



ASCEND

Family Economic  
Security Program

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THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

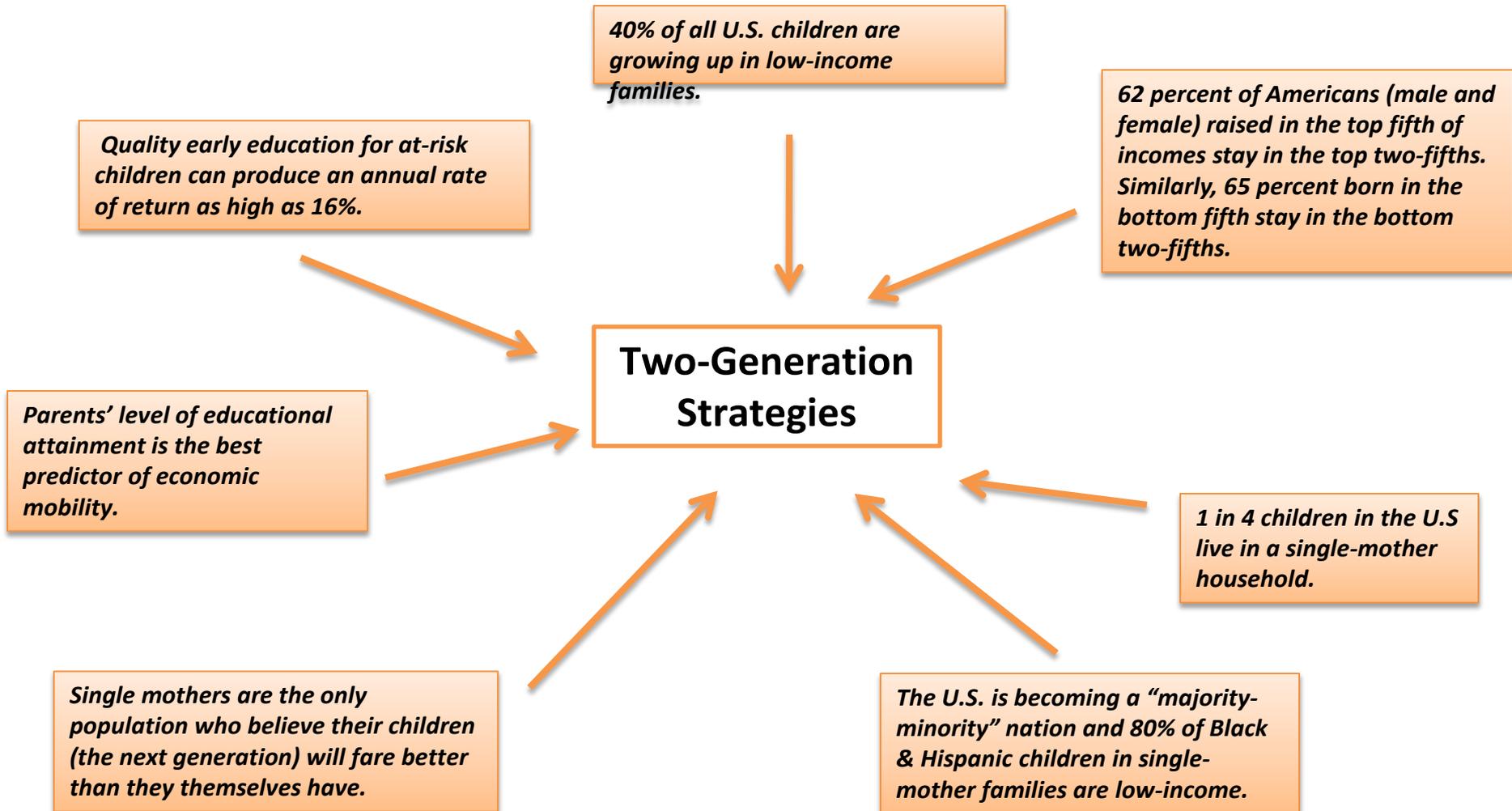
# Ascend at the Aspen Institute

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**Mission:** Ascend is a hub for breakthrough ideas and proven strategies that move parents, especially women, and their children beyond poverty toward educational success and economic security.

**The Ascend Fellowship:** Recognizing that breakthrough ideas come from different sectors and communities, the Ascend Fellowship targets diverse pioneers paving new pathways that break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

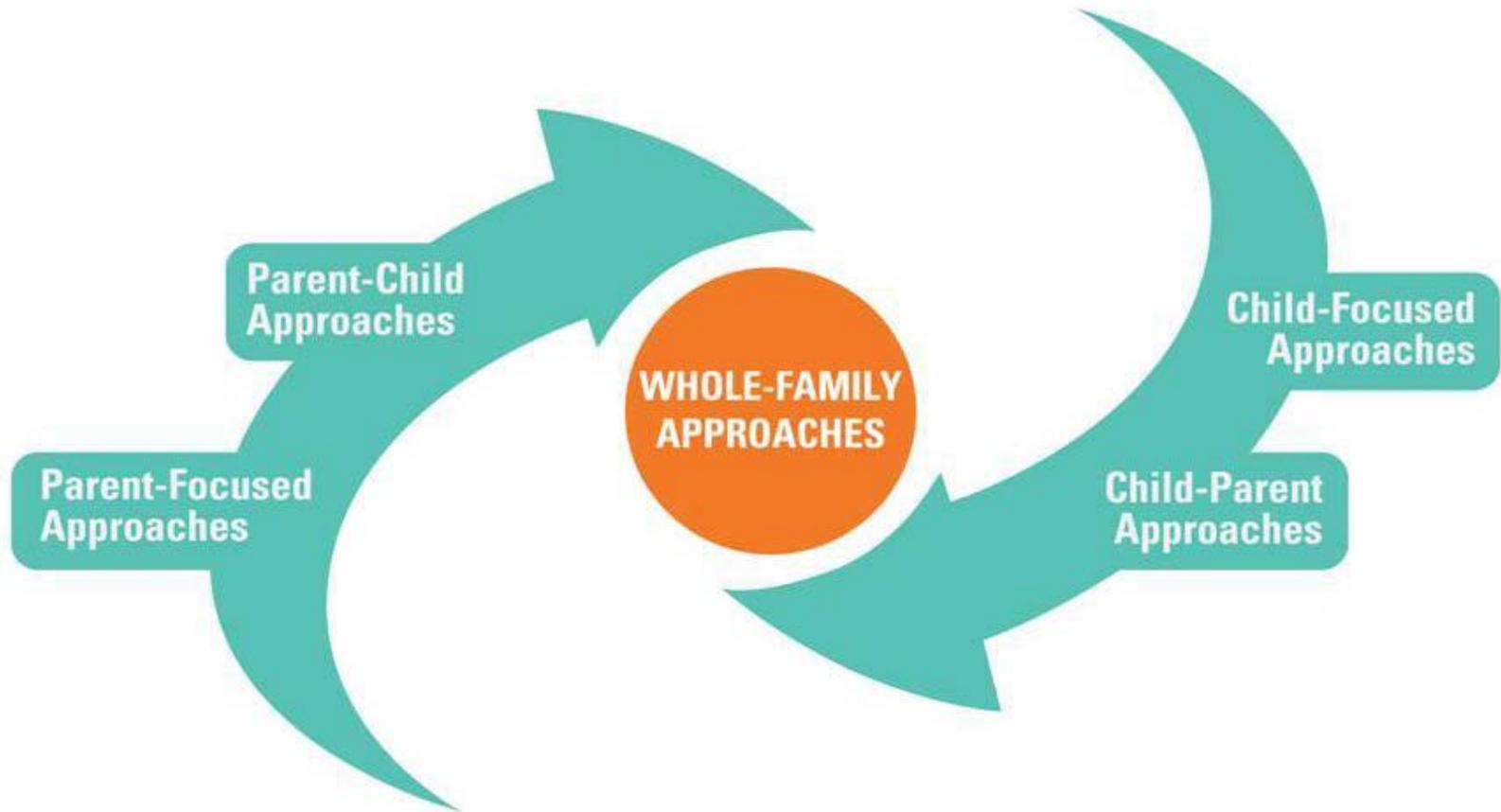
# Context



# Two-Generation Continuum

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Two-generation approaches focus on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both vulnerable parents and children together.



Two generations. One future.

# Components of Two-Generation Approaches

## ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

- Housing
- Transportation
- Financial Education & Asset Building
- Tax Credits
- Child Care Subsidies
- Student Financial Aid/Pell Grants
- Health Insurance/Medicaid
- Food Assistance/SNAP

## EDUCATION

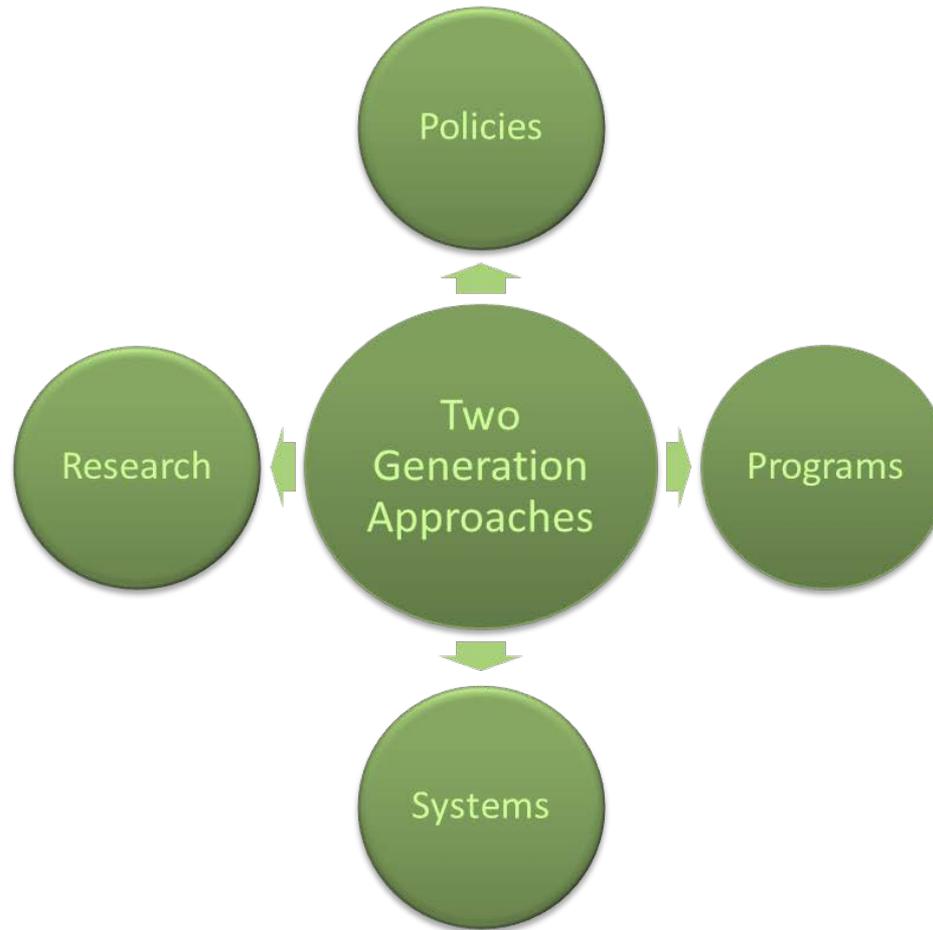
- Postsecondary Education
- Workforce Development
- Adult Education & Literacy
- K-12 Education
- Early Childhood Education

## SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Peer Support
- Family, Friends, Neighbors
- Community & Faith-Based Organizations
- School & Workplace Contacts
- Leadership & Empowerment Programs
- Case Managers & Career Coaches
- Cohort Models & Learning Communities
- Mental Health

# Applying Two-Generation Approaches

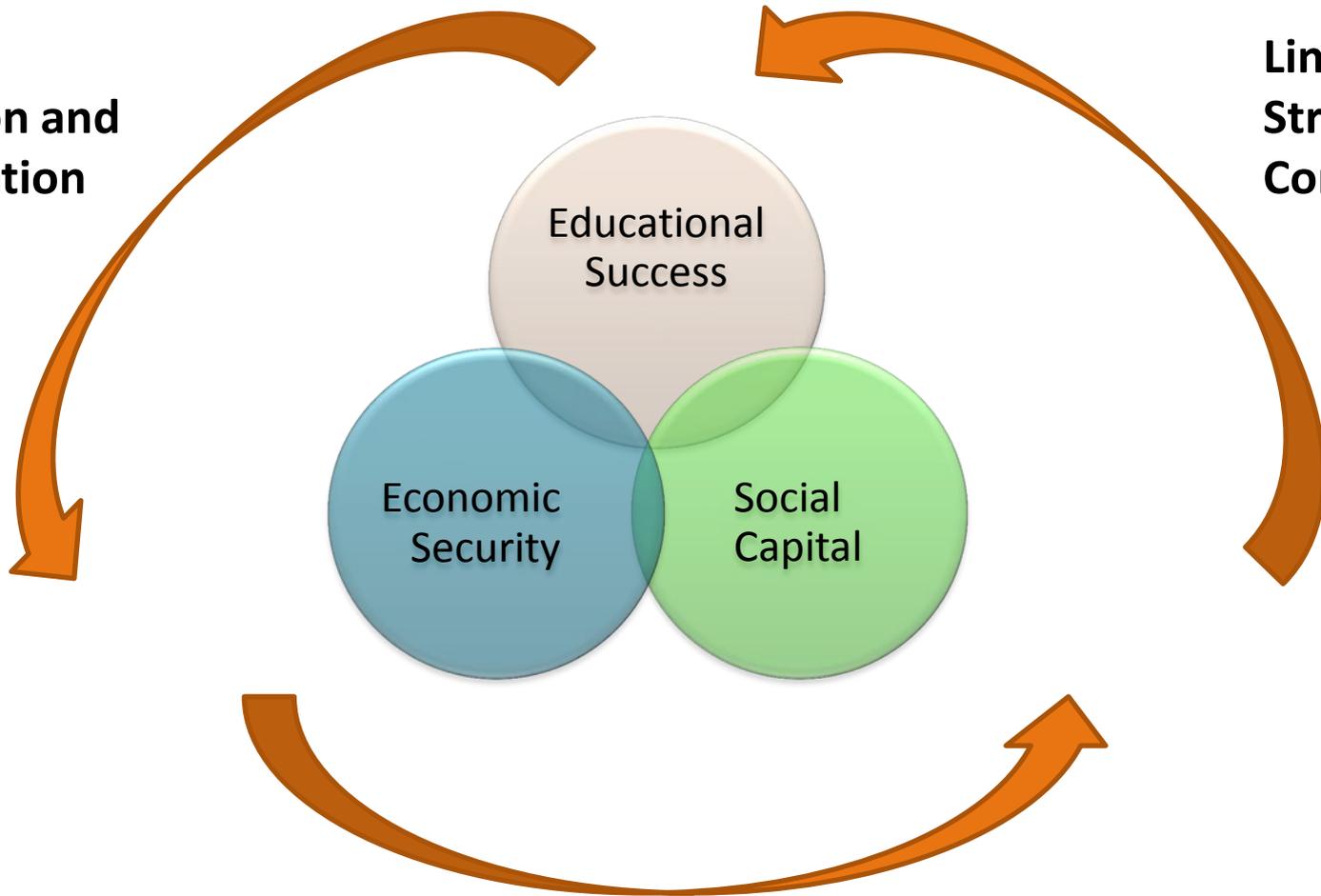
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# Principles of Two-Generation Approaches

**Foster  
Innovation and  
Collaboration**

**Link,  
Streamline,  
Connect**

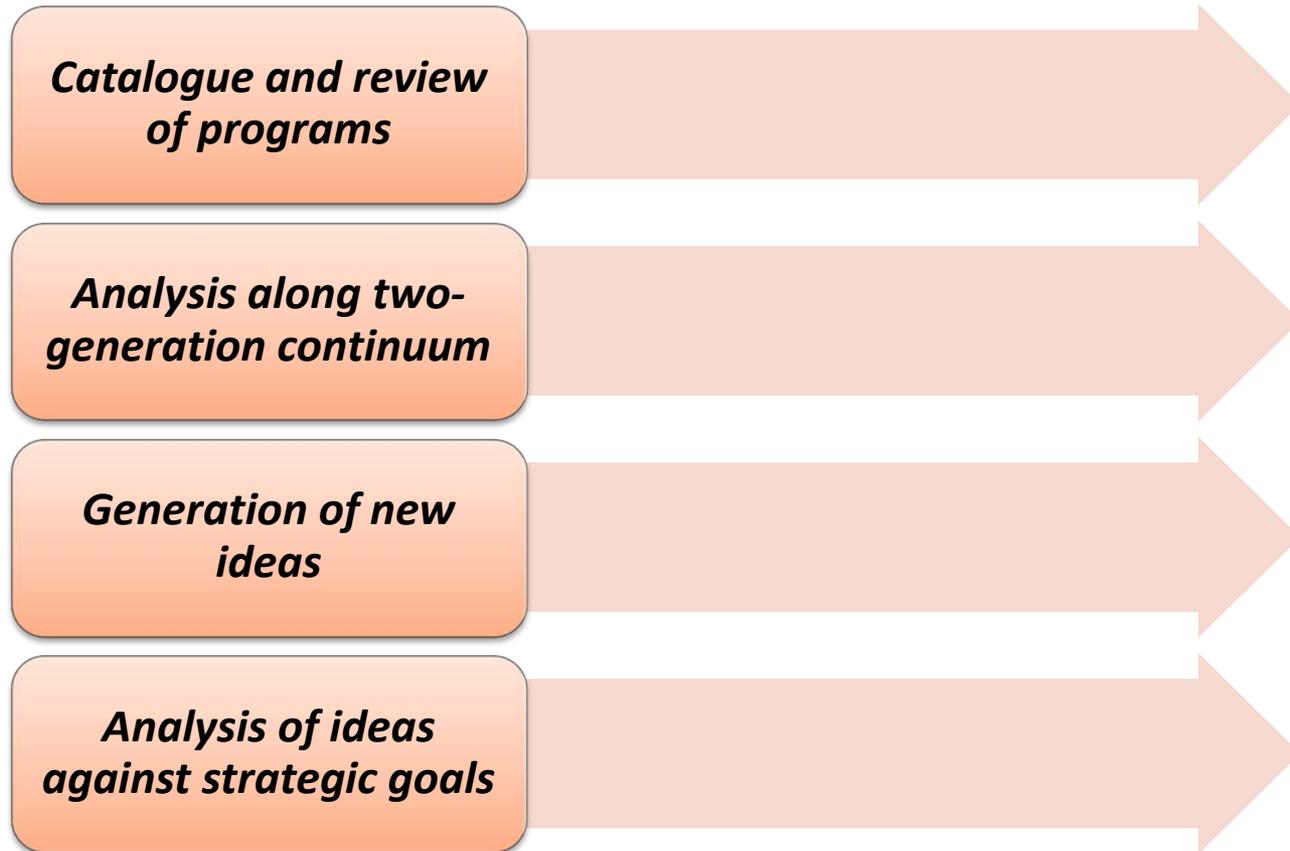


**Build on What Works**

Two generations. One future.

# Colorado Case Study: Key Steps

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# Key Insights and Opportunities

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- The two-generation approach is a lens that can be applied to Colorado’s existing strategies and does not require launching a new *“initiative.”* CDHS will work to **integrate two-generation ideas into their existing planning processes.**
- **There is an opportunity to apply the two-generation frame to the development of an Early Learning Challenge grant and new Office of Early Learning.**
- **Child welfare is a key system** which is already working with two generations – children and parents – and serves a significant number of vulnerable families.
- **Food assistance is another powerful lever** because of the sheer number of families served. 10% of all Coloradans are receiving food assistance from CDHS.
- **There is potential for philanthropic partnership around the child care Quality Rating and Information System.** One idea is to provide high-performing/high quality providers as “coaches” to low-performing/lower-quality sites to increase quality.
- There is an opportunity to **integrate the two-generation framework at the local, county, and state levels.**