Fueling Change for Children and Families

Lori Severens, Assistant Director for Leadership and Design
Tiffany Day, Policy and Systems Change Analyst
The Aspen Institute: Principles that Endure and Inspire

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

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

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

How We Work:
• Convene and communicate
• Build leadership and a national network
• Advance practice and policy solutions

We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens.
Research shows that children can serve as a motivator for adults, particularly mothers, and vice versa.

(Sommer, Chase-Lansdale, et al.)
The American public agrees

A strong majority of adults favor a whole family approach – across political party, geography, race/ethnicity, gender, and age.

One program designed to help people who are living in poverty get out of poverty targets both parents and their children, so that parents get education and skills training to get a better job and at the same time their children get a good start with Head Start, early education, and quality schools. Do you favor or oppose this approach to helping people get out of poverty?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
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When asked in 2016:
- 86% favor (75% strongly)
- 9% oppose (6% strongly)

Do you favor or oppose this approach to helping people get out of poverty, even if it raised your taxes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
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<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>13</td>
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When asked in 2016:
- 74% favor (56% strongly)
- 21% oppose (12% strongly)

Darker colors indicate intensity.
Momentum at the State Level

States exploring or pursuing a whole family approach to policy
Principles that Undergird Whole Family Approaches

• Measure and account for outcomes for both children and parent.

• Engage and listen to the voices of families.

• Ensure equity.

• Foster innovation and evidence together.

• Align and link systems and funding streams.

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Building systems that serve whole families

Whole Family Approach, Strategy, Systems Continuum

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

Throughout the continuum, inclusion of parent voices and a focus on equity are prerequisites.

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

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

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Achieving long-term outcomes for families

Deliver on the short- and medium-term process outcomes:

- 2Gen leadership and management culture
- 2Gen aligned policies and flexible funding streams
- 2Gen research and data agenda

Systems outcomes for population-level change
The Georgia Story

It doesn’t matter if we’re singing kumbaya in Atlanta. The message has to get to the field. - Kristin Bernhard, GA Department of Early Care and Learning

• Statewide goal set by the governor
• Alignment of early education, health & technical college partnerships and training
• Data integration for children 0-5
• Statewide 2Gen partnership grants
Are families better off since we’ve been in their lives?
– Raquel Hatter, formerly TN Department of Human Services

• Governor-inspired agency review
• Heavy investment in staff training and culture change
• 2G for Tennessee Consortium
• 2Gen language embedded in TANF and other contracts
• Public private partnerships

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The Colorado Story

*It’s not a new program. It’s a mindset.*
– Reggie Bicha, formerly CO Department of Human Services

- Colorado Department of Human Services leads statewide 2Gen action plan
- 2Gen coordinator in governor’s office
- Integrating adult and child data
- Child support & cliff effect pilots
- 2Gen Medicaid checklist
- Statewide Fellowship
- 2GO partnership grants

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Lessons

Leadership is critical

Racial equity matters

Centrality of parent-powered solutions

Inextricable link between mental health & family economic security

Need to engage fathers too
Thank you!

For more information:

- **Visit** [ascend.aspeninstitute.org](http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org) – case studies, reports, research, public opinion data, lessons learned blogs, webinar recordings

- **Email:**
  - [Tiffany.Day@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:Tiffany.Day@aspeninstitute.org) or [Lori.Severens@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:Lori.Severens@aspeninstitute.org)