



**Office of Children
and Family Services**

**Office of Temporary
and Disability Assistance**

The Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach

Strengthening Family and Parent Support

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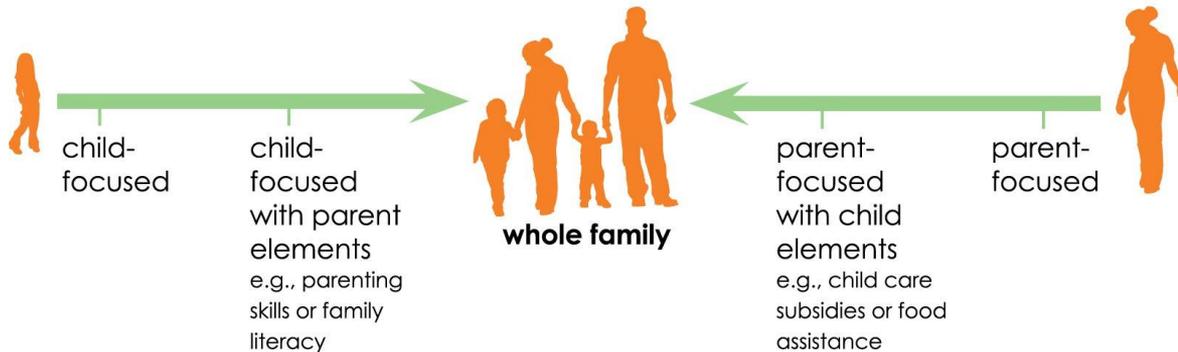
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What is 2Gen?

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



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?

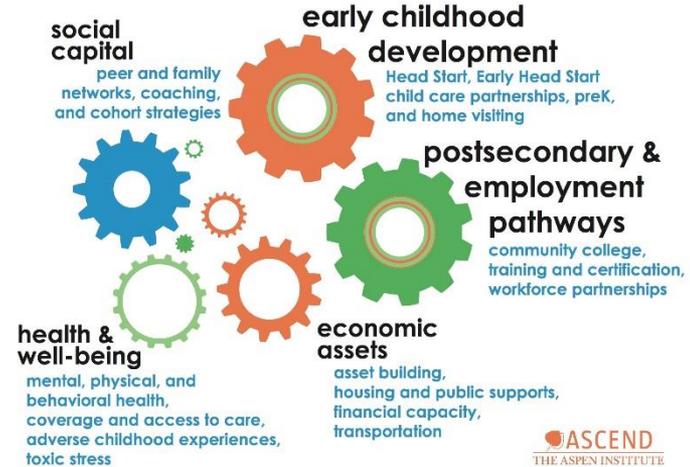
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What is 2Gen?

Experts believe that we should shift of 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

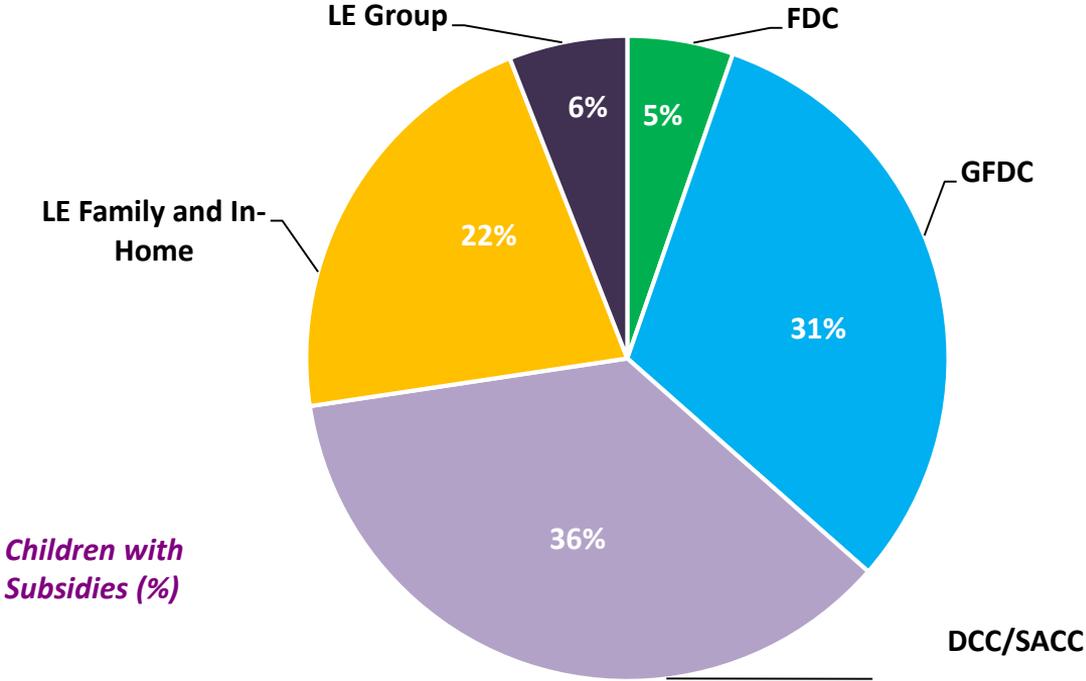


Child Care Subsidy as a 2Gen Approach

- 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.

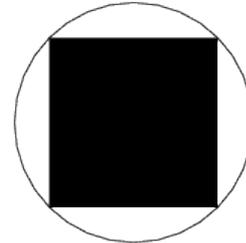
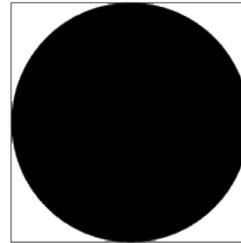
- ✓ ***Fraud Regulations/Initiatives***
- ✓ ***Needs of Homeless Families***
- ✓ ***Differential and Enhanced Rates***
- ✓ ***Health and Safety Training Requirements***



Implementing a 2Gen Approach:



- Promoting 2Gen may be emergent or intentional
- Promoting the good practice where it exists





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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.



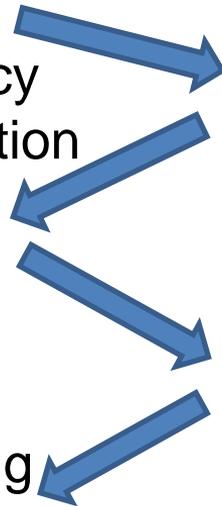
2Gen As an Approach to Designing and Running Programs – Not Starting a New Program

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](#)

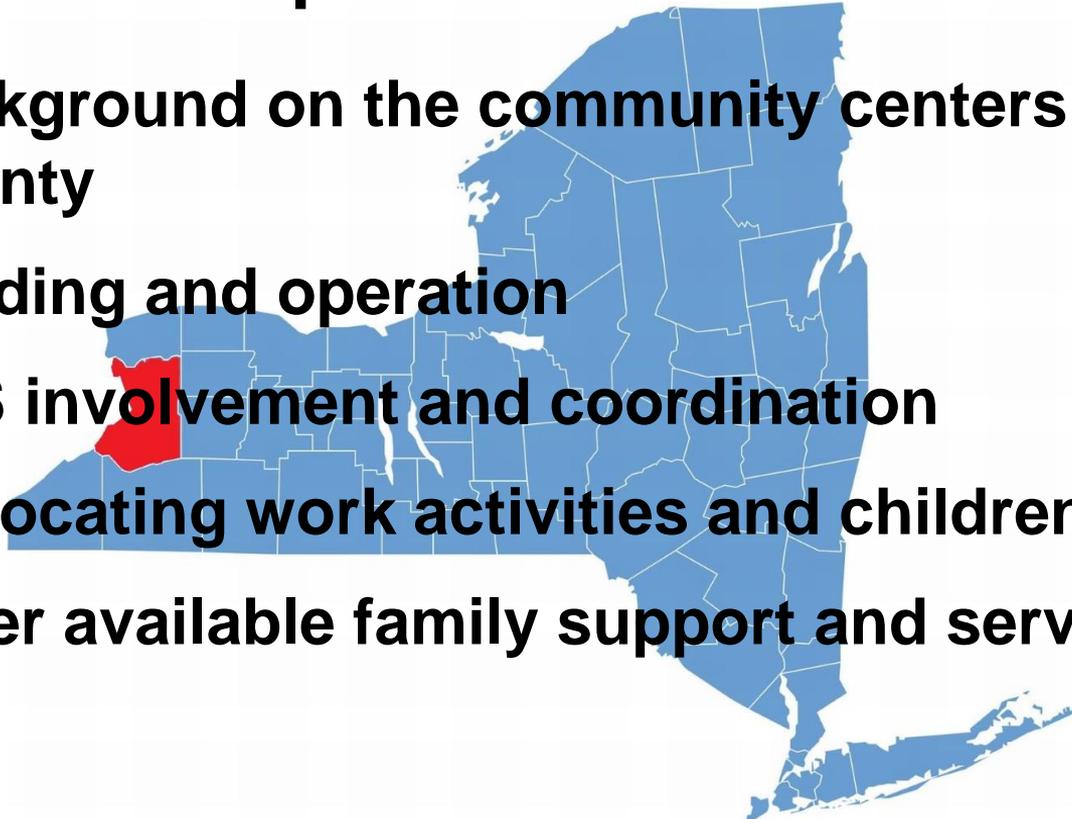


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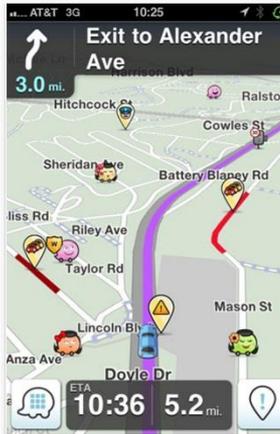
Topics of Discussion

- **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:

- Aspen Institute Ascend: <http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/two-generation/what-is-2gen/>
- ASCEND 2GEN TOOLBOX: <https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/resources/2gen-toolbox/>
- Project 2Gen: <https://www.bctr.cornell.edu/projects/project-2gen/>
- *Strengthening TANF Outcomes by Developing Two-Generation Approaches to Build Economic Security, TANF-ACF-IM-2016-03*, <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/resource/tanf-acf-im-2016-03>
- Thriving Children, Successful Parents: A Two-Generation Approach to Policy; CLASP: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED561729.pdf>
- 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>
- US Department of Education: <http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/publications/materials/Two%20Generation%20Approaches%20Paper%20052716.pdf>
- *Top Ten for 2Gen: Policy Ideas & Principles to Advance Two-Generation Efforts*, by Anne Mosle, Nisha Patel, and Jennifer Stedron, Ascend at the Aspen Institute, October 2014, <http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/pages/top10>

