The Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach

Strengthening Family and Parent Support
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What is 2Gen?

The two-generation (2Gen) approach, is a continuum that focuses on addressing the needs of vulnerable children and their parents together.

The Two-Generation Continuum

- child-focused
- child-focused with parent elements e.g., parenting skills or family literacy
- whole family
- parent-focused with child elements e.g., child care subsidies or food assistance
- parent-focused

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What is 2Gen?

• The 2Gen approach focuses holistically on supporting the entire family system.

• The goal is to end the cycle-of-poverty by putting the whole family on the path to economic success and self-sufficiency.
What is 2Gen?

• Research shows that programs that support parents and children jointly provide better outcomes than those that independently focus on just children or parents.

• Research also shows that investing in high-quality early childhood education yields a 7-10% return on investment (ROI), based on school and career readiness and reduced social costs.
What is 2Gen?

• Programs that support parents and children jointly provide better outcomes than those that independently focus on just children or parents.

• Investing in high-quality early childhood education yields a 7-10% return on investment.
What is 2Gen?

Experts believe that we should shift our approach on the cycle of poverty toward creating a cycle of opportunity. The core components of this should focus on:

- Early childhood education
- Postsecondary education
- Employment pathways
- Economic assets
- Health and well-being
- Social capital
What is 2Gen?

• Funding 2Gen programs can yield better outcomes for families and maximize the financial investment.

• Communities can also play a broad role in supporting 2Gen practices by integrating educational, employment and social institutions to increase family well-being. Once the well-being of the family improves, a continuum evolves where the family is able to positively contribute back to the community.
What is 2Gen?

Examples of 2Gen programs in NYS:
– Child Care Subsidy Program
– NYS Close to Home initiative
– Healthy Families NY- Home Visiting Program
– Advantage and Empire After School Programs
– Head Start Programs
– Community Hubs
Child Care Subsidy as a 2Gen Approach

Subsidized Child Care in New York State FFY 2017

- $799 Million allocated to local districts
- ~182,000 children in 112,000 families (annual)
- ~121,000 children in 72,000 families (monthly)
- ~64% of children served are from NYC.
- ~49% of children served received low income subsidies
- ~51% of children with child care subsidies also received TA
- ~19,000 legally exempt providers enrolled to provide subsidized child care
Child Care Subsidy as a 2Gen Approach

• The nature of employment among the working poor can make it difficult to raise children, creating great hurdles for parents who are trying to better their lives and their children’s.

• Child care subsidy is an important component of a 2Gen approach in that it can help mitigate some of these hurdles including
  – Varying schedules
  – Availability of care
  – Family and cultural beliefs and expectations
Child Care Subsidy as a 2Gen Approach
Child Care Subsidy as a 2Gen Approach

- Supporting the developmental needs of children while also supporting their parents’ ability to parent and to improve their livelihood
  - Linking families to child care (subsidy, referral)
  - Policies to address homeless families, non-traditional hours and parental choice
  - Training requirements for subsidized child care providers
  - Oversight of regulated programs
  - Union grants
  - CCRR contracts
Regulatory Framework and 2Gen

New York’s Regulatory Framework is Consistent with 2Gen:

Protect the health and safety of children in child care; help parents make informed consumer choices and access information to support child development; provide equal access to stable, high-quality child care for low-income children; and enhance the quality of child care and the early childhood workforce.

✓ Fraud Regulations/Initiatives
✓ Needs of Homeless Families
✓ Differential and Enhanced Rates
✓ Health and Safety Training Requirements
Implementing a 2Gen Approach:

- Promoting 2Gen may be emergent or intentional
- Promoting the good practice where it exists
2Gen Opportunities in TANF Employment and Training
Poverty in New York State

New Yorkers living in poverty (2017):
- 15.5% of all individuals (over 3 million people)
- 21.7% of all children (under 18)
- 38.4% of all families with female heads of household and children present

TANF caseload statistics (as of October 2017):
- 95,588 TANF cases
- 215,099 TANF recipients
Importance of the 2Gen Dynamic

Meeting the needs of children and their parents together:

- The income, educational attainment, and well-being of parents play a crucial role in children’s outcomes.

- Services for children help parents balance the demands of work and parenting by lessening their stress and supporting child and family wellbeing.
2Gen and TANF

Applying a 2Gen philosophy to TANF:

- Access to the economic and social supports needed for stability and resilience and healthy child development
- Linking high quality educational services for children and workforce development services for their parents
- Programmatic efforts to help parents gain the skills, knowledge, and resources to support their child’s development
- Help families build social capital that can support both resilience and upward mobility.
2Gen As an Approach to Designing and Running Programs – Not Starting a New Program

Services for Parents
- Occupational training
- High school equivalency
- Post-secondary education
- ESL classes
- Financial literacy
- Parenting skills
- Home visits
- Mentoring and coaching
- Health services

Services for Children
- Child care
- Head Start
- Early childhood education
- Home visits
- Health services
Coordination and Partnerships

• More than just a referral
• Coordination across programs for parents and programs for children
• Shifting burden of coordination away from parents
• Examples:
  – Coinciding the schedule for a workforce or education program with the schedule of a Head Start or children’s program
  – Co-locating parent and child services such as providing a job skills class in a child care center
  – Aligned family goal-setting for TANF families with children enrolled in Head Start program
Flexibility under TANF Block Grant

- Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS)
- Allocated to each district to support a range of services to address the needs of low income families consistent with local priorities:
  - Employment services
  - Work supports
  - Tuition assistance
  - Child care
  - Case management services
Workforce Development and Family Support

- Erie County DSS
- 5,800 TANF cases and 14,164 TANF recipients
- Multi-purpose community centers:
  - Workforce development
  - Child care services
  - Wrap-around support for families
- Jacqueline Hall, Executive Director of Social Services Family Independence
- Sandra Neubert, Director Employment Programs
Belle Center in Erie County

Belle Center Video Link
Topics of Discussion

- Background on the community centers in Erie County
- Funding and operation
- DSS involvement and coordination
- Co-locating work activities and children services
- Other available family support and services
2Gen Implementation

• An approach, not a program or single initiative
• Responsibility is on programs, systems, and policies rather than on parents
• Integrating existing child and family support funding into the 2G framework
• Building and sustaining processes that focus on family outcomes
Discussion

ASCEND - Two Generations One Future Video
THANK YOU

Resources/References:
- ASCEND 2GEN TOOLBOX: [https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/resources/2gen-toolbox/](https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/resources/2gen-toolbox/)
- Project 2Gen: [https://www.bctr.cornell.edu/projects/project-2gen/](https://www.bctr.cornell.edu/projects/project-2gen/)
- TWO GENERATIONS, ONE FUTURE moving parents and children beyond poverty together [https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/ascend/Ascend-Report-022012.pdf](https://assets.aspeninstitute.org/content/uploads/files/content/docs/ascend/Ascend-Report-022012.pdf)