A Framework for Two-Generation Strategies

Roundtable on Two-Generation Strategies in Education

Nisha Patel, Deputy Director
Ascend

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We envision an America in which a legacy of economic security and educational success passes from one generation to the next.
We are a **hub** for breakthrough ideas and proven strategies that move **parents**, especially women, and their **children** beyond poverty toward **educational success** and **economic security**.
Ascend Lenses

Analysis

Gender

Race/Ethnicity
Why a Particular Focus on Women?

- Build on international lessons learned about the return on investing in women
- Impact of maternal education on child outcomes
- Increasing share of women who are primary or co-breadwinners (2/3 of families)
- Disproportionately high poverty rates for women and for children in single-mother families
Trends in Poverty for All People, by Gender, 2000-2010

Trends in Family Structure, 2000-2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, September 2011.
Poverty and Low-Income Trends for Children\(^1\), by Family Type, 2000-2010

\(^1\)Estimates are for related children under the age of 18.

Why Focus on Race/Ethnicity?

- The U.S. is on the path to becoming a “majority-minority nation.” This transition will occur shortly after 2042.
- 2011 may be the first year in which majority of births will be to parents of color.
- Disproportionately high poverty rates for people of color (2010 data):
  - Black: 39%
  - Hispanic: 35%
  - Asian: 14%
  - White: 12%
Percentage of Children Under the Age of 18 Living in Poverty and Low-Income, by Family Structure, Race and Hispanic Origin, 2010

Poverty Status of People 25 years and over, by Educational Attainment, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than high school graduate</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school graduate (includes equivalency)</td>
<td>32.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, associate's degree</td>
<td>27.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or higher</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>30.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Blue bars**: Income in the past 12 months below poverty level
- **Red bars**: Income in the past 12 months at or above poverty level

*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, September 2011.
Why a Two-Generation Approach?

• Potential for a multiplier effect of the ROI in early childhood education for children and postsecondary education for parents
  – Quality early education for at-risk children can produce an annual rate of return as high as 16%.
  – Parents’ level of educational attainment is the best predictor of economic mobility.
What is a Two-Generation Approach?

Ascend Working Definition

Two-generation approaches *simultaneously* focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both vulnerable *parents* and *children.*
Applying Two-Generation Approaches
The Two-Generation Continuum

- Whole-Family Approaches
- Child-Parent Approaches
- Child-Focused Approaches
- Parent/Child Approaches
- Parent/Adult-Focused Approaches
- Whole-Family Approaches
“Whole-Family” Approaches

Focus equally and intentionally on services and opportunities for the parent and the child
“Child-Parent” Approaches

Focus first or primarily on the child, but are moving toward a two-generation approach and also include services and opportunities for the parent.
“Parent-Child” Approaches

Focus first or primarily on the parent, but are moving toward a two-generation approach and also include services and opportunities for children.
Components of a Two-Generation Approach

- Education
- Social Capital
- Economic Supports
Intergenerational Cycle of Poverty

- Low-income Parents
- Low-income Children
- Low-income Young Adults

Who become

Give birth to

Who grow into
Education Can Break the Cycle

- Low-income Parents
  - Give birth to
  - Low-income Children
- Low-income Young Adults
  - Complete postsecondary credentials & become
  - Middle-income Adults
- Middle-income Adults
  - Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
  - Receive high quality early care & education
Economic Supports

- Food Assistance/SNAP
- Housing
- Transportation
- Financial Education & Asset Building
- Health Insurance/Medicaid
- Student Financial Aid/Pell Grants
- Tax Credits
- Child Care
- Food Assistance/SNAP
- Housing
- Transportation
- Financial Education & Asset Building
- Health Insurance/Medicaid
- Student Financial Aid/Pell Grants
- Tax Credits
- Child Care
Social Capital Provides Support & Opportunities

- Peer Support
- Family, Friends, Neighbors
- Community Organizations
- School and Workplace Contacts
- Leadership & Empowerment Programs
- Other Social Networks
“...parents can get the workforce training and education that they need. They are more likely or more inclined to go out and be able to find something to do as far as jobs. ...In the meanwhile, they don’t have to worry while they are doing that; they know their kids are in a safe environment; they are learning. ...”

-African American Single Mother, Detroit