



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.

Mutual motivation - powerful & common sense

Research shows that children can serve as a motivator for adults, particularly mothers, and vice versa.

(Sommer, Chase-Lansdale, et al.)

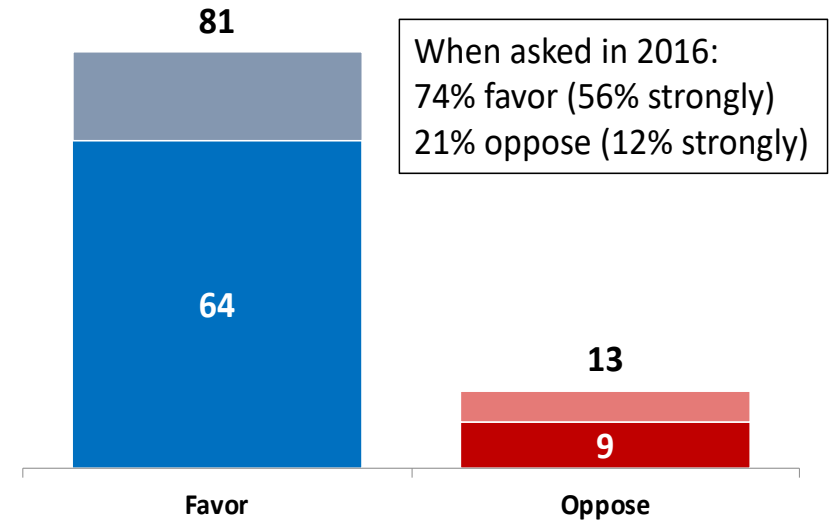
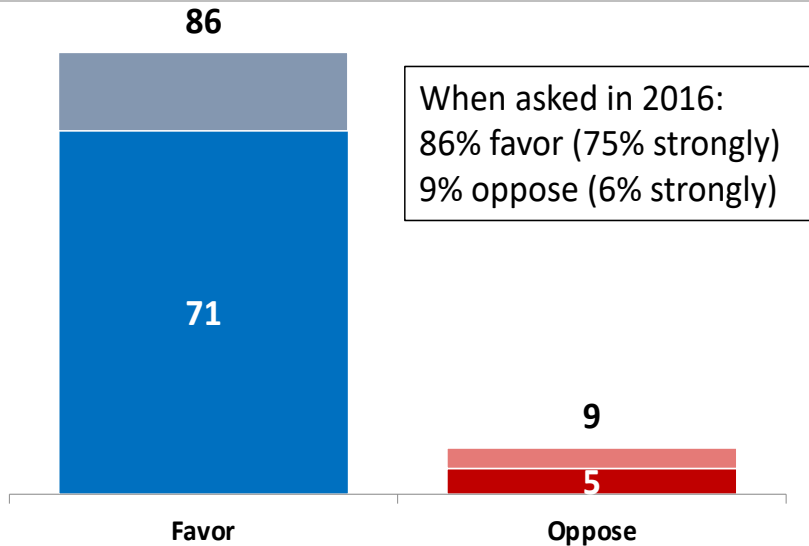


The American public agrees

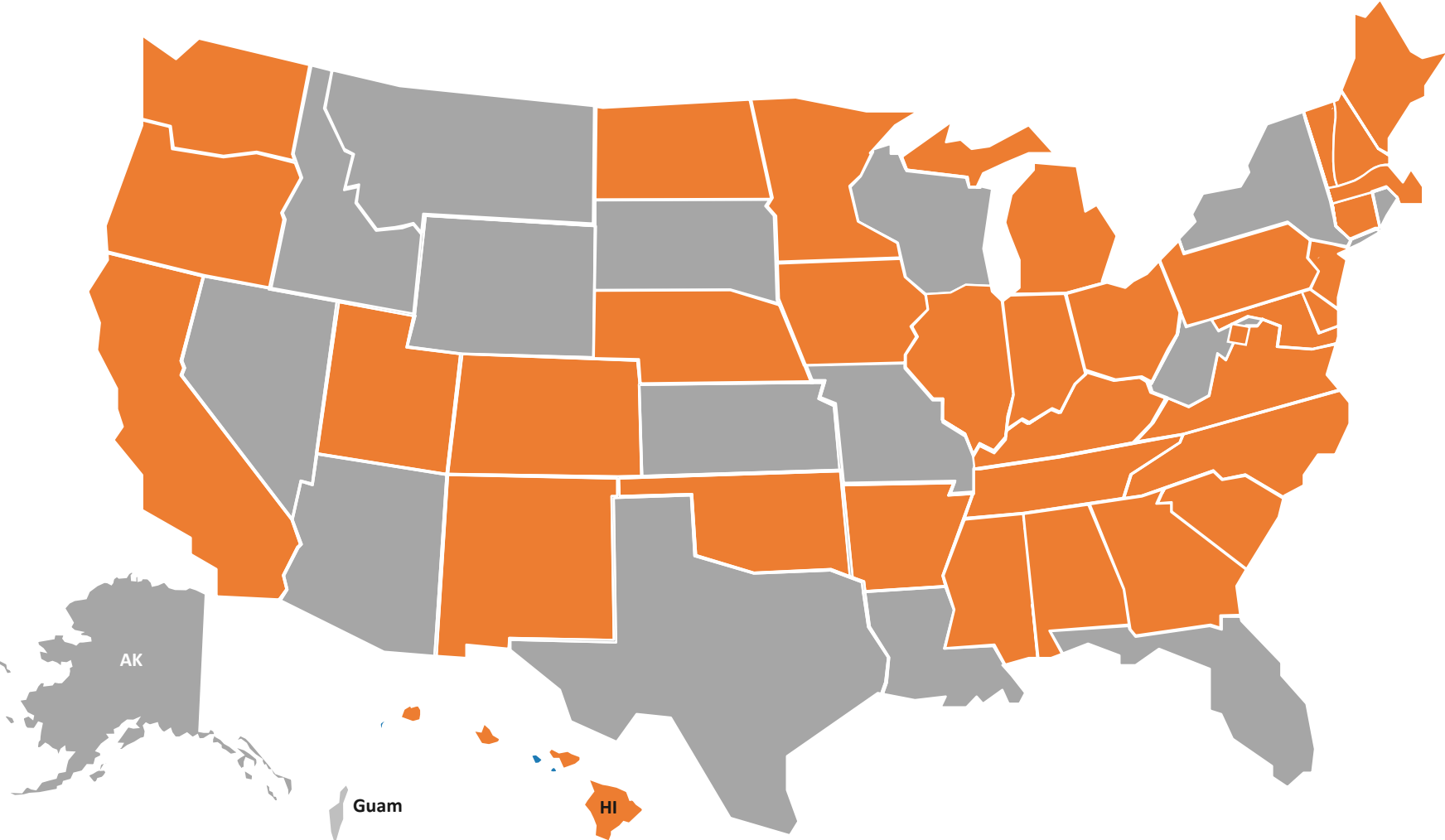
A strong majority of adults favor a whole family approach – across political party, geography, race/ethnicity, gender, and age.

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?

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



Momentum at the State Level



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.



Building systems that serve whole families

Whole Family Approach, Strategy, Systems Continuum

APPROACH

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

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.

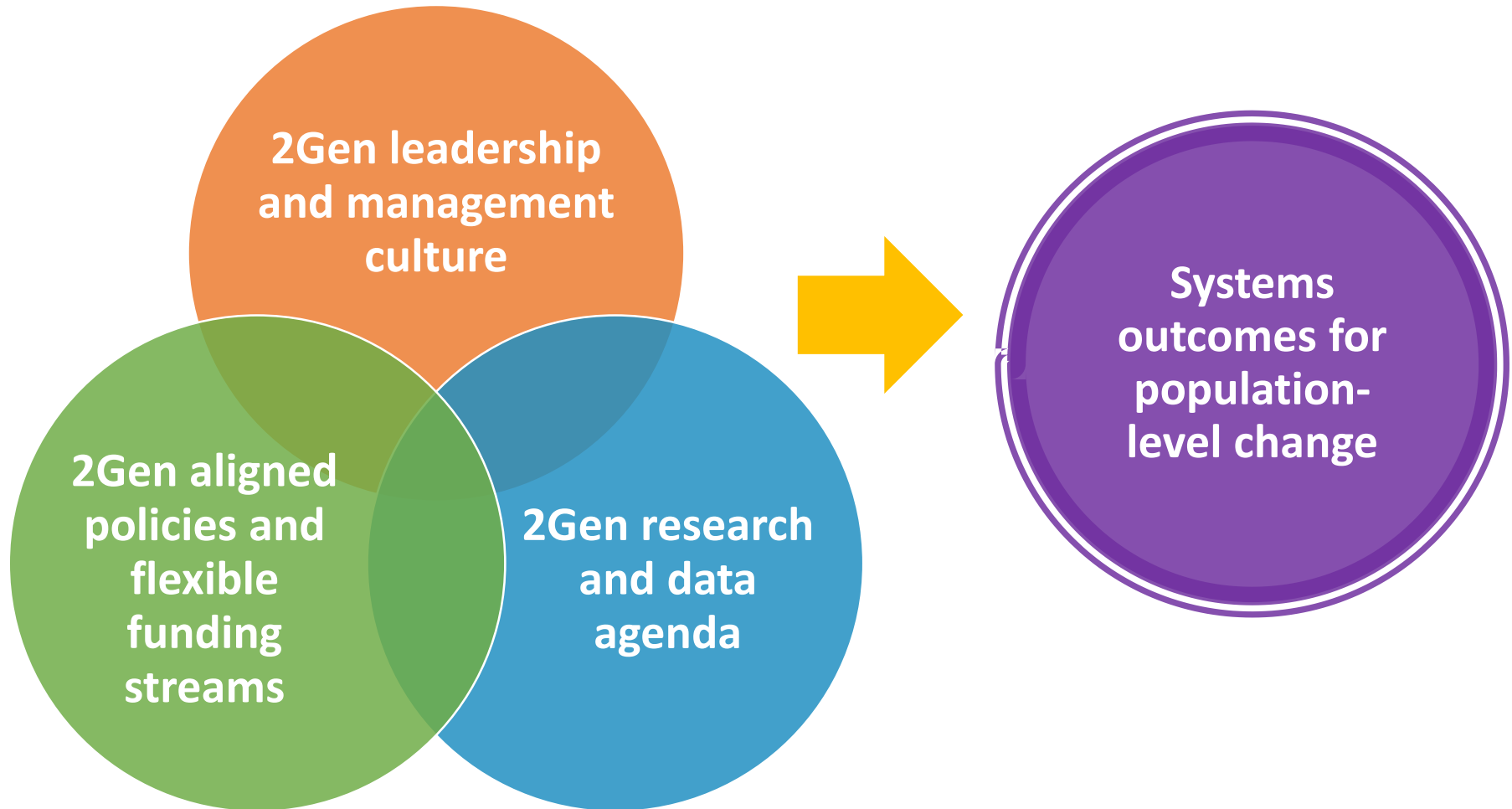
Throughout the continuum, inclusion of parent voices and a focus on equity are prerequisites.

 **ASCEND**
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE



Achieving long-term outcomes for families

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



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

The Tennessee Story

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

The Colorado Story

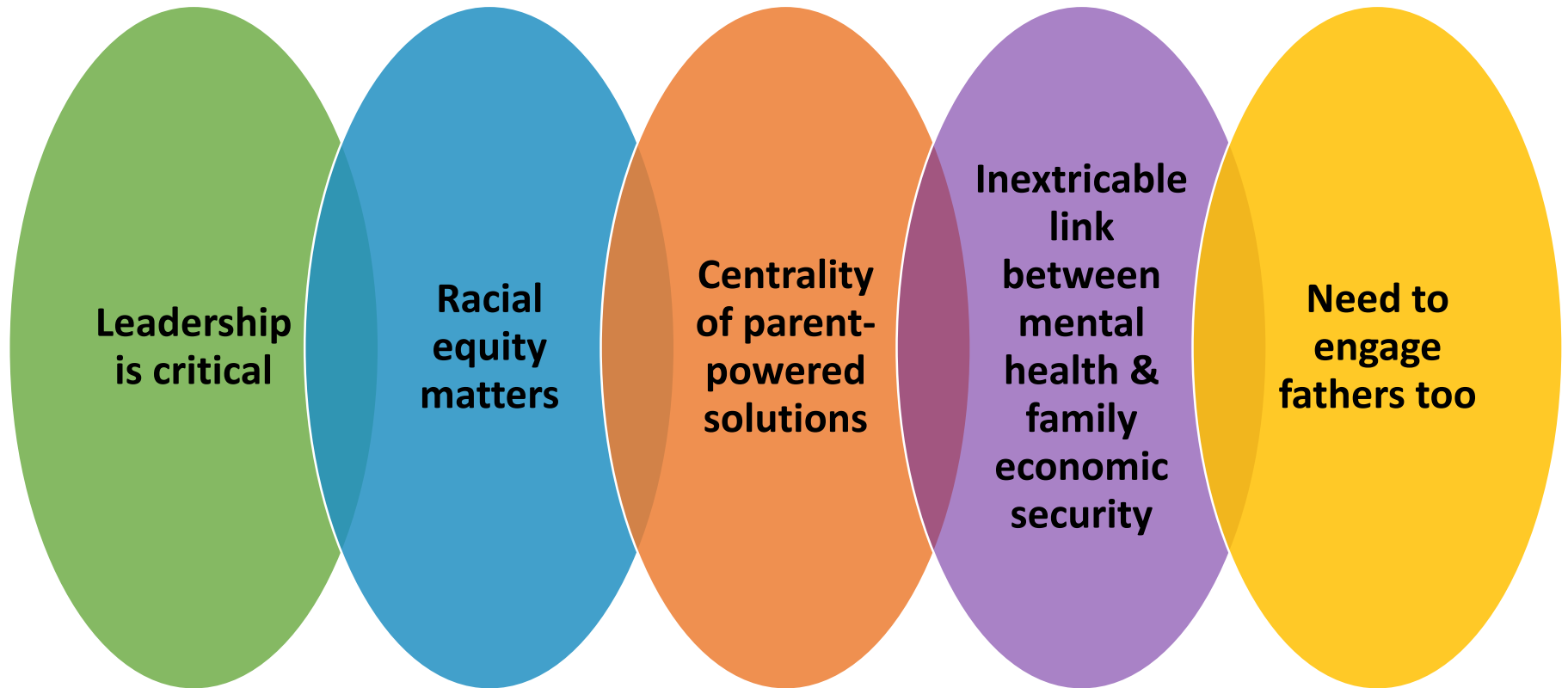
It's not a new program. It's a mindset.

– 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

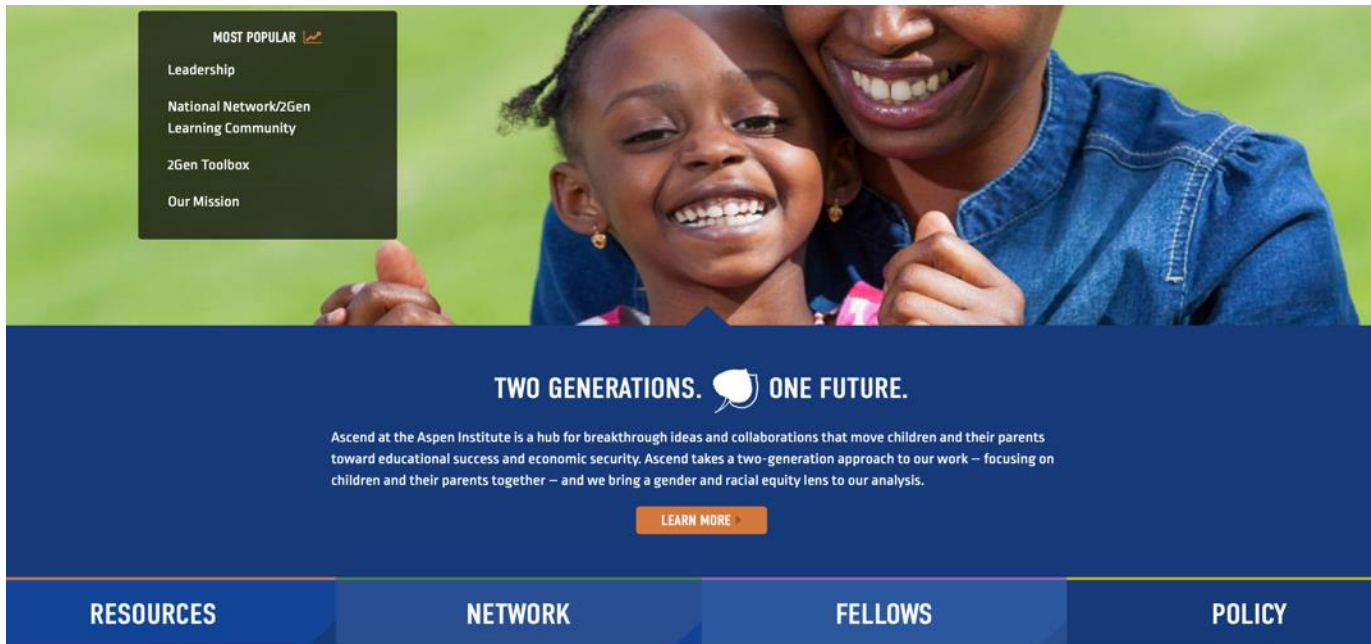
Lessons




Thank you!


For more information:

- Visit ascend.aspeninstitute.org – case studies, reports, research, public opinion data, lessons learned blogs, webinar recordings
- Email: Tiffany.Day@aspeninstitute.org or Lori.Severens@aspeninstitute.org



MOST POPULAR 

- Leadership
- National Network/2Gen Learning Community
- 2Gen Toolbox
- Our Mission

TWO GENERATIONS.  ONE FUTURE.

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

[LEARN MORE >](#)

RESOURCES NETWORK FELLOWS POLICY