



Home Visiting's Two-Generation Approach:

Supporting Primary Caregiver
Education, Family Self-Sufficiency,
and Children's Well-Being

About MIECHV

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program supports voluntary, evidence-based home visiting services for at-risk pregnant women and parents with young children up to kindergarten entry. The MIECHV Program builds on decades of scientific research showing that home visits by a nurse, social worker, early childhood educator, or other trained professional during pregnancy and in the first years of a child's life improve the lives of children and families. Home visiting helps prevent child abuse and neglect,

supports positive parenting, improves maternal and child health, and promotes child development and school readiness. States, territories, and tribal communities receive funding through the MIECHV Program and have the flexibility to select the home visiting service delivery models that best meet their needs. The MIECHV Program is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in partnership with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).



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¹Golden, O., Matthews, H., & Schmidt, S. (2014). Thriving Children, Successful Parents: A Two-Generation Approach to Policy (pp. 1-2). Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Retrieved from <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/thriving-children-successful-parents-two-generation-approach-policy>

What Is a Two-Generation Approach?

Well-being for children and well-being for families are intertwined. A *two-generation approach* aims to create opportunities for families by equipping *both parents and children* with the tools they need in order to thrive, while removing the obstacles in their way.¹ Two-generation approaches pass on a legacy of economic security—built on education, economic supports, social capital, and health and well-being—from one generation to the next.²

In many cases, building a two-generation approach entails bringing together partners from multiple different spheres. According to Ascend at the Aspen Institute, “Effective two-generation approaches are rarely achieved through a single organization’s efforts.”³ Family-focused and child-focused programs often have different funding streams, regulations, structures, and policies. As noted in *Thriving Children, Successful Parents: A two-generation approach to public policies* brings together worlds that are often separated (focusing only on children or only on parents) to modify or create new policies that focus on the needs of parents and children together. . . . Exclusively “child-focused” programs and policies may focus on improving child outcomes, such as

child health or nutrition or boosting school readiness, without regard to supporting parents’ economic success or capacity as parents. Likewise, “adult-focused” programs and policies, such as workforce development programs and post-secondary education, may aim to increase economic success but may not take into account adults’ role as parents, and their children’s competing needs that may run contrary to participation in a particular program.⁴

To successfully implement a two-generation approach, partners must work towards the end goal of building cohesive, integrated systems. To accomplish this, they:

- Align their missions and intended outcomes
- Collect and share similar data
- Establish a common vocabulary
- Build strong communication mechanisms
- Pool different but complementary areas of expertise
- Coordinate activities
- Understand how to best bring together different funding streams

1 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). *Creating Opportunities for Families: A Two-Generation Approach*. Retrieved from <https://www.aecf.org/resources/creating-opportunity-for-families/>

2 Ascend at the Aspen Institute. (2016, March). *Making Tomorrow Better Together: Report of the Two-Generation Outcomes Working Group*. Retrieved from <http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/resources/making-tomorrow-better-together/>

3 Lombardi, J., Mosle, A., Patel, N., Schumacher, R., & Stedron, J. (2014, January). *Gateways to Two Generations: The Potential for Early Childhood Programs and Partnerships to Support Children and Parents Together* (p. 5). Washington, DC: Ascend at the Aspen Institute. Retrieved from https://s.bsd.net/ascend/default/page/file/d3336cff8a154af047_07m6bttk2.pdf

4 Golden, O., Matthews, H., & Schmidt, S. (2014). *Thriving Children, Successful Parents: A Two-Generation Approach to Policy* (pp. 1–2). Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy. Retrieved from <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/thriving-children-successful-parents-two-generation-approach-policy>

What Are the Benefits of a Two-Generation Approach for Family and Child Well-Being?

Family well-being directly and profoundly influences the trajectory of children's lives. Two important elements of family well-being are economic self-sufficiency and caregiver education. An increase in earnings can have a lasting, multigenerational impact on families' economic well-being. *Gateways to Two Generations* reports that for families with young children that have an annual income of \$25,000 or less, a \$3,000 increase during the years of early childhood yields a 17 percent increase in adult earnings for those children.⁵

Family economic self-sufficiency is a benchmark area for MIECHV Programs. MIECHV Programs report on Performance Measure 15, Primary Caregiver Education: The percent of primary caregivers who

enrolled in home visiting without a high school diploma or equivalent who subsequently enrolled in, maintained continuous enrollment in, or completed high school or equivalent during their participation in home visiting. This benchmark underscores the influence education has on the economic future of families. Caregiver education can impact economic self-sufficiency. A 2018 Annie E. Casey Foundation report describes caregiver education as making “a significant difference in earning power for families. One study found that single mothers with associate degrees make an average of \$152,927 more over their lifetimes than those with only a high school diploma, and single mothers with bachelor's degrees earn \$296,044 more.”⁶

How Does Home Visiting Fit Into a Two-Generation Approach?

Home visiting by its very nature is a two-generation approach, with its dual focus on caregivers and children. Home visitors work with families to help them achieve their personal, health, educational, and financial goals and to create a safe, enriching environment for their children. Home visitors also help build caregivers' ability to develop strong, positive relationships with their children and to understand and support their development.

Taking a two-generation approach has produced positive results in home visiting programs. According to a 2017 report from the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation on the long-term effects of home visiting, “Early childhood home visiting has improved outcomes for parents and children across a wide range of child ages, outcome areas, and national models.”⁷ The report includes findings from studies that show home visiting to have a statistically significant effect on the economic self-sufficiency of families, with positive outcomes sustained even when families no longer receive services.

5 Lombardi et al. (2014), p. 13.

6 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2018, September). *Opening Doors for Young Parents* (p. 7). KIDS COUNT Policy Report. Retrieved from <https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-openingdoorsforyoungparents-2018.pdf>

7 Michalopoulos, C., Faucetta, K., Warren, A., & Mitchell, R. (2017, September). *Evidence on the Long-Term Effects of Home Visiting Programs: Laying the Groundwork for Long-Term Follow-Up in the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE)* (p. iii). OPRE Report 2017-73. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved from https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/opre/mihope_lt_long_term_evidence_brief_508_compliant_corrected.pdf

How Can Home Visiting Programs Take a Two-Generation Approach?

Practical Solutions That Lift Up Children and Families, a report on practices in the Two-Generation Theory of Change, notes that the field of two-generation work is rapidly advancing and that scalable and replicable solutions exist now and continue to expand. The authors of this report further state that two-generation pilot programs and initiatives are successful when cross-sector stakeholders work collaboratively and use a two-generation lens to align programs, policies, organizations, and systems as part of their overall mission.⁸

The four case studies in this issue brief are examples of scalable and replicable two-generation approaches. Each illustrates a different way to build a two-generation program that includes home visiting, showing how this approach offers the opportunity to use resources efficiently.

- **Colorado:** Colorado's MIECHV innovation award enabled the Colorado Department of Human Services' Office of Early Childhood to create Working Together, a two-generation approach to integrating education and employment into home visiting. The premise behind the program is that vulnerable children thrive when their needs and their parents' needs are addressed together. Working Together provides a wide range of educational, employment, and basic life services for the families it serves.
- **Indiana:** Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana is a MIECHV-funded local implementing agency (LIA). This LIA combines its expertise in implementing the Nurse-Family Partnership evidence-based home visiting model with expertise in providing adult education and employment support. The program provides families with opportunities to meet their goals for education, health and well-being, and economic stability via coordinated services and a focus on outcomes for both children and their parents.
- **Maryland:** Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) is a non-profit organization that serves Garrett County, Maryland, located west of the Appalachian Mountains. The agency offers a diverse portfolio of 42 programs and services that center on early education, child care, transportation, asset development, stabilization, services for aging populations, nutrition, and housing. GCCAC's shift to a two-generation approach had a major impact on its organizational culture and structure.
- **Washington:** Washington State developed the Home Visiting Services Account Program, which uses Technical Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to partially finance home visiting services for income-eligible families. The state's legislature created the program by linking home visiting to one of TANF's core purposes: reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation and employment. The state legislature also directs a portion of state dollars to support home visiting services for families that are receiving TANF funds.

⁸ White, R., Mosle, A., & Sims, M. (2014). *States Leading the Way: Practical Solutions that Lift Up Children and Families*. Washington, DC: Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

Case Study 1:

Colorado's Innovation Award Supports a Two-Generation Approach in a Rural Community

This case study is based on an interview with Julie Becker, Home Visiting Director, Colorado Department of Human Services; and Stacey Quesada, Senior Evaluator, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.



Overview

HRSA's MIECHV innovation award to the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood, created Working Together, a two-generation approach to integrating education and employment into home visiting. The state has made a substantial investment in home visiting, braiding its \$8 million MIECHV funding with nearly \$30 million in state funds. In addition to using MIECHV and state home visiting funds, the state has financed services through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and TANF.

Colorado implemented the innovation award in a geographically isolated area in the state, the San Luis Valley. Located between two mountain ranges, this valley is primarily a farming community, with high rates of substance use, and a homelessness rate that is 10 times higher than the national average. Families experience many challenges in this

high-needs community, including housing and food insecurity. There is no public transportation; if a family's car breaks down, family members cannot get to school or work. Many families have no safety net, so an unplanned car repair can cause a crisis as family members have to choose between paying for the repair or for rent or food.

The premise behind Working Together is that two-generation programming is the best way to help children thrive. Working Together services, funded by a number of sources, include home visiting, GED training and testing, college certificate programs, associate's degree programs, workforce services, financial literacy training, high-quality early care and learning, transportation, and connections to community partners who provide food and emergency services.

Key Takeaways for Two-Generation Success

- **Connect with a wide variety of organizations.** Colorado sought input from community members and collaborated with a wide variety of partners, including a community college, the Early Childhood Council, a mental health agency, workforce development organizations, and organizations with expertise in substance use. The list of partners grew over time as community organizations learned about the success of the project through word of mouth and wanted to join. During their monthly meetings, Working Together's local stakeholders regularly share information about potential new partners and proactively appoint someone to make an initial contact. The advice Becker and Quesada give to similar initiatives is to "be expansive in your view of whom to reach out to, and know how to connect."
- **Follow an established framework.** Colorado adhered to and implemented the five core elements of **Collective Impact**:
 - Common Agenda
 - Shared Measurement
 - Mutually Reinforcing Activities
 - Continuous Communication
 - Backbone SupportUsing an established framework makes it easier to bring on board and integrate new partners.
- **Be on the lookout for unexpected opportunities; think and engage more broadly than you typically do.** For instance, Working Together learned that the local pharmacies would train people to be pharmacy technicians. While doing a presentation for other potential stakeholders on the pharmacy technician project, Working Together found a company that provides training for entry-level medical personnel to be placed in hospitals and doctors' offices.
- **Think broadly about funding.** In addition to using MIECHV and state home visiting funding, Colorado financed services through the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and TANF funds. These two funding sources enabled Colorado to assist families with such services and items as transportation, books, GED testing costs, and fuel vouchers. According to Becker, a large percentage of their participants were also able to access Pell Grants to offset education costs. In addition to leveraging existing systems, partners have been able to get local foundation support to address gaps, including funding the cost of a modular building for child care in the region.
- **Know that there will be challenges—and that some of them will seem insurmountable.** For example, finding a site for the child care modular building proved more complicated than Working Together partners expected. There have been five attempts to find a place for the center, and obstacles have been daunting. The partners are still looking, though, now hoping to find a site near their community college partner.
- **Work together to get more ideas on the table of how to support families.** Leverage funding sources to access services that may be limited by one funding source but allowable through another. After following up on a parent who had stopped going to class, one of Working Together's home visitors learned that the family was about to be evicted from their home because of a rodent infestation. The Working Together team used child welfare funds for fumigation and thus supported the family in avoiding eviction.

Case Study 2:

Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana Combines Home Visiting Expertise with Education and Employment Support

This case study is based on interviews with Betsy Delgado, Vice President of Mission and Education, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana; and Lisa Crane, Senior Director, Nurse-Family Partnership, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana.



Overview

In 2011, Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana (GCSI) and Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Indiana came together under one roof to form a MIECHV Local Implementing Agency (LIA). Each of these two organizations provided complementary expertise. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) brought its expertise in home visiting, health services, and early childhood development. Goodwill brought its expertise in adult education and workforce development.

Originally funded solely through MIECHV, GCSI's home visiting program had an initial funded enrollment of 600 families. Additional funding streams, including state general revenue, Title V block grant resources, private funding, and funding from several hospital and community foundations for nurses, resulted in the current funded capacity of 1,475 families in a 30-county area that includes urban, suburban, and rural sites.

According to Delgado, before coming together as an LIA, both NFP Indiana and GCSI independently recognized the value and potential impact of a two-generation approach to working with at-risk families and their children. Says Delgado, "If the whole family is given opportunities, the result has an impact for generations to come. A parent who has a high school diploma, advanced certification, a livable wage, and a skill set for engaging with their children sets a totally different trajectory for the family."

Through GCSI's co-located provision of home visiting, education, and employment support, participants have seamless access to services to meet their goals in education, health and well-being, and economic stability.

Key Takeaways for Two-Generation Success

- **Look for potential partners with aligned missions, visions, and goals but different expertise.** NFP's home visiting model and Goodwill's strengths and areas of focus complement each other. In coming together as a MIECHV LIA, NFP brought expertise in fostering long-term success for first-time moms and their babies. Goodwill brought expertise in adult education, employment, and career growth.
- **Coordinate services.** GCSI enrolls families in both home visiting and education and employment programs. Nurse Home Visitors work in tandem with Goodwill Guides to help families achieve their two-generation goals. Nurse Home Visitors are responsible for the early childhood and health aspects of the program. Goodwill Guides are responsible for linking program participants to education, employment opportunities, and other resources that promote family well-being and financial stability. When families that receive home visiting services also have access to economic supports, Nurse Home Visitors can focus on the health and child development needs of families.
- **Seek outside expertise, and listen to many voices.** One of NFP's model elements—forming a community advisory board (CAB) that meets quarterly—has been an important component of GSCI's success. From the outset, GSCI's CAB has consisted of influential, committed, and passionate professionals with strong community connections. Members act as advocates in their sphere of influence.
- **Build referral pipelines by reaching out to a wide range of organizations with overlapping missions and populations served.** The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and the local safety-net hospital refer every eligible new mother to GSCI's home visiting program. Women now also self-refer after having learned about the program through community partnerships with the health care and hospital systems, the faith-based community, community centers, and word of mouth from existing clients.
- **Consider how to integrate data, and use data for long-term follow-up.** The Indiana public schools assign a unique identification number to every child who attends school in the state. Using birth-dates, the home visiting program will be able to match these identifiers to children enrolled in the program, providing opportunities for longitudinal follow-up.
- **Become experts in building relationships.** Each time a program moves into a new community, it must start building new relationships, developing a locally based referral pipeline, and establishing its reputation anew. Programs must overcome perceptions that their agency is competing with others for scarce resources and clients by highlighting how each program provides new or different opportunities, in collaboration with their partners, to meet the diverse needs of families in the community.

Case Study 3:

Garrett County's Two-Generation Approach Transforms an Entire Maryland Community

By Gregan T. Crawford, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, Garrett County Community Action Committee



Overview

Founded in 1965, the Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) is a nonprofit organization that serves all of Garrett County, Maryland, located west of Maryland's Appalachian Mountains. With 190 staff members, the agency offers a diverse portfolio of 42 programs and services that focus on early education, child care, transportation, asset development, stabilization, services for the elderly, nutrition, and housing. Data from 2017 show that the agency is working with one in three households and one in four county residents. GCCAC has operated Head Start and Early Head Start Centers since its founding. These centers serve nearly 300 families—children and adults—which the agency recognizes as its two-generation population.

Following a strategic planning process in 2009, GCCAC underwent a paradigm shift in how programs and services were categorized and delivered. The strategic planning process revealed that while GCCAC was very good at administering services and programs, the agency's programs and services operated in silos, which made it difficult to track the impact of the efforts and outcomes related of these services. With support from the Board of Directors, GCCAC's President led the process of transforming the agency. GCCAC set two parallel goals: to become a more evidence-based agency, and to better enable families to realize their aspirations while also achieving a higher level of economic security. GCCAC decided to develop and implement a two-generation approach, in which the agency strives to more intentionally link and bundle high-quality, intensive services and programs for children and families.

Key Takeaways for Two-Generation Success

- **Allow time for change to take hold.** GCCAC's implementation of a two-generation approach involved several phases. The process began with GCCAC clearly defining what the agency wanted to impact on behalf of the community it serves. This first phase was articulated in a theory of change and a logic model that identified inputs, core services, outputs, and short- and long-term goals. Engaging in the process of developing these tools challenged participants' assumptions about the agency, the community, and the families and children they serve. The resulting two-generation approach and the changes associated with it have become the new way that GCCAC conducts business.
- **Be aware that a change in approach can impact the entire organization's culture and structure.** To support a whole-family focus, GCCAC decided to restructure its departments around a broader purpose—stabilizing families and building assets. Taking it a step further, the organization eliminated or re-aligned positions that were focused on a single program, and revised every job description to reflect an expectation that staff advocate for and empower families using a strengths-based approach.⁹
- **Provide ongoing communication and consistent messaging during times of change.** For GCCAC, informational silos began to dissolve in response to steady and dependable communication. GCCAC holds joint meetings both internally and with partners that focus on families. This ongoing communication resulted in better coordination within the agency and diminished the tendency to re-silo.
- **Integrate services and minimize duplication.** Many community departments and agencies serve a common customer. GCCAC found that there was a 75 percent overlap in customers between the local Department of Social Services and GCCAC, and significant overlap in the home visiting population of the Garrett County Health Department and the population of GCCAC's Head Start and Early Head Start programs. On recognizing the overlap, the agency then implemented a "No Wrong Door" approach: no matter what program or service someone comes to the agency seeking, any frontline staff member will be able to perform a universal intake. GCCAC's data system helps manage client intake and service delivery among the various partners.
- **Use technology to collect and share accurate and complete data.** GCCAC replaced its fragmented management information system with a single database and software system. In addition, it addressed the issue of data quality by making sure that every department has a data manager whose sole responsibility is to monitor data quality, maintain program and service eligibility criteria, and generate reports. The data managers meet monthly to discuss issues and learn from one another. State-of-the-art software and a single centralized database manage all intakes, enrollments, service delivery records, referrals, assessments, and Family Pathway Plan records. The system also tracks outcomes and can generate customizable reports for all programs.

9 The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2017). *Advancing Two-Generation Approaches: Developing an Infrastructure to Address Parent and Child Needs Together* (p. 3). Retrieved from https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/AdvancingTwo-GenerationApproaches_Infrastructure.pdf

- **Seek and use outside support.** The Annie E. Casey Foundation and Ascend at the Aspen Institute all played a critical role in the agency's transformation through grant funding to support technical assistance, redesign staff positions, and expand data-collection and analysis capacity. GCCAC was also selected as one of 10 demonstration

sites for Rural IMPACT, an initiative of the White House Rural Council, with support and involvement from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Kellogg Foundation, and the National Community Action Partnership. Participation in these initiatives allowed the agency to continue to learn and share on a regular basis.



Case Study 4:

A Washington State Partnership Provides TANF Families with Home Visiting Services

This case study is based on an interview with Judy King, Director of Family Support, Department of Children, Youth, and Families; and Liv Woodstrom, Vice President of Capacity Building, Thrive Washington.

According to King, “the work we have been doing in our partnership with TANF has been really exciting. We have learned a great deal at the state level, and watched our communities develop referral pathways and ongoing communication across two systems. We are proud that people refer to Washington as a trauma-informed, two-generation state.”

Overview

Beginning in 2014, the Washington State Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program began partnering with home visiting programs throughout the state. In Washington, multiple public funding sources are braided to support home visiting through the Home Visiting Services Account (HVSA). HVSA now uses TANF funds to partially finance home visiting services for income-eligible families by linking home visiting to one of TANF’s core purposes: reducing the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation and employment. Some but not all of the home visiting programs involved in the partnership also receive MIECHV funding, but MIECHV funds were not used in this project.

Home visiting and TANF work represent a collaborative effort among the Department of Social and Health Services; the Economic Services Administration; the Community Services Division; the Department of Children, Youth, and Families; and Thrive Washington. These state-level stakeholders envisioned

an innovative partnership to strengthen ties between public assistance programs and programs that serve young children and their families. Both TANF and home visiting leaders were looking for ways for families to be successful in education, employment, and parenting paths, knowing that the three are intertwined. These leaders also saw the need for a two-generation approach to enable them to reach their goals.

In the HVSA program, eligible families that receive TANF funds are offered the opportunity to participate in home visiting services. To preserve the voluntary nature of home visiting, TANF Community Service Workers provide families with a menu of support options to choose from, including home visiting. Community Services Office (CSO) staff use a script and a decision-making tool to help parents understand the variety of available options. (CSO staff also let families know that they may drop out at any time without penalty.)

Services provided through TANF and home visiting are coordinated. Home visiting can meet state-level WorkFirst participation requirements. TANF recipients develop an Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP) that helps families develop and reach personal and family goals. If a family chooses home visiting services, participation in home visiting is included in their IRP and followed by a CSO case manager. With parental consent, home visitors may have access to the IRP so families are not developing duplicative goals and plans and the services that families receive can be coordinated.

There were many details to flesh out to design a seamless process for referring TANF clients for home visiting services. Stakeholders were engaged in process mapping to address issues of how to know when there were vacancies, whom to refer and when; who would make referrals; how to make sure that referrals went both ways; and what the pros and cons were of using technology for

referrals. They also designed processes to ensure speedy enrollment and to share information between programs while respecting confidentiality. Sometimes these processes have to be revisited when there is staff or leadership turnover in the home visiting programs or CSOs.

The state provided professional development so that home visitors understood WorkFirst requirements, and the TANF Community Services Office (CSO) staff understood the home visiting program. To foster ongoing communication, staff from the CSO and home visiting programs were encouraged to attend each other's important meetings, such as CSO local planning area meetings, and to serve on each other's advisory boards. Programs communicate regularly about enrollment and disenrollment within specified timelines, and many use the shared client database to compare notes about the families they mutually serve.

Key Takeaways for Two-Generation Success

- **Establish a strong governance and leadership structure.** The TANF-home visiting partnership included leaders from a range of state agencies with overlapping or aligned missions.
- **Begin with the premise (and promise) that the partnership will work.** Focus on the mutual interest of making a difference for families and supporting a strong two-generation approach. This helps to generate enthusiasm, a sense of shared purpose, and a commitment to do the work.
- **Allow adequate time for planning.** Building a partnership between organizations with overlapping missions but different regulations and structures takes time and careful planning. Washington State used an inclusive, iterative process to develop the partnership. Adequate planning time is a core value of the state's Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Over time, it has proven to be one of the most important success factors when the state rolls out a new community initiative.
- **Engage all stakeholders in the process.** Washington State leaders believe in the importance of hearing the voices of community members before rolling out an initiative. Because of their commitment to this level of engagement, state leaders conducted listening and note-taking sessions throughout the state.
- **Provide resources to support planning and implementation.** This important allocation of resources sends the message that the state is invested in making the partnership work.
- **Start small and then grow, based on lessons learned.** Washington State's partnership began with a pilot in four counties, which served as the testing ground for strategies that were incorporated when additional funding enabled the partnership to expand. Each expansion of the program had a different focus and built on the previous one. The long-term vision was always to scale up.



Conclusion

While each two-generation approach featured in this issue brief was unique, some common themes emerge.

- It is important to understand what a two-generation approach is. As shared by Garrett County's Vice President of Strategic Initiatives, "a 2-Gen Approach shouldn't be confused with offering 'side by side' services. Rather 2-Gen strives to more intentionally link and bundle high-quality services and programs on a deeper and more intensive level."
- Two-generation is rooted in early childhood, health services, and adult support services systems of care. Home visiting does not stand alone. It is part of a larger system that includes child welfare, child and adult mental health services, the juvenile and adult justice systems, workforce development, and adult education agencies, among many others. Home visiting can be the mainstay that pulls all of these separate systems together to integrate services for children and families.

- It will likely take multiple funding sources to fully support a two-generation approach. Funding for educational and workforce development programs for adults and funding for child-centered programs usually come from different sources. Home visiting programs can braid funds from different sources to build a robust two-generation approach. Implementing a two-generation approach alters an organization's entire way of providing services. Organizations move from program-centered services to family-centered services. No one organization can meet all of the needs of children and families. Drawing on partners with different strengths and areas of expertise helps to create a seamless experience for families. Centralized intake systems can help promote this integration.
- While a two-generation approach appears to be most closely tied to the benchmark areas of family economic self-sufficiency and school readiness, a two-generation approach can help programs make continuous improvements in other benchmark areas as well, such as addressing issues of maternal depression, child maltreatment, and parent-child interaction.

Together, the organizations featured in this issue brief exemplify the philosophy behind the two-generation framework: "When opportunities for children and parents are addressed in tandem, the benefits may be greater than the sum of the separate, programmatic parts."¹⁰

¹⁰ Lombardi et al. (2014), p. 7.

Two-Generation Resources

Making the Case for a Two-Generation Approach

- **Advancing Two-Generation Approaches: Funding to Help Families Succeed.** Developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, this issue brief focuses on the funding needed to coordinate child and family services. The two-generation approaches of the Garrett County Community Action Committee and of Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana and the Nurse-Family Partnership, both featured in this HV-ImpACT issue brief, are included as examples.
- **The Business Case for Home Visiting.** This October 2011 Issue Brief from the Pew Center on the States discusses home visiting programs as part of the foundation for a healthy and productive workforce. It reviews the benefits of quality home visiting programs and draws attention to their economic benefits to society and participants.
- **Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach.** The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2014 KIDS COUNT Policy Report describes the barriers faced by low-income families as they try to juggle inflexible, unpredictable, low-paying jobs; the lack of affordable child care; and poor-quality housing. The report details three key components of a two-generation strategy to strengthen families, and recommends policies that can create paths to opportunity for parents and children.
- **Evidence on the Long-Term Effects of Home Visiting Programs: Laying the Groundwork for Long-Term Follow-Up in the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE).** This Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation report cites results from the MIHOPE study related to the impact of home visiting programs on family economic self-sufficiency, child development, and school performance. It also includes a cost-benefit analysis of home visiting.
- **Gateways to Two Generations: The Potential for Early Childhood Programs and Partnerships to Support Children and Parents Together.** This Ascend at the Aspen Institute publication focuses on the question of whether two-generation approaches applied to the early childhood development arena produce better outcomes for both children and families. It explores three primary components of the two-generation approach—education, economic supports, and social capital—through an early childhood lens.
- **Making Tomorrow Better Together—Report of the Two-Generation Outcomes Working Group.** This report outlines four principles of two-generation evaluation and examines the intended outcomes of two-generation programs along with the pathways to achieving these outcomes. It includes a sample Theory of Change, a sample two-generation logic model, sample outcomes, and a glossary of two-generation terms.
- **Opening Doors for Young Parents.** This KIDS COUNT Policy Report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation discusses how the two-generation approach is especially important in supporting young parents as they face obstacles, including education, employment, child care, and housing.
- **Parent Education and Family Life Education: A Critical Link in Early Childhood Education Policy.** This brief from the National Council on Family Relations summarizes research on the effectiveness of parent education programs on parenting practices, children's early development, and school readiness.

- **Pathways to High-Quality Jobs for Young Adults.** This publication from the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings and Child Trends highlights practices that can close gaps in employment and job quality among young adults.
- **Return on Investment in Birth-to-Three Early Childhood Development Programs.** This September 2018 presentation by James Heckman provides information about the economic benefits of early childhood programs and home visiting programs, based on Nurse-Family Partnership research.
- **Thriving Children, Successful Parents: A Two-Generation Approach to Policy.** The Center for Law and Social Policy's July 2014 issue brief is designed to give policy experts in individual program areas a sense of what it could mean to think two-generationally and why it matters, and to look at the opportunities for large-scale policy changes that go beyond innovative local programs.
- **Two Generations, One Future: Moving Parents and Children Beyond Poverty Together.** This report from Ascend at the Aspen Institute describes the importance of and provides a rationale for a two-generation approach in today's economic and demographic landscape. It identifies three components of a two-generation approach (education, economic supports, and social capital), presents a 5-year blueprint for action, and includes a checklist of questions that program leaders, researchers, policymakers and policy experts, philanthropists, and those in the private sector can use to start conversations about building two-generation approaches.
- **Two Open Windows: Infant and Parent Neurobiologic Change.** This Ascend at the Aspen Institute paper focuses on the potential impact of a two-generation approach during the sensitive period of the transition to parenthood—a period of opportunity and vulnerability that is marked by observable neurobiological changes.



Strategies for Two-Generation Success

- **A Two-Generation Strategy: Right from the Start.** This 2014 issue brief from Ascend at the Aspen Institute features a two-generation strategy implemented in Salt Lake County, Utah, for first-time pregnant women living in poverty.
- **2Gen Statewide Conference: A Call to Action—Summary Report and Next Steps.** This Aspen Institute summary report on a 3-day 2017 conference focuses on Colorado's pioneering work in using a two-generation approach (2Gen) to address the impacts of intergenerational poverty.
- **Advancing Two-Generation Approaches: Developing an Infrastructure to Address Parent and Child Needs Together.** This second brief in the Annie E. Casey Foundation series on advancing two-generation approaches focuses on the operational aspects of putting together such an approach. The Garrett County Community Action Committee, highlighted in this brief, is included as an example.
- **Promoting Effectiveness and Sustainability of Initiatives to Improve Health and Social Outcomes: Methods that Federal Agencies Can Use to Facilitate Coordination and Integration of Funding Streams.** This issue brief from the Trust for America's Health focuses on how federal agencies can facilitate efforts to braid funding streams to promote integration across programs.
- **Promoting Two-Generation Strategies: A Getting Started Guide for State and Local Policy Makers.** This paper—the latest dual-generation publication from the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas, Austin—is intended to serve as a getting-started guide for state and local policymakers as they begin to develop and implement two-generation strategies in their respective areas. The paper provides several examples of existing programs, and discusses facilitating factors that appear to be linked to the success of two-generation programs.
- **Scaling Up, Scaling Out: White Paper on Lessons from Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana and Nurse-Family Partnership.** This January 2017 white paper from Ascend at the Aspen Institute describes and shares lessons learned from the Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana–Nurse-Family Partnership program, one of the case studies in this HV-ImpACT issue brief. In particular, the paper identifies the challenges of scaling up and suggests strategies for doing so.
- **States Leading the Way—Practical Solutions That Lift Up Children and Families.** Scalable and replicable two-generation approaches exist now and continue to be expanded as this field advances rapidly. *This 2018 report from Ascend at the Aspen Institute spotlights promising and actionable solutions from seven states, solutions that can break the cycle of intergenerational poverty for families in the United States.*



- **State Policies Through a Two-Generation Lens: Strengthening the Collective Impact of Policies That Affect the Life Course of Young Children and Their Families.** This September 2014 publication from the National Center for Children in Poverty describes how state policies can influence support for families with young children. It includes tables of state policies for early care and education, health and nutrition, parenting, and family economic supports, and recommends strategies states can use to build two-generation supports for large numbers of young children and their parents.
- **Top Ten for 2Gen: Policy Ideas and Principles to Advance Two-Generation Efforts.** Building on its two-generation framework, this Ascend at the Aspen Institute's 2014 publication provides six principles and ten policy areas that can support systems change at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. Each policy is accompanied by specific recommendations for action steps—one of which is to increase efforts to support economic security outcomes in home visiting programs. The Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana–Nurse-Family Partnership program described in this HV-ImpACT issue brief is featured as an example.

Tools for Two-Generation Implementation

- **2Gen Tools to Help Children and Families Thrive: A Resource for Staff Implementing Federal, State, and Local Programs Serving Children and Families.** The U.S. Department of Education partnered with Ascend at the Aspen Institute to develop this toolkit, which provides practical resources and ideas on how to maximize two-generation approaches in local communities and states. The toolkit includes an extensive appendix of additional resources.
- **We Envision an America in Which a Legacy of Economic Security and Educational Success Passes from One Generation to the Next: Two-Generation Playbook.** This playbook from Ascend at the Aspen Institute provides a simple and visual overview of the key elements of a two-generation approach.

