligned resources, streamlined processes, child care vouchers, and intensive case management and family-centered coaching. This initiative is designed to mitigate barriers to employment in high-demand careers and ultimately advance economic security and wellness for single moms and their children.</p>
PLATFORM	
Workforce, human services, child care	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Statewide	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$150,000 – planning grant \$1,613,284 – implementation grant	
FUNDERS	
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	
REPORTS	
EESM website	



Family-Centered Coaching

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017–present	<p>Family-Centered Coaching (FCC) is a strengths-based, trauma-informed, fluid coaching approach that includes a set of strategies, tools and toolkit, and resources and meets the needs of whole families where they are. It is based on the latest brain research and is trauma-informed, includes a readiness assessment, weaves in behavioral economics, addresses executive functioning, is strengths-based, and applies a racial equity lens. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation commissioned the development of FCC in 2016 by working with consultants, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and a committee of national experts to meet the interconnected needs of whole families. By shifting from what services an organization offers to what a family needs, organizations practicing Family-Centered Coaching shift their culture to get to more transformational outcomes that deeply connect to participants’ goals and dreams. The Prosperity Agenda was selected in 2017 as the national training and TA HUB for FCC. It provides train-the-trainer support and training and technical assistance to many different sector platforms to steward change across leadership, supervisors, and staff working directly with families, and is leading national learning community of FCC providers. FCC is now in 32 states and growing.</p>
PLATFORM	
<p>Multiple platforms: community-based organizations and public platforms (e.g., human service agencies and programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Workforce Investment Boards and Workforce Centers, Head Start/Early Head Start, child care centers, higher education, and Community Action Agencies)</p>	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
32 states	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$1,560,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	<p>Family-Centered Coaching website Family-Centered Coaching Is a Racial Equity Strategy</p>



Family-Centered Community Change

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2012-2019	<p>Family-Centered Community Change (FCCC) supported local partnerships in three neighborhoods with low economic resources as they integrated services to help adults and children succeed together in a two-generation approach.</p>
PLATFORM	
Community partnerships	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Buffalo, NY; Columbus, OH; and San Antonio, TX	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$20,550,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
The Annie E. Casey Foundation	<p><u>Family-Centered Community Change Report—Supporting Families, Strengthening Neighborhoods</u></p> <p><u>Developing Two-Generation Approaches in Communities—Final Report from Family-Centered Community Change</u></p>



Family Economic Success/ Early Childhood Education

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2013-2016	<p>The Annie E. Casey Foundation invested in four pilots known as Family Economic Success — Early Childhood Education (FES-ECE). The FES-ECE framework was purposely flexible to assess how community-based organizations would put the three pillars of family economic success — parent engagement and capacity building, high-quality early childhood care, and parent education — into practice. Funding supported time for learning, framing the approach, site selection, implementation, evaluation, and capacity-building in the field.</p>
PLATFORM	
Multiple platforms	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Atlanta, GA; Garrett County, MD; New York, NY; and Tulsa, OK	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$2,620,000	
FUNDERS	
The Annie E. Casey Foundation	
REPORTS	
<p><u>Investing in Innovation</u> <u>An Evaluation of Family Economic Success — Early Childhood Education: Findings from a Two-Generation Approach</u></p>	



Maine 2Gen Initiatives

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
Duration varies	<p>Local funders support promising and successful two-generation demonstrations across Maine. The John T. Gorman Foundation also provides significant technical assistance through national and local experts who can help programs and systems build and hone the capacity to do this work successfully and promote and engage in advocacy that can advance important policy reforms to reduce barriers to success and help scale two-generation efforts.</p>
PLATFORM	
Multiple platforms	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Aroostook County Action Program Presque Isle, ME; Families Forward, Bangor, ME; Family Futures Downeast, Machias, ME; Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, Waterville, ME; The Opportunity Alliance, South Portland, ME; McAuley Residence, Portland, ME; Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services, Lewiston, ME; Project WIN, Portland, ME</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>The John T. Gorman Foundation, as the largest Maine 2Gen funder, has invested \$10,800,000.</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
<p>John T. Gorman Foundation, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Women United (UWSM), CF Adams, Peter Alfond Foundation, state of Maine</p>	<p><u>The Two-Generation Approach: Recommendations for Bridging Practice and Policy In Maine</u></p>



Mobility and Opportunity for Valuable Employment by Upskilling Parents (MOVE UP)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2015-2018	<p>The MOVE UP (Mobility and Opportunity for Valuable Employment by Upskilling Parents) program focused on providing workers with low incomes opportunities to move up within the labor market, thereby increasing income and job stability. The goal of MOVE UP was to develop and test whether employer-embedded (and sustainable) models aimed at career advancement (beyond job placement) for incumbent workers (primarily parents) with low incomes into higher-paying, middle-skill jobs resulted in more economic stability for their families.</p>
PLATFORM	
Workforce development organizations	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE), Oakland, CA; STRIVE International, New York; Healthcare Career Advancement Program (H-CAP), New York, Philadelphia, Eastern Pennsylvania, and Seattle; Metropolitan Career Center (MCC), Philadelphia; Project QUEST, San Antonio, TX; Towards Employment, Cleveland; Southwest Organizations Unifying Resources for Community and Employees (The SOURCE), Grand Rapids, MI</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$11,600,000 (for MOVE UP and STEPS)	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
The W.K. Kellogg Foundation	Mobility Matters: Employment and Advancement for Working Families



National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) Economic Mobility Initiative

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2015-2023	<p>The National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) is a national learning and innovation hub of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAA) and has led, designed, and facilitated multiple communities of practice for over nine years for rural, urban, small, and large organizations. NCAP has designed and implemented intensive learning communities to help CAAs and other human service agencies design and implement whole family approaches. NCAP’s training and technical assistance includes peer learning, subject matter expert coaching, site visits, development of theories of change and logic models, and pilot project design. NCAP is the lead technical assistance provider for the Virginia two-generation project listed on page 11 and Rural Impact pilot on page 17 of the report.</p>
PLATFORM	
Community Action Agencies	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Fairbanks, AK; Concord, CA; San Bernardino, CA; Santa Rosa, CA; Visalia, CA; Columbus, GA; Idaho Falls, ID; Topeka, KS; Frankfort, KY; New Orleans, LA; Bangor, ME; Lewiston, ME; Presque Isle, ME; Waterville, ME; Detroit, MI; Detroit Lakes, MN; Mankato, MN; Moorhead, MN; Mora, MN; St. Paul, MN; Columbia, MO; Havre, MT; Utica, NY; Hillsboro, OR; Doylestown, PA; Harrisburg, PA; Norristown, PA; Philadelphia, PA; Washington, PA; Charleston, SC; Greenville, SC; Nashville, TN; Abingdon, VA; Green Bay, WI; Port Townsend, WA; and Seattle, WA</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$3,675,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
<p>The Annie E. Casey Foundation; Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies; US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Services</p> <p>The Kresge Foundation funded a National Community Action Partnership 2Gen cohort in Arkansas, California, Kansas, Louisiana, and Minnesota (\$2,100,000 from 2019–present).</p>	<p>Community Action Economic Mobility Initiative</p>



NAWB and Innovate+Educate Family Centered Employment

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2016-2019	<p>National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) and Innovate+Educate joined forces to advance 2Gen approaches to workforce development through the Family Centered Employment initiative. Family Centered Employment focuses on advancing new pathways to employment for parents and families with children while providing linkages between early childhood development and employment, leading to economic advancement. Using the 2Gen approach as the foundational strategy, the Family Centered Employment initiative is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify promising practices in implementing family-centered employment approaches in workforce development; • Create awareness about family-centered employment approaches among workforce boards; • Promote stronger relationships and collaboration with community organizations, child care providers, and other agencies; and • Assess system-level changes to promote a family-centered employment approach to advance families and meet workforce demands.
PLATFORM	
Workforce boards and America Job Centers	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Maricopa County, AZ; El Paso, TX; Montgomery County, MD; Fresno, CA; Riverside, CA; San Diego, CA; Albuquerque, NM; Tulsa, OK; Springfield, MO; Indianapolis, IN; Athens, OH; Waukegan, IL; Ashland, WI; New Haven, CT; Mississippi	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$1,860,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	<p>National Association of Workforce Boards Family Centered Employment Initiative website</p> <p>Family Centered Employment Toolkit</p>



Parents and Children Thriving Together

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017-2018	<p>Parents and Children Thriving Together: Two Generation State Policy Network (PACTT Network) is a collaboration between the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP). Through this initiative, five states explored how to use the two-generation approach to improve their state systems that serve children and parents.</p>
PLATFORM	
<p>State teams comprised of senior leadership representing key state agencies, county and local stakeholders, and the governor’s office</p>	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Oregon</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>The Annie E. Casey Foundation (TBD) Dorris Duke Foundation: \$300,000 W.K. Kellogg Foundation: \$1,200,000</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
<p>Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>	<p><u>Parents and Children Thriving Together: A Framework for Two Generation Policy and System Reform</u></p> <p><u>Parents and Children Thriving Together: The Role of State Agencies in Crafting A Statewide Two-Generation Strategy</u></p> <p><u>A New Opportunity for States: Parents and Children Thriving Together Initiative</u></p> <p><u>Five States Selected for New Initiative to Help Parents and Kids Succeed Together</u></p>



Next Generation Initiative

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017–present	<p>Across the nation, human services organizations are working to help people achieve their version of the American dream by advancing the policies, institutions, organizations, systems, and services that provide the platform for growth in social and economic mobility. Kresge Foundation supports cohorts of private nonprofit and public human services organizations committed to person-centered, outcomes-based, data-driven work that advances racial equity and accelerates social and economic mobility using two-generation, whole-family approaches.</p> <p>During this two-year learning program, participating organizations have the opportunity to learn from one another and from national experts around the country, forming a network that collectively works to transform the sector and transform lives.</p>
PLATFORM	
Nonprofit and public human services organizations	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Washington	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>\$15,750,000 for five cohorts</p> <p>First national cohort: \$6,000,000 Second national cohort: \$6,000,000 Detroit Next Gen: \$1,250,000 Memphis Next Gen: \$1,250,000 New Orleans Next Gen: \$1,250,000</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
Kresge Foundation	<p>Next Generation website</p> <p>Next Generation cohort</p>



Roca Young Mothers Program (YMP)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2013-2015 and 2017-2020	<p>The Roca Young Mothers Program (YMP) serves a population of young women who have been left behind. They have experienced complex trauma, violence, and multisystem involvement. Roca’s Young Mothers’ Program is a high-touch, trauma-informed intervention specializing in serving 16- to 24-year-old mothers who are pregnant or parenting. They are untrusting victims of trauma and violence and fear losing their children.</p> <p>Roca’s intervention model is designed to work with young mothers who are not prepared to participate in traditional programming, and all program components address issues of relapse, using failure as a tool to help young people learn. In addition to its direct services for mothers, Roca’s model also addresses the needs of their children. It is designed to reduce child neglect, improve health outcomes for babies and toddlers, and help young mothers become better parents, using several evidence-based curricula to replace negative parenting behaviors with positive ones.</p>
PLATFORM	
Workforce, child care, case management, health/mental health	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Chelsea, Revere, and East Boston, MA	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$1,299,612	
FUNDERS	
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	
REPORTS	
Roca website DOL evaluation impact results report	



Siemer Institute

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2011-present	<p>The Siemer Institute’s mission is to “invest in the potential of children through family stability.” The Siemer Institute promotes 2Gen approaches that meet the needs of children and adults simultaneously to foster academic success and break the cycle of poverty. It focuses on the entire family and aligns services that meet families’ needs to support their success. The Siemer Institute builds partnerships with United Ways and other organizations across the country to identify community-based and appropriate solutions. It provides multiyear grants to enable partners to build lasting, effective programs.</p>
PLATFORM	
Multiple platforms, including United Way local agencies	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
National: 69 sites across the country in 2023	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$13,000,000 in 2023	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
Siemer Institute/community partners	Siemer Institute research and reports



Supporting Transitions to Employment for Parents (STEPS)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2015-2018	<p>STEPS was a three-year initiative to explore how the workforce development system and workforce partners could formally partner with and leverage early care and education partners to better serve parents with young children 0-8 to achieve increased family economic security, educational outcomes, and overall wellness for parents and their children together. With a growing shortage of skilled workers to meet employer needs, and with child care often being the biggest barrier, STEPS strived to shift the mindset of workforce partners to understand and see workers as parents, as well as children as their future workforce, ultimately breaking cycles of intergenerational poverty and narrowing the income and wealth gaps for parents and families of color.</p>
PLATFORM	
<p>Workforce development stakeholders and agencies, elementary schools, child care centers and agencies, human service agencies</p>	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
<p>Albany, NY; Newport KY; St. Louis, MO; Battle Creek, MI; Tacoma, WA; Chicago, IL; and Cincinnati, OH</p>	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
<p>\$11,600,000 (for MOVE UP and STEPS)</p>	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
<p>W.K. Kellogg Foundation</p>	<p>Mobility Matters: Employment and Advancement for Working Families</p>



The Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud, IDJ (Youth Development Institute)

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2021-present	<p>The 2Gen learning community was established to share resources and foster dialogue about the two-generation approach and to identify opportunities for program improvements that could help families.</p> <p>Participating agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puerto Rico Department of Correction and Rehabilitation • Puerto Rico Department of Education • Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce • Puerto Rico Department of Health • Puerto Rico Department of Housing • Puerto Rico Department of the Family • Administration for the Care and Comprehensive Development of Children • Administration for the Socioeconomic Development of Families • Administration for Families and Children • Administration for Child Support
PLATFORM	
Human service agencies	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Puerto Rico	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$975,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
The Kresge Foundation	2021-2022 Annual Report



Women’s Funding Network

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
2017-2020	<p>The Women’s Funding Network (WFN), in partnership with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, launched the Two-Generation Policy Advocacy Cohort to expand the engagement and influence of women’s foundations in two-generation work, bringing a gender equity lens to this effort. This three-year policy advocacy initiative is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster connection and capacity across women’s foundations; • Create cross-foundation capacity to advance local and state two-generation policy goals; • Increase local, place-based engagement in two-generation policy strategies; • Engage broader philanthropic circles to co-invest in two-generation work through local influence strategies; and • Produce a two-generation knowledge product in partnership with Ascend: Whole Family Approach to Economic Mobility: A Funder’s Guide and Toolkit.
PLATFORM	
Women’s foundations	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
The Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham, The Women’s Foundation of Colorado, Texas Women’s Foundation, and Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$1,400,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	<p><u>Policy Advocacy + Gender Equity + Learning Community = Recipe for Scaling Two-Generation Strategies</u></p> <p><u>A Journey of Community, Commitment, and Growth: Policy Advocacy to Advance Two-Generation Strategies</u></p> <p><u>Funders Guide and Toolkit</u></p>



Working Poor Families Project

DURATION	DESCRIPTION
June 1, 2016–May 31, 2020	<p>The Working Poor Families Project (WFPF) was a national initiative that worked with state-based nonprofit groups to strengthen state policies that help working families with low incomes advance economically. Starting in late 2016, with the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the WFPF began working directly with five WFPF state partners in Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, and North Carolina to enhance their state’s commitment and ability to serve and support adults and children collectively as well as drive local programs to do so. This 3.5-year initiative called on these state partners to focus on state systems that are centered on serving adults and connecting them to the state systems and programs that serve children with the idea of bringing complementary and possibly integrated services to the whole family. Notably, the initiative was designed to specifically engage adult-focused state systems to be more mindful of the needs of children and willing to support efforts to serve the family as a whole.</p>
PLATFORM	
Community colleges	
GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS	
Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, and North Carolina	
INVESTMENT LEVEL	
\$675,000	
FUNDERS	REPORTS
W.K. Kellogg Foundation	<p><u>Strengthening State Systems and Policies to Foster Two-Generation Strategies and Practices</u></p>

Reports Reviewed in the Literature Scan

Annie E. Casey Foundation

An Evaluation of Family Economic Success — Early Childhood Education: Findings from a Two-Generation Approach
<https://www.jbassoc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Evaluation-of-Family-Economic-Success-Early-Childhood-Education.pdf>

Developing Two-Generation Approaches in Communities: Final Report from Family-Centered Community Change
<https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/urban-developingtwtogenapproaches-2021.pdf>

Family-Centered Community Change: Supporting Families, Strengthening Neighborhoods
<https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-familycenteredcommunitychange-2019.pdf>

Investing in Innovation: Reflections on the Family Economic Success — Early Childhood Education Pilots
<https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-investingininnovation-2018.pdf>

Ascend at the Aspen Institute Accelerating 2Gen Approaches at Educare
https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Ascend_Accelerating-2Gen-Approaches-at-Educare_Brief.pdf

Buffett Early Childhood Fund 10 Years of Investing, 10 Principles
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/568ae1aea2bab88213f02a28/t/58768b42ebbd1a720ccfd55d/1484163908039/10+Principles+2017.pdf>

Colorado Department of Human Services

2Gen Opportunities Pilot Program
<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/2generation-opportunities-pilot-program>

2Gen Transformation Project Procedures Manual
https://coloradolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/C02Gen_Project-Procedures-Manual_Final_April_2019.pdf

Economic Mobility Pathways Families Disrupting the Cycle of Poverty: Coaching with an Intergenerational Lens
http://s3.amazonaws.com/empath-website/pdf/Intergen_Publication_July_19_2019.pdf

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) DECAL Announces Two-Generation Innovation Grant Funding Opportunity
<https://getgeorgiareading.org/2018/10/18/decalf-two-gen-innovation-grant/>

Nine Community Partnerships Receive 2021 2Gen Innovation Grants
https://www.decalf.ga.gov/documents/attachments/CIG_2Gen%20Innovation%20Grants_PressRelease_2021-2022.pdf

Two-Generation Innovation: Connecting Early Learning, Postsecondary, and Workforce in Georgia
<https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/I-Georgia-DECAL-Breakout.pdf>

Health Resources & Services Administration

Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)
<https://mchb.hrsa.gov/programs-impact/early-childhood-systems/early-childhood-comprehensive-systems>

John T. Gorman Foundation Five Takeaways from Foundation's Two Generation Approach Webinar
<https://www.itgfoundation.org/2020/08/10/5-takeaways-from-foundations-two-generation-approach-webinar/>

The Two-Generation Approach: Recommendations for Bridging Policy and Practice in Maine
<https://www.itgfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Gorman-Two-Generation-Brief-FINAL-6-17-20.pdf>

Kresge Foundation Kresge Human Services Program Next Generation Initiative FAQ
<https://kresge.org/resource/kresge-human-services-program-next-generation-initiative-faq/>

Maryland Department of Human Services

Final Report on the Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission and Pilot Program
<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000113/023600/023645/20190029e.pdf>

Minnesota Department of Human Services

Early Childhood Systems Reform

<https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/early-childhood-systems-reform-one-pager-tcm1053-415853.pdf>

Early Childhood Systems Reform: American Indian Report

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-7798B-ENG>

Early Childhood Systems Reform: Year One Final Report

<https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/2-gen/early-childhood-systems-reform-year-one-final-report.pdf>

Policy and Practice Barriers Study:

A Direct Service Perspective

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-8202-ENG>

Presumptive Eligibility for Child Care Assistance: A 2-Gen Network Prototype

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-8025-ENG>

2 Gen Admin Data Brief, Issue 1: Income Variability of Families on Cash Assistance in Minnesota

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-3927A-ENG>

2 Gen Admin Data Brief, Issue 2: The Effect of Child Support Disregard on MFIP Grant

<https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Public/DHS-3927B-ENG>

2 Generation Case Study, Issue 1: Using Master Leasing to Support Olmsted County Families

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Whole Family Systems Grantees

<https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/whole-family-systems-grantees-tcm1053-419884.pdf>

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The Role of State Agencies in Crafting a Statewide Two-Generation Strategy

<https://www.nga.org/publications/parents-and-children-thriving-together-the-role-of-state-agencies-in-crafting-a-statewide-two-generation-strategy/>

Tennessee Department of Human Services

Jefferson County Post: Tennessee Department of Human Services Announces Next Steps for Investment Assistance for Needy Families

<http://jeffersoncountypost.com/?p=53810>

United Way for Greater Austin

Expanded Funding for 2-Gen Based Programs

<https://www.unitedwayaustin.org/expanded-funding-for-2-gen-based-programs/>

United Way of Greater Cincinnati

2022 Community Insight Report Summary

https://www.uwgc.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/UWGC_CommunityInsight_Report_Summary_Final_SinglePages_2022.pdf



Shaquana Graham Photo by Desiree Rios for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

United Way Introduces Six Systems Change Portfolios

<https://www.uwgc.org/blog/stories/united-way-introduces-six-systems-change-portfolios>

US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED): Findings from the Benefit-Cost Analysis

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Developing Whole Family Approaches in TANF Programs

https://peerta.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/public/uploaded_files/TANF%20Whole%20Family_508C.pdf

Final Implementation Findings from the Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment (CSPED) Evaluation

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocse/csped_implementation_report.pdf

Implementing Two-generation Approaches in Human Service Programs

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/two_gen_human_services_commissioner_webinar_slides_0.pdf

The National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration (CSPED), Fact Sheet #1

<https://www.montrosecounty.net/DocumentCenter/View/8245/Csped-fact-sheet-March-1-2015?bidld=>

Strengthening TANF Outcomes by Developing Two-Generation Approaches to Build Economic Security

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ofa/policy-guidance/tanf-acf-im-2016-03>

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Information Memorandum (No. TANF-ACF-IM-2016-03)

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ofa/tanf_acf_im_2016_03.pdf

Two-Generation Strategies at the Administration for Children and Families

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/archive/speech/two-generation-strategies-administration-children-and-families>

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Implementation of the Federal Rural IMPACT Demonstration

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/224826/ImplementationFederalRuralIMPACT.pdf>

Opportunity for All: White House Rural Council Launches “Rural Impact” Effort to Help Rural Children and Families

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<https://www.vacap.org/2-gen-whole-family/#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20Virginia%20two,individual%20members%20of%20the%20family>

Washington Department of Social and Health Services

Washington 2Gen Working Group on Poverty Reduction (PRWG): Accelerating 2Gen in Washington State.

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/AECF%202GEN%20Final%20Report.pdf>

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Family Centered Employment Initiative

<https://www.nawb.org/initiatives/family-centered-employment>

Mobility Matters Employment and Advancement for Working Parents

<https://search.issuelab.org/resource/mobility-matters-employment-and-advancement-for-working-parents.html>

Two Pilot Programs Launched to Help Families Across the US Increase Workforce Mobility and Achieve Economic Security

<https://www.wkkf.org/news-and-media/article/2015/09/two-pilot-programs-launched-to-help-families-across-the-us-increase-workforce-mobility>

The William J. and Dorothy K. O’Neill Foundation

The Centers and Circle Health Services Awarded \$375K for 2Gen Program Implementation

<https://thecentersohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Press-Release-2GEN-O'Neill-Foundation-Grant.pdf>

Women’s Funding Network

Policy Advocacy + Gender Equity + Learning Community = Recipe for Scaling Two-Generation Strategies

<https://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Policy-Advocacy-Gender-Equity-Learning-Community-Recipe-for-Scaling-Two-Generation-Strategies.pdf>

Women’s Funding Network: W.K. Kellogg Foundation Women’s Funding Network

<https://www.wkkf.org/grants/grant/2013/11/womens-funding-network-benchmarking-report-women-economic-security-p3024570>

Whole Family Approaches to Economic Mobility: A Funder’s Guide and Toolkit

<https://wholefamilyguide.org/>



Attendees at the 2023 Aspen VisionXChange convening. Photo by Dan Bayer for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

Methodology

To inform this report, Ascend, with the support of Higher Heights Consulting and Training, gathered insights and feedback from practice, policy, philanthropic, and research experts in the field and conducted a scan of lessons learned about two-generation (2Gen) approaches. We are grateful to these generous leaders for their contributions.



Glossary of Acronyms and Terms



Darren Isom and Drayton Jackson at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange. Photo by Ralph Alswang for Ascend at the Aspen Institute®

2GenACT: Accelerating Capacity and Tools, an Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group

ACF: Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

AFEM: Advancing Family Economic Mobility Initiative

APHSA: American Public Human Services Association

BOOST: Boosting Opportunities for Social and Economic Mobility for Families

CSPED: Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration

ECCS: Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems

Educare: Educare Learning Network 2Gen Acceleration Program

EESM: Employment Equity for Single Moms

FCCE: Family-Centered Community Change

FCE:

FES-ECE: Family Economic Success — Early Childhood Education

MLICCI: Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative

HRSA: Health Resources and Services Administration

IDJ: Instituto del Desarrollo de la Juventud (Youth Development Institute)

MOVE UP: Mobility and Opportunity for Valuable Employment by Upskilling Parents

NAWB: National Association of Workforce Boards

NCAP: National Community Action Partnership Economic Mobility Initiative

NextGen: Next Generation Initiative

OFA: Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

PACTT: Parents and Children Thriving Together

Roca: Roca Young Mothers Program

Siemer/UW: Siemer Institute/United Way

STEPS: Supporting Transitions to Employment for Parents

SWFI: Strengthening Working Families Initiative

WFAJ: Whole Family Approach to Jobs

WFN: Women’s Funding Network

WFPF: Working Poor Families Project

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*Oluwadamilola Dairo speaking at the 2023 2Gen FunderXChange.
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Ascend at the Aspen Institute is a catalyst and convener for diverse leaders working across systems and sectors to build intergenerational family prosperity and well-being by intentionally focusing on children and the adults in their lives together. We believe in the power of co-creation. We are a community of leaders well-connected, well-prepared, and well-positioned to build the political will that transforms hearts, minds, policies, and practices.



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