



creating  
opportunity  
for  
families: a  
two-  
generation  
Approach

2015 Student Parent Support  
Symposium

May 27, 2015

# Our Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Creating Opportunities for Families
  - The Data and Challenge
  - The Approach and Goals
- AECF's Investment Strategies
  - Youth Build
  - Family-Centered Community Change (FCCC) Columbus
- Core Principles
- Small Group Discussion
- Closing Remarks

# Today's Objectives

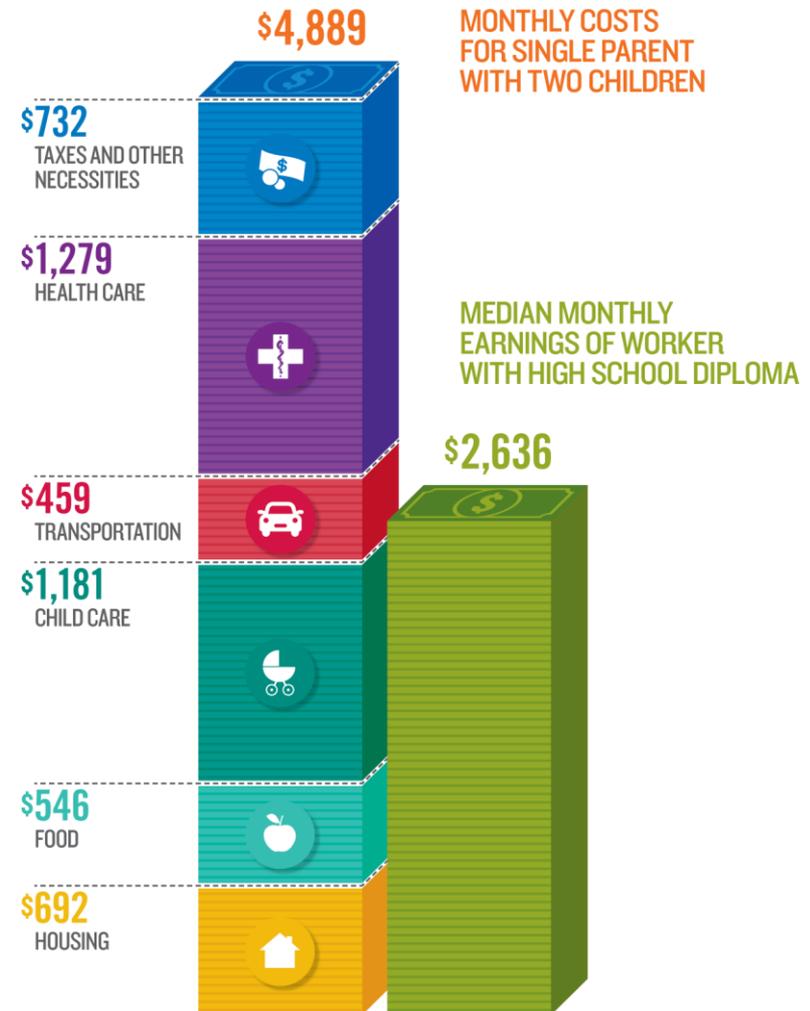
- Gain a deeper understanding of two-generation approaches as strategies to increasing opportunity for families
- Share examples of how two-generation approaches can be applied across different platforms with parents in different life circumstances
- Discuss the promise and potential challenges to this approach and what it means for your work with student parents

# A Two-Generation Approach to Creating Opportunities for Families: An Overview

- **Problem:** Nearly half of young children – 17 million – are growing up in low-income families.
- We need to ensure these kids have a shot at the American dream.
- Today, too many programs address the needs of parents and children separately and in isolation.
- What we need is a new approach that recognizes kids succeed when families succeed — a two-generation approach.

# Families Are Struggling to Make Ends Meet

- 10 million low-income families with children age 8 and under
- Limited skills, low wages, inflexible work schedules:
  - Only half with full-time work
  - Nearly 80 percent lack postsecondary degree
  - Nearly five times more likely to have difficulty speaking English



# Low-Income Families Face Greater Barriers to Success



**45%** are single-parent families

**17%** of low-income parents reported child care significantly affected their ability to get and keep a job

**31%** of children in low-income families have parents with concerns about their development

# The Challenge Today

Many programs and policies operate in isolation



- Adult programs treat children as barriers to employment
- Child programs often do not help parents who are struggling with day-to-day stress of providing for their family

# Our Two-Generation Approach: Three Simultaneous Interventions

## Family Economic Success Strategies

- Workforce and career development
- Access to income and work support benefits
- Financial coaching and education; access to affordable financial products

## Capacity Building for Parents, Caregivers and Agencies

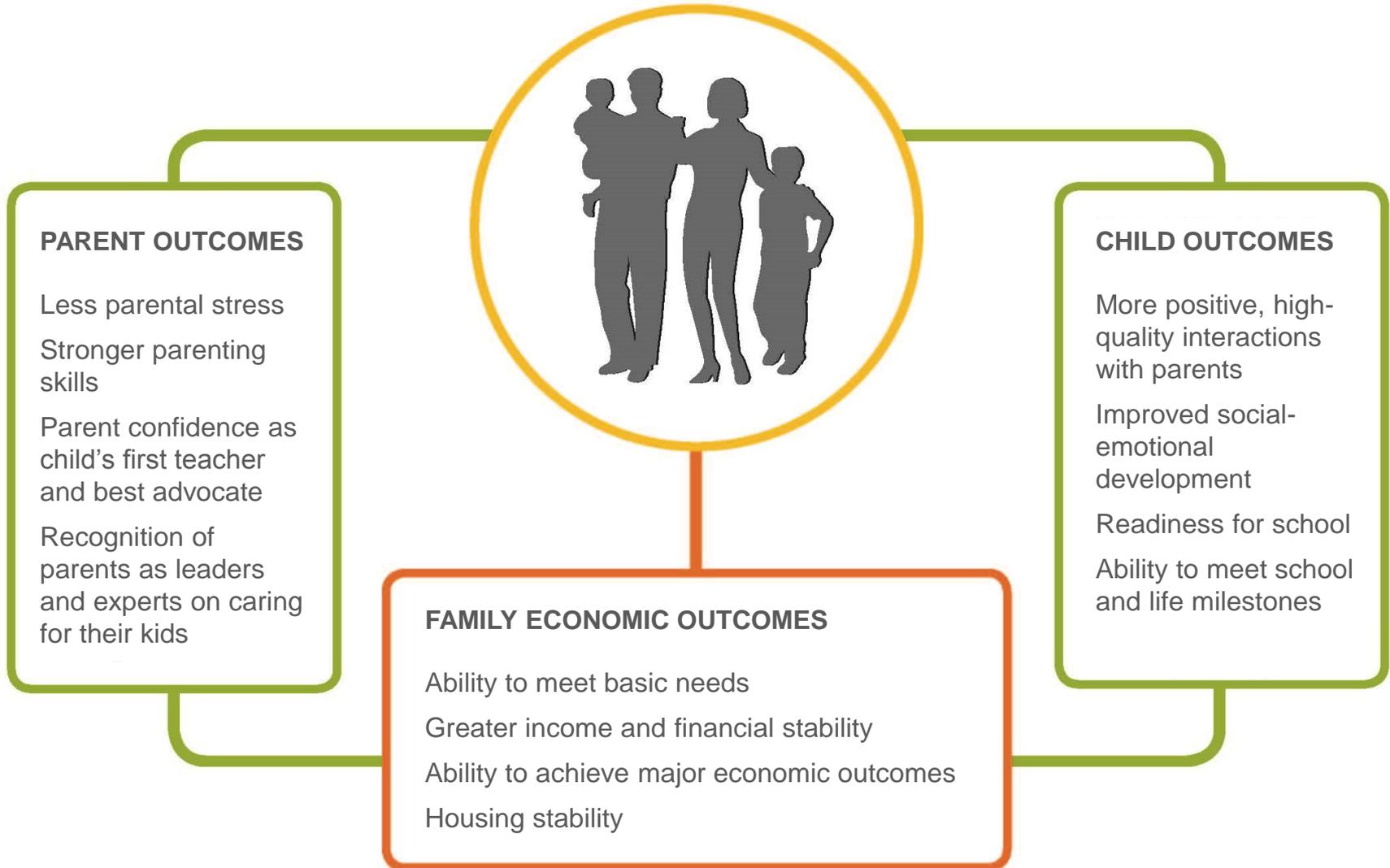
- Creating a continuum of accessible resources and partners to engage families
- Enhanced parent voice, advocacy and networks
- Addressing family stress and trauma
- Ensuring agency staff are culturally competent and see parents as assets

## Early Care, Education and Quality Experiences

- High-quality early education programs (center- or home-based)
- Successful transition to elementary school
- High-quality elementary school experiences

Influencing Policy and Systems

# Our Goal: Better Outcomes for Families



# AECF's Two-Generation Portfolio 2014: Four Key Strategies

**1. Translating Research into Practice**

**2. Demonstrating Two-Generation Practice and Building Evidence**

**3. Promoting Parent Engagement**

**4. Influencing Policy and Systems**



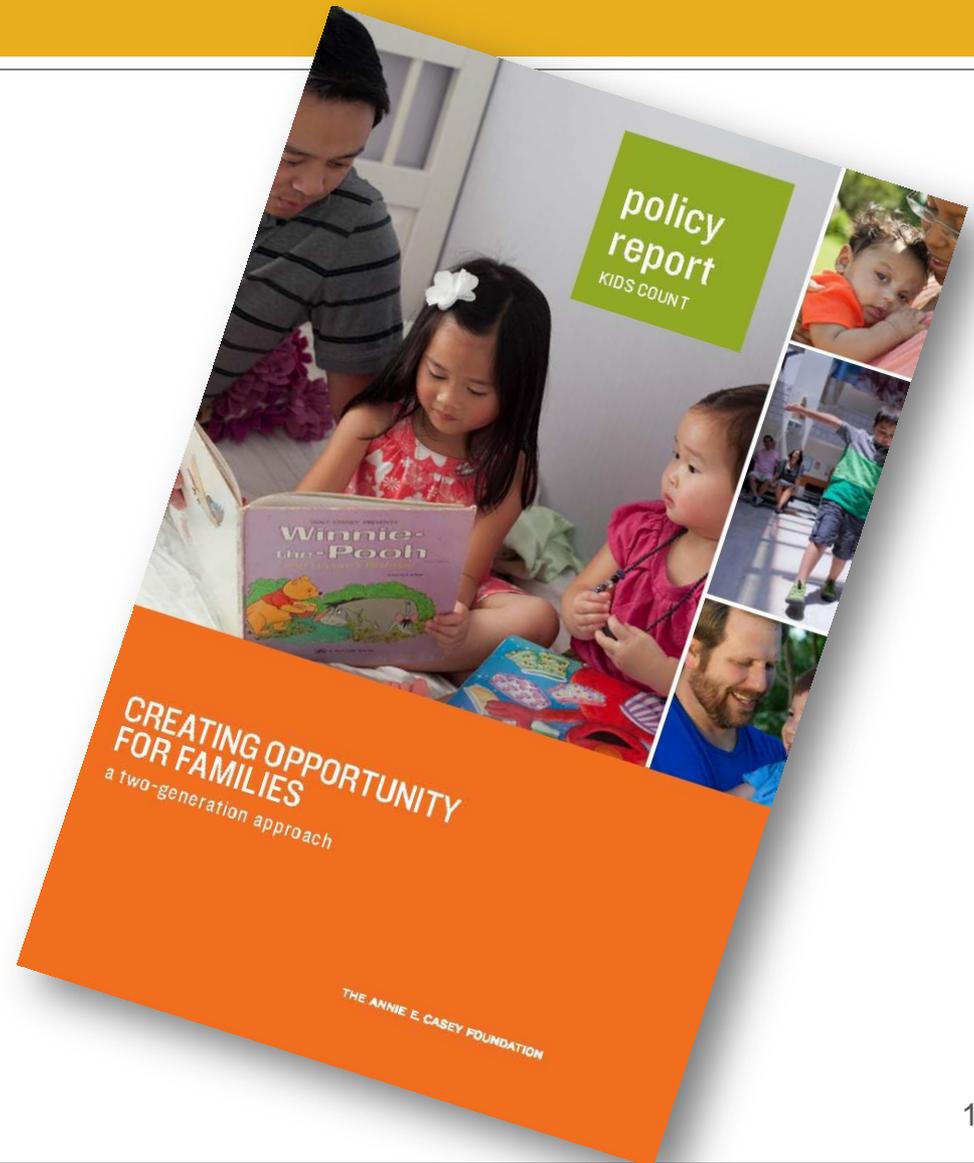
**Goal:** Increasing children and parent/caregiver outcomes together

**Performance Measures:**

- Improved family stability as measured by:  
increased parent education, employment and household income
- Improved parent-child relationships
- Child academic and social-emotional outcomes

# Influencing Policy and Systems

- Released a Two-Generation policy report in November with input from over 65 experts from policy and practice.
- Used communications lessons on how to frame two-generation issues.
- Developed key systems and program reform ideas to help advance the knowledge base around outcomes
- Access the report at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).



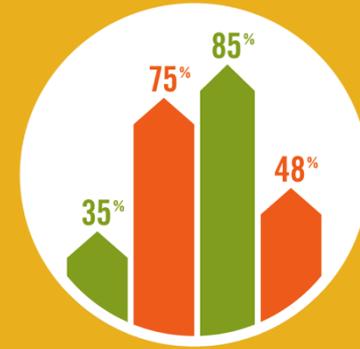
# Policy Recommendations



Create policies that equip parents and children with the income, tools and skills for success.



Make government policies and programs more family friendly.



Build evidence on promising programs and platforms focusing on parents and children together.

# Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms

**Schools** and **early-education, home-visiting** and **job-training programs** are some of the platforms that offer opportunities to create partnerships that address in the needs of parents and children together.



## Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms: Innovation and Research Partners



### **Housing: Jeremiah Program**

Building evidence with Jeremiah Program's replication with Boston Housing Authority, ABCD Head Start and Endicott College.



### **Early Care and Coaching: Crittenton Women's Union**

Testing a Two-Gen design pilot with Crittenton Women's Union, Nurtury and Frontiers of Innovation.



### **Community Schools and FES: United Way of the Bay Area**

Working with community schools, United Way is linking parents with financial coaching, job-readiness assistance and other tools and skill-development opportunities



### **Home Visiting: Children's Home Society In Washington**

Children's Home Society is training its home visiting staff in the area of financial coaching so they can help new mothers and fathers develop financial empowerment skills.

# Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms: YouthBuild and Student Parents



- **Peer learning and support group for parents**
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and texting
- **Postsecondary retention grants for student parents**
  - Childcare, Transportation, Educational, Housing
- **Financial capability training for students**
  - Customized curriculum

# Tracking Success and Persistence

- Parenting survey
- Program data
- Financial capability pre/post outcomes
- Quantitative and qualitative performance measures and targets (e.g. student parent placement, retention & completion)

# Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms: Family Economic Success-Early Childhood Initiative

## THE FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS- EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERS (Educational Alliance, Garrett Co. CAP, Atlanta Civic Site and CAP Tulsa)

### GOAL

Programs **simultaneously** combine family economic supports to parents, parent capacity building and high-quality early care and education for kids to significantly improve outcomes for parents, children and families.

### STRATEGIES

- 1) Assist four diverse sites to strengthen their two-generation approaches.
- 2) Document and evaluate implementation to support continuous improvement and to identify potential scalable models for the field.



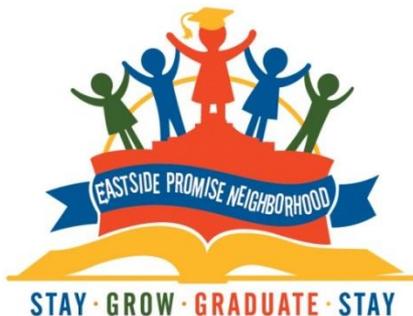
# Build Evidence on Promising Programs and Platforms: Family Centered Community Change Initiative



**Buffalo Promise**  
NEIGHBORHOOD



**WEINLAND PARK**  
COLLABORATIVE



## **FAMILY-CENTERED COMMUNITY CHANGE**

### **GOAL**

Programs **simultaneously** combine family economic supports to parents, parent capacity building and high-quality early care and education for kids.

### **STRATEGY**

Participate as a strategic co-investor, bringing two-generation approaches into three established, local community development initiatives to strengthen their efforts.

# Our AECF Vision

Our long-term goal is to strengthen young families through a two-generation approach, as children and families do better when they both have every opportunity to succeed in school, in work and as parents.

Over the next 5 years, we plan to:

- **demonstrate** effective two-generation practices by building evidence of on-the-ground models and initiatives.
- **identify** 2-3 funding partners and 3-5 key states to adopt our approach through lead agencies, public officials and collaborative partners focused on strengthening family outcomes.
- **change** 2-3 federal policies to integrate both child and parent services for two-generation outcomes.

# Core Principles and a Call To Action



- Parent voice is critical. Partner with families in creating solutions and decision making.
- Poverty disproportionately affects children of color. Prioritize equity for all families.
- Government can't do this alone. Engage a full range of public and private partners.

## Let's hear your perspectives....

- What helps parents persist in school and work?
- What barriers do you see in your work that uniquely face student-parents?
- Where does more intentional two-generation integration hold promise for building on what works or eliminating barriers to success for student-parents and their children? How might we do business differently?



THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION

*Developing solutions to build a brighter future for children, families and communities*

[www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)