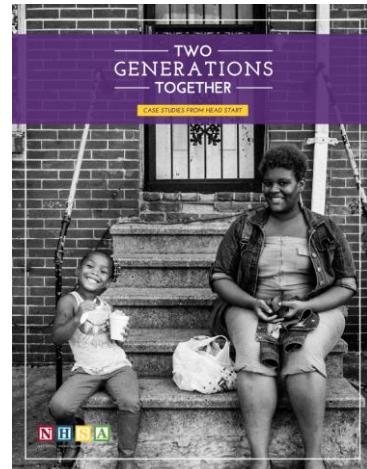


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Head Start Reimagined



Highlights from the Head Start Two Generations Together Institute

Last week, Ascend at the Aspen Institute partnered with the [National Head Start Association \(NHSA\)](#) to present the Two Generations Together Institute, a day-long discussion of two-generation innovation in Head Start.

In [case studies](#) released the same day and supported by Ascend, NHSA highlighted six Head Start programs, including two Ascend Network partners. All offer bold and pioneering education and workforce development tracks for parents. Ascend Executive Director Anne Mosle helped open the conference, encouraging programs to remember that "[innovation happens at the community level.](#)" ([see video clip](#))

In a [Huffington Post blog](#), Yasmina Vinci, NHSA President, said, "As Head Start celebrates its 50th anniversary year, we must continue to embrace policies that support the proven two-generation efforts that have been fundamental to the comprehensive Head Start model since its conception."

Major themes of the conference include:

- Building public-private funding partnerships and exploring non-traditional investments when building original program models.
- Shifting the conversation to one of results rather than regulations and compliance.
- Designing and pursuing evaluations that look at outcomes for children and their parents together.
- Making space within existing programming for innovation.
- The strongest policy solutions marry

NEWS

Stay tuned for March Announcement of the 2015-2016 Aspen Institute Ascend Fellows

- 21 outstanding women and men;
- Leaders in human services, postsecondary, workforce, health, early education, and more; with
- Bold two-generation visions for American families.

Ascend on social media: To keep up with our growing network, follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

Resources You Can Use

Investments and outcomes in education are one of three focus areas in our newly released report, [The Bottom Line: Investing for Impact on Economic Mobility in the U.S.](#)

The [chapter on education](#) offers insights for investors, practitioners, and policymakers into investments in early childhood, K-12, technology, literacy, and postsecondary education.

It also contains a [case study on Acelero Learning](#), a Head Start provider committed to closing the achievement gap.

[Explore the full report here!](#)

From Our Blog

[Prescription for Success: 2Gen Lessons](#) by Jeanne Jackson, President, Women's

parent voices and best and next practices with excellent data and research.

[Read the NHSA's Two Generations Together case studies](#). The six organizations in the studies are:

- [Friends of Children of Mississippi](#)
- [Educational Alliance](#)
- [Southwest Human Development](#)
- [Pacific Clinics](#)
- [AVANCE Houston](#)
- [Parents in Community Action](#)



[Does Head Start Promote Outcomes for Low-Income Parents?](#)

In newly released research, Terry J. Sabol and P. Lindsay Chase Lansdale explore whether children's participation in Head Start led their parents to advance their own education and employment.

Their research takes advantage of the randomized design from the Head Start Impact Study to examine this hypothesis using the full sample of 3- and 4-year-old children who had data on their primary caregiver (most often mothers, but also a small portion of fathers).

Sabol and Lansdale also examined to what extent findings were stronger for certain demographic groups.

Read the full article in the [Aspen Journal of Ideas](#).

Fund of Greater Birmingham

[Experiencing ThinkXChange: A Parent Ambassador's Perspective](#) by Stephanie Mitchell Hughes, Lawyer and Ascend Ambassador

[What We're Reading this Month](#)

[US Economic Mobility and Investing for Impact](#) by Anne Mosle, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*

[Going Back to College, and Teaching Her Daughters the Value of Education](#) by Lori Holcomb-Holland, *New York Times*

[The Two-Generation Approach to Fighting Child Poverty](#) by Nancy Cook, *National Journal*

[Reducing Our Obscene Level of Child Poverty](#) by Charles M. Blow, *New York Times*

[Head Start: Embracing a Two Generation Approach to Early Learning](#) by Yasmina Vinci, *Huffington Post*

[Hostos College in Bronx to Offer a Food Studies Program](#) by Winnie Hu, *New York Times*

Webinar: How do ACE Study Findings Affect Two-Generation Interventions?

Thursday, February 26, at 1:30 pm ET:

The Adverse Childhood Experiences study is



conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being.

This webinar will explore what the findings mean for addressing toxic stress in two-generation solutions. The discussion builds on the ideas shared at the 2014 Aspen ThinkXChange. Speakers include:

- [Katie Albright](#) (San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center);
- [Jeannette Pai-Espinosa](#) (The National Crittenton Foundation); and
- Jason Gortney ([The Children's Home Society of Washington State](#)).

[Sign up for the February 26 webinar here.](#)

About Ascend

Ascend is a policy program of the Aspen Institute and the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. We take a two-generation approach to our work — focusing on both children and the adults in their lives together — and bring a gender and racial equity lens to our analysis. We believe that education, economic supports, social capital, and health and well-being are the core elements that create an intergenerational cycle of opportunity.

As a new model of social innovation, we have three strategies:

- Elevating and investing in two-generation programs, policies, and community solutions.
- Building a network of diverse leaders through a national fellowship program and a national learning network.
- Leveraging resources to build opportunities for families.



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