Ms. Katie Abrigh is Director of the San Francisco
Child Abuse Prevention Center, an
organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, promotion of healthy families, and the mental health of children and children.
Her work is based in San Francisco.

Mr. Andy Clifford is Director of the
Institute’s Ascend Fellowship. He serves as
President of the Walmart Foundation, providing more than $750 million in cash and in-kind donations to nonprofit organizations. He led Walmart and its teacher training program to national recognition. He is based in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Mr. Steve Liss is Director of
the Colorado Department of Human Services
(CO-Office of Children, Youth and Families), an organization with 3,000 employees and a budget of $4.2 billion. CDS, with more than 200 locations, serves the state’s public assistance and children’s programs, public mental health system, and juvenile correction systems. The CDHS is based in Denver.

Dr. J. N. Phillips is Director of the
Seattle Children’s Research Institute, a
nonprofit which uses visual media to raise awareness about poverty in the USA.
He received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. He also teaches photo
journalism at Columbia College.

Mr. Steven Dow is Director of the
Curriculum Project (CAP) of Tulsa County, which works to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty by improving the prospects of young, low-income children.

Mr. Mohammad Ishaq is Director of the
Institute’s Ascend Fellowship. He is based in Oakland.

Dr. Mary Parker is Professor of
Social Policy and Society at Northwestern University, a
Distinguished University Professor of Policy Research. She is an expert on the economics of children and families, including a focus on child care and early childhood interventions. The Institute is based in Evanston, Illinois.

Dr. Joseph R. Coughlin is Professor of
Social Policy at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a member of the Director’s Roundtable of the American Enterprise Institute. His work is based in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Steven Dow is Director of the
Institute’s Ascend Fellowship. He is based in Oakland.

Mr. Mark Wilson is Director of the
Institute’s Ascend Fellowship. He is based in Denver.

Mr. Ryan Miller is Director of the
University of Texas at Austin. He is the Director of the Center for Public Policy Research. He is based in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Joseph Wilson is Director of the
Institute’s Ascend Fellowship. He is based in Austin, Texas.

Mr. Richard Wylie is Director of the
College of Social Work at the University of Mississippi. He is a professor of social work and was the first African American to earn a doctorate in social work from the University of Chicago. He is based in Oxford, Mississippi.
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. The Ascend Fellows are a network of leaders from across the country who share knowledge, develop and test ideas, and coordinate their efforts. Ascend supports the Fellows with resources and a platform to accelerate the creation, amplification, and expansion of proven and promising two-generation strategies.

The 18-month fellowship experience provides a space for innovation and collaboration, increases the impact of the Fellows’ work, strengthens their leadership capacity and networks, fuels their passion, and, most importantly—inspires action.

The United States is at a crossroads about ways to ensure that all its people fuel progress in the 21st century. By creating partnerships across programs, policies, and systems that are now focused separately on children and parents, we can create an America in which a legacy of economic security and educational success passes from one generation to the next. We believe this vision shows a way forward. New two-generation strategies can help parents, especially women, and children achieve their dreams together.