A National Perspective on Two-Generation Approaches

National Conference of State Legislatures
Early Learning Fellows Kick-Off Meeting
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MISSION: Ascend at the Aspen Institute is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move vulnerable children and their parents toward educational success and economic security.
Almost HALF of all children in the U.S. live in low-income families.

ROI in education for children AND their parents is high.

Every $1 invested in high-quality early childhood education SAVES at least $7 in social costs later and INCREASES children’s economic and education outcomes. College degree = 2X parent’s income.
What is a two-generation approach?

Two-generation approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both vulnerable parents and children together.
Core elements

- Social capital: networks, friends, and neighbors
- Education: early childhood, postsecondary & employment pathways
- Health & well-being: mental health, preventing toxic stress
- Economic supports: asset building, housing
Applying two-generation approaches
Leading Program Design Elements

- Data
- High-touch support
- Segmentation
- Buy or Broker: Partnerships
Guiding Policy Principles

- Capitalize on Current Levers
- Encourage Evidence-Building
- Capture the Continuum
- Intentionality in Implementation
- Support the System: From Parents to the Private Sector
For more information

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