



PSP Policy Acceleration Partnership Grants

Informational Webinar

October 1, 2020

The Aspen Institute: Principles that Endure and Inspire

The Aspen Institute is a global nonprofit organization committed to realizing a free, just, and equitable society. Since its founding in 1949, the Institute has been driving change through dialogue, leadership, and action to help solve the most critical challenges facing communities in the United States and around the world.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, the Institute has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, and an international network of partners.



The Two-Generation (2Gen) Approach

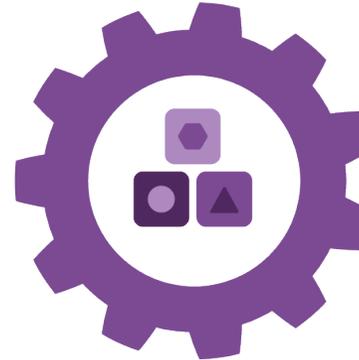


Two-generation (2Gen) approaches build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives together.

2Gen Core Components

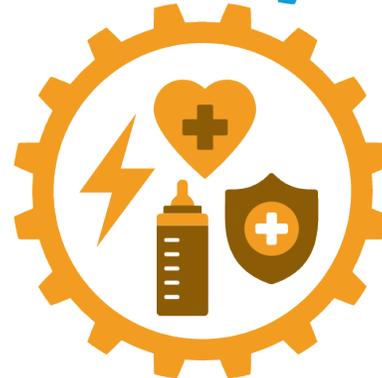
SOCIAL CAPITAL

peer and family networks
coaching
cohort strategies



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Head Start
Early Head Start
child care partnerships
preK
home visiting



HEALTH & WELL-BEING

mental, physical, and behavioral health
coverage and access to care
adverse childhood experiences
toxic stress



ECONOMIC ASSETS

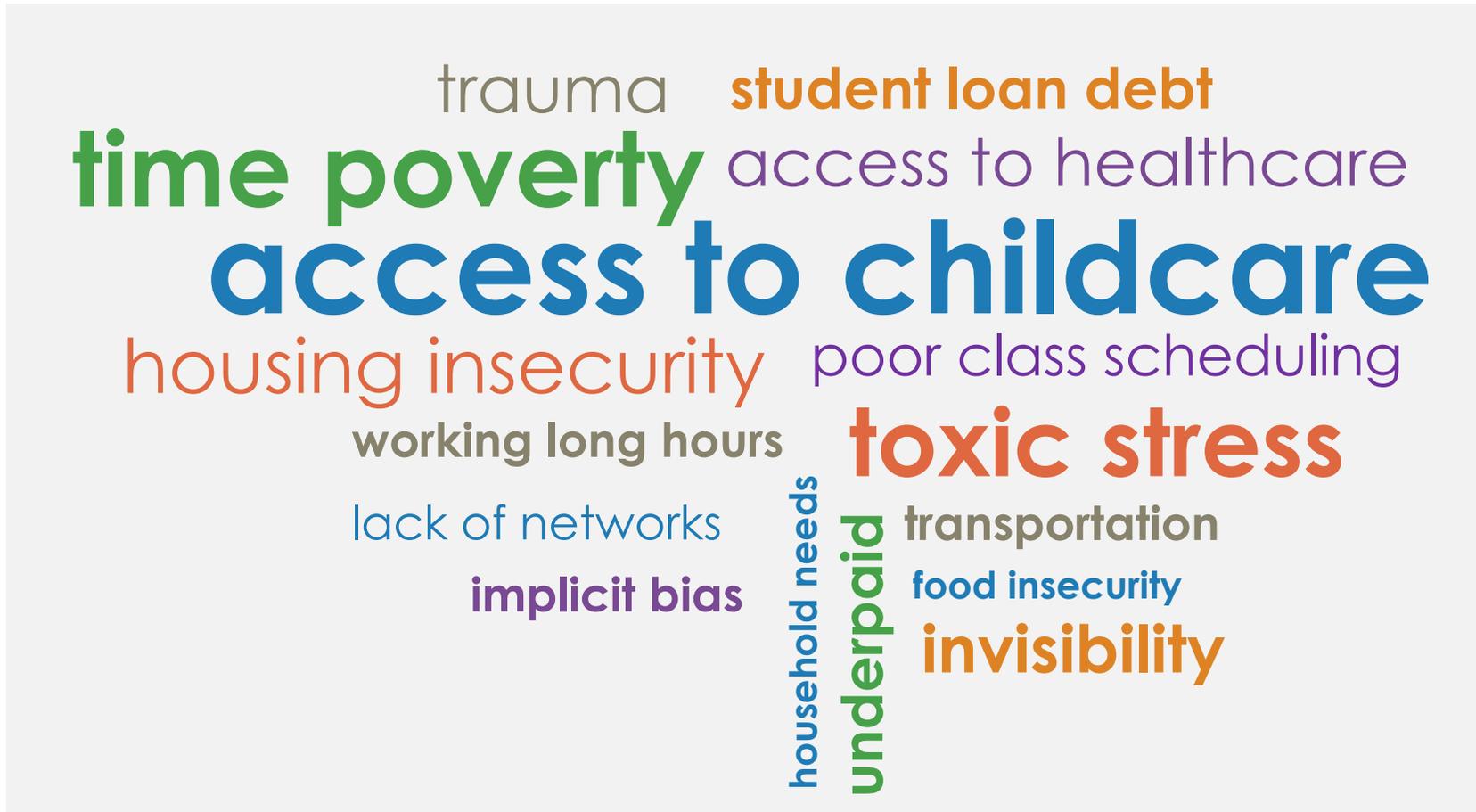
asset building
housing and public supports
financial capacity
transportation



POSTSECONDARY & EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

community college
training and certification
workforce partnerships

What's in the way of student parent success?



Meeting the Moment to Equitably Rebuild

- 🗨️ COVID-19 hit parents with low incomes and communities of color the hardest.
- 🗨️ Among postsecondary students, parents face the greatest challenges to persistence and attainment with children learning at home in addition to financial and work-related obstacles.
- 🗨️ Black and Native American women in college are especially likely to be parents; 40% of Black women are undergraduates raising children.
- 🗨️ Supporting parents with children is a powerful strategy to dismantle structural racism while achieving far-reaching societal gains.

Betting on the Strengths and Contributions of Postsecondary Students with Children

Investing in parents brings a powerful set of assets to families, communities, employers, and the economy-

- 🗨️ **Increased Earnings:** Single mothers with bachelor's degrees earn over twice as much, over their lifetimes, than those with high school diplomas.
- 🗨️ **Investments in Supports Pay Off:** Child care, coaching/case management, and additional financial assistance increase students' postsecondary completion, and more than pay for themselves through increased tax contributions and public benefits savings.
- 🗨️ **Children Benefit from Parents' Education:** Educational attainment improves school readiness, performance, college attendance, and long-term economic outcomes.

Policy Acceleration Needed to Address Challenges

- 🗨️ Parents have far fewer financial and time-based resources.
 - 🗨️ Large shares of student parents raising children on their own and have children under age six.
 - 🗨️ Child care obligations and expenses create extra time and financial burdens.
 - 🗨️ More than half face food and housing insecurity.
 - 🗨️ Work requirements often discourage public benefit receipt with postsecondary educations not counting as a viable activity.
- 🗨️ Child care and housing supports are rare and have long waiting lists.
- 🗨️ Parents are less likely than other students to complete postsecondary education.

Public Sector Leadership Accelerates Change: Examples in the Field

- 🗨 Targeting need-based financial aid to parents in postsecondary education (California 2019 budget)
- 🗨 Piloting coordinated postsecondary, housing, and early childhood supports for parents (Pennsylvania Parent Pathways pilot)
- 🗨 Incentivizing college/early learning partnerships through grants (Georgia Two-Generation Innovation Grant)
- 🗨 Piloting child care navigators and access to child care provider networks for technical training participants (Denver area cities and counties)
- 🗨 Piloting combined child care and coaching supports for single parents (New York State)

Potential Approaches

- Improving **access to public benefits** (e.g. child care, food stamps, housing, health care, financial aid) through coordination, improved regulations, navigation, and improved eligibility determination.
- Expanding **case management and coaching**.
- Strengthening **information and data systems** on student parents.
- Leveraging **flexibility in financing and funding** to provide wraparound supports through WIOA, TANF, Perkins, SNAP, CCDBG, and Head Start.
- Establishing **program innovation and development** (e.g. cross-agency pilot programs to co-locate Head Start with technical training or develop new student parent scholarship programs).
- Creating **engagement, public education, and leadership development** (e.g. build and coordinate student parent leadership councils; elevate student parents and their successes.)

Aspen PSP Policy Acceleration Partnership Grant

- Building on the convening power and networks offered by the Aspen Institute, the Ascend Postsecondary Success for Parents (PSP) Initiative seeks to fuel innovation to increase postsecondary completion rates for parents through an established and growing network of action-oriented and outcomes-driven leaders, centered on the voices and perspectives of parents.
- Building on a [strong base of knowledge](#), the PSP Initiative is [launching the Policy Acceleration Partnership Grants](#) to accelerate promising public sector initiatives to invest in the success of parents' building their families' futures through postsecondary education.

Summary, Eligibility, and Grant Size

Summary:

-  Ascend will award grants to three public sector entities to work in partnership with key stakeholders such as peer agencies, community-based organizations, philanthropy, and employers to build and improve policies and programs that support postsecondary attainment among parents, including single mothers. Grantees will receive financial resources and technical assistance to accelerate current partnership efforts in their jurisdictions aimed to support student parents and their families, by increasing access to supports like early childhood education, housing, health care, and other supports that increase postsecondary access and success for parents.

Eligibility:

-  Any U.S. state, county, or city executive office or agency may apply.

Support:

-  Grantees will receive technical assistance, peer learning opportunities, and a grant of \$150,000 over 18 months.

Required Grantee Activities:

1. Review and learn about existing postsecondary policy and program innovations around the country as a part of a grantee community;
2. Utilize relevant local/state data and parent input to understand state/community needs;
3. Initiate and spark new conversations with diverse stakeholders about services needed and opportunities to promote parents' postsecondary success;
4. Develop and execute a [Postsecondary Success for Parents Action Plan](#), with an array of stakeholders across and outside of government;
5. Apply an equity lens that addresses race, ethnicity, and gender across institutions and structures;
6. Intentionally include the voice and experience of parents in designing an improved system; and,
7. Include a focus on either single mothers or parents in community college pathways.

Grantee Partner Deliverables:

- 🗨️ Attend at least three convenings (in-person or virtual) held in each site with postsecondary, health and human services, early childhood, workforce, and other agencies on policies to serve student parents.
- 🗨️ Create a Postsecondary Success for Parents Action Plan targeted to key agencies, the governor/executive, and legislative leaders for actions to improve engagement across siloed systems, and begin implementation.
- 🗨️ Participate in ongoing learning activities, a virtual convening toward the beginning of grant period and a national convening toward the end of the grant period to share results, lessons learned, and recommendations.
- 🗨️ A written report on actions taken and lessons learned.

Proposal Timeline

- 🗨 RFP released: **September 16, 2020**
- 🗨 **Optional virtual office hours for interested applicants:** October 21, 2020 and November 18, 2020 (both at 3pm ET, Zoom link to be added on website)
- 🗨 Deadline for proposals: **December 11, 2020**
- 🗨 Notice of grantee selection decision to applicants: **January 29, 2021**
- 🗨 Public announcement: **February 9, 2021**
- 🗨 Implementation period: **February 2021 – September 2022**

STRENGTHENING WORKING FAMILIES INITIATIVE - SWFI

Plan to sustain and scale 2Gen Policies and Practices at the System Level





FUNDED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Strengthening Working Families Initiative, four year demonstration grant funded by the **US Department of Labor and Employment**, housed at Community College of Aurora.

Two-pronged approach:

- Program Approach to provide direct student-parent services and supports at the Community College of Aurora and the Community College of Denver
- System Change Initiative in coordination with government, community and funders to identify systemic policy, funding and/or program changes needed to eliminate barriers to child care access for low-income families



GRANT OVERVIEW

Program Approach

- To provide direct student-parent services and supports at the Community College of Aurora and the Community College of Denver.
- Supported parents in accessing jobs in high-demand, high-growth industries such as healthcare, information technology and advanced manufacturing.
- Addressed major barriers to student parents accessing and completing postsecondary credentials and gaining employment.
 - Tuition support for students
 - Flexible scholarships to fund items ranging from education supplies, emergency needs, and flexible childcare
 - Wrap around services – Academic Coaches, Childcare Navigators and Career Coaching/job search assistance

PARTNERSHIPS

Core Partners



SYSTEM CHANGE

Learning Community

- Multi-Sector Leadership Commitment
 - Government: Dept. of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood...
 - Community: WorkLife Partnership, Civic Canopy and The Bell Policy Center
 - Funders: Gary Community Investments – Piton Foundation
- Regional Childcare **Learning Community** to identify systemic policy, funding and/or program changes needed to eliminate barriers to child care access for low-income families
- Increase access, awareness, availability and quality of childcare within the Denver Metro area
- Foster 2Gen approaches, break down silos across higher education, human services and workforce sectors
- Increase employer engagement and investment in child care

LESSONS LEARNED

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE SYSTEM AND LEGISLATIVE LEVEL

- **Identify** students who are parents at the time of enrollment to better meet the unique needs of student parents and provide the access to critical supports.
- Provide **specialized academic and career advising** to student parents to help navigate postsecondary systems.
- **Expand tuition support (flexible funds)** to include grants, scholarships, or loans to help cover the cost of child care.
- Assist student parents navigate **high quality child care** options and leverage financial resources to support gaps in child care.
- **Track** education and employment outcomes.
- Support student parents' **transition** from postsecondary program completion to employment.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES

The Colorado Community College System Office, Colorado Department of Higher Education, and The Bell Policy Center in coordination with several urban and rural community colleges across the state and student-parents have formed an advisory group:

- Address equity gaps in access, persistence, and completion of postsecondary education for student-parents.
- Replicate and scale existing two-generation models, leverage existing resources and align with state wide initiatives to create a comprehensive student-parent plan and implementation strategies to aid in postsecondary success for student parent across the state.

For questions or comments, please contact:

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**Georgia Dept
of Early Care
and Learning**
BRIGHT FROM THE START



Technical College
System of Georgia

Two – Generation Approach in Georgia

October 1, 2020

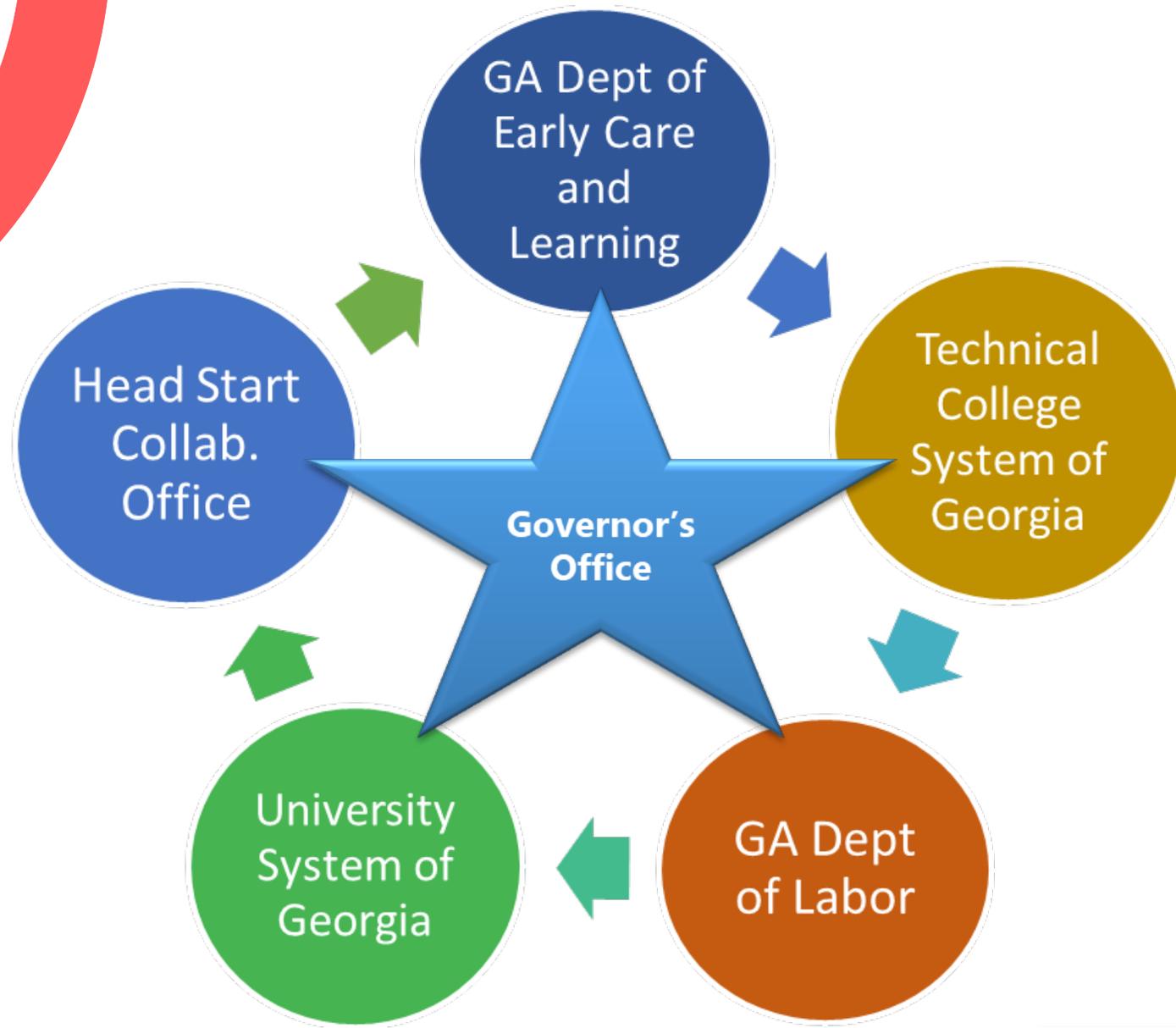
Georgia's Parents and Children Thriving Together (PACTT) Grant

- One of five states selected in late 2016 to promote two-generation strategies in state policy.
- Award from the National Governor's Association & the Center for Law & Social Policy.
- A two-year, \$90,000 investment in Georgia.

Key Outcomes

1. Increase cross-agency coordination
2. Provide professional learning on Two-Gen
3. Pilot new and expand existing Two-Gen strategies
4. Increase Two-Gen evaluation efforts
5. Pursue policy changes to scale successful Two-Gen strategies





Key
Outcome 1



At the same time...

CAPS IS MOVING.

The CAPS program is moving from the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) to the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

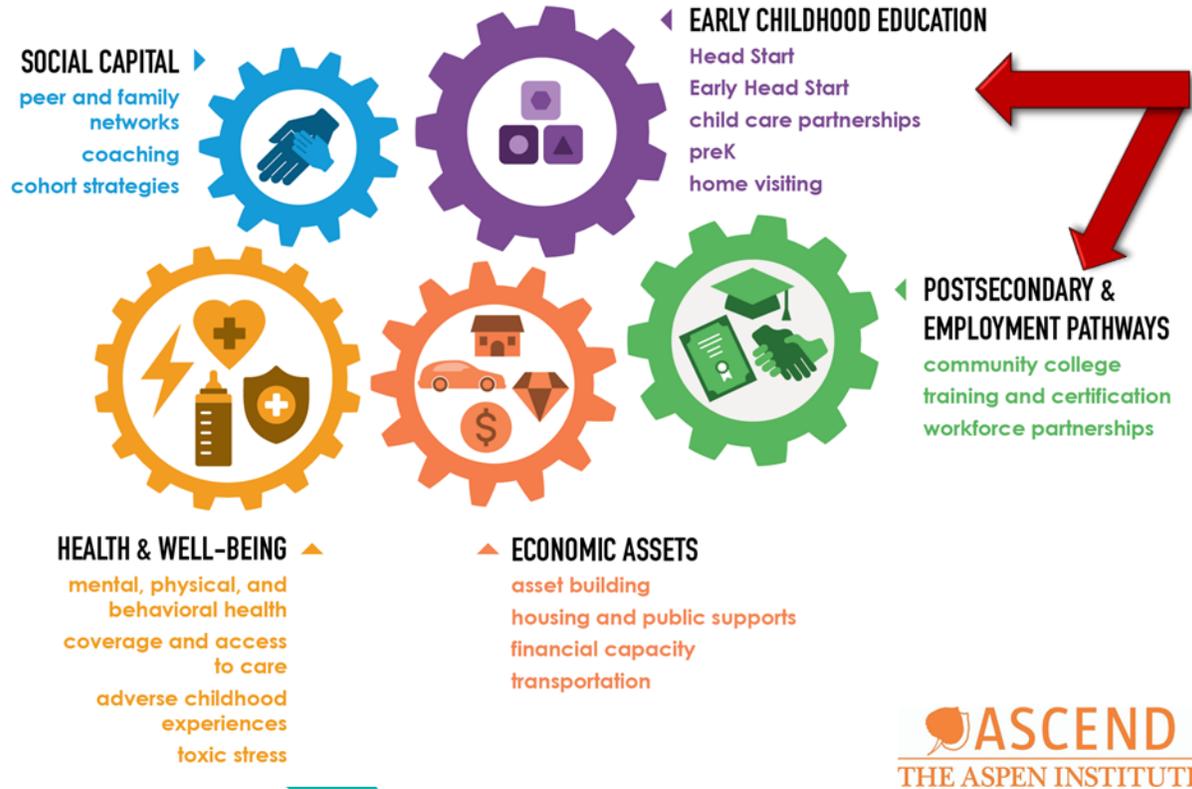


Call 1-833-4GA-CAPS for more information
or visit www.caps.dec.al.ga.gov



Georgia's
Childcare Subsidy
Program

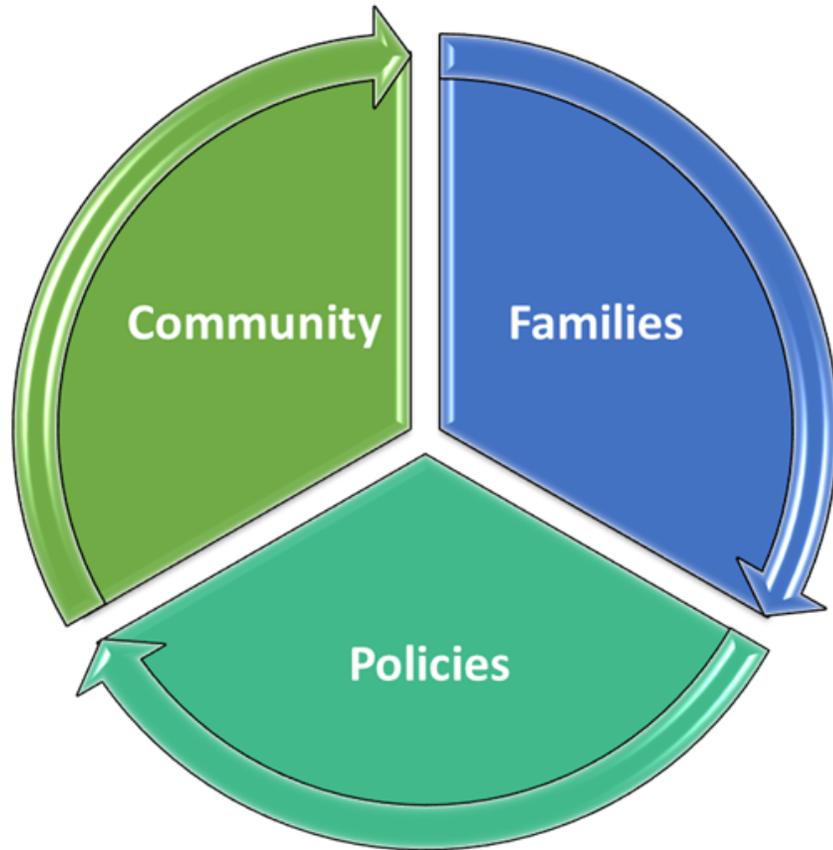
Framework for Supporting Families



CAPS Family Support



Implement Across DECAL



Community Partnerships

Supporting Families

Policies

Two-Gen In the Community

- Commissioned Georgia Center for Non-Profits to do a Two-Gen Landscape Analysis
- Hosted a Two-Gen State Policy Summit
- Partnered with Athens Technical College to conduct a survey of staff and students to identify barriers faced by parents when trying to complete post-secondary education
- DECAL and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) delivered Two-Gen training to front line state employees working with families.
- Piloted Two-Gen Innovation Grants (TGIG) in 3 counties (Clarke, Bibb, and Clayton) with existing Two-Gen partnerships

Key
Outcomes
2, 3 & 4



TGIG 2019 and 2020

Capacity Building

2019

- Georgia Northwestern Technical College
- Southern Crescent Technical College

2020

- Black Child Development Institute
- Gordon State College
- Heard County Community Partnership

Implementation Funding

2019

- Two-Gen Clayton County
- Central Georgia Technical College

2020

- Community Foundation of Northwest Georgia
- Children and Family Program at Kennesaw State University



TGIG Guidelines

Help connect parents of young children in early learning system supports with workforce training or postsecondary education and/or help connect parents currently in workforce training or postsecondary education with early learning supports for their children (Child care Subsidy, Head Start, or Georgia's Pre-K).

Capacity Building

- Grant funds must be used to accomplish three objectives, at a minimum
 - Develop a collaborative body or team with an adult or child serving partner
 - Conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment
 - Incorporate parent perspectives

Implementation Funding

- Projects must include at least one child and one parent, or one family outcome measure from ASCEND's 2Gen Outcomes Bank <http://outcomes.ascend.aspeninstitute.org/>.
- Projects must include at least one adult or child serving implementation partner



Community Implementation Examples

- Parent Peer Mentors
- PBS Kids Ready to Learn Workshops
- Website - Parent access to Resources
- Family-Friendly Campus
- Family Advisory Board/ Quality Rated Child Care Advisory Council



2Gen Summit
Conversations Lead to Lightbulb
Moments...



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Alignment

CAPS

Family Support Consultants

- Frontline staff throughout State
- Navigate Systems
- Provide Resources
- Goal of Self-sufficiency

TCSG

Student Navigators
Special Populations Coordinators
Adult Education Transition Specialists

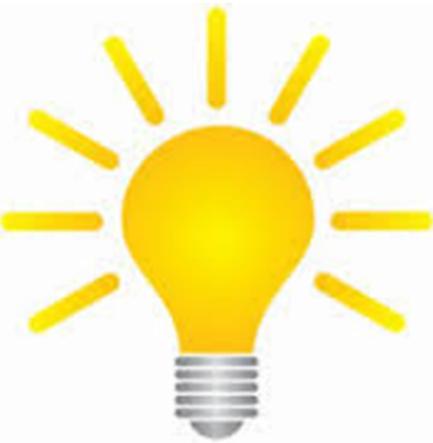
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System of Georgia



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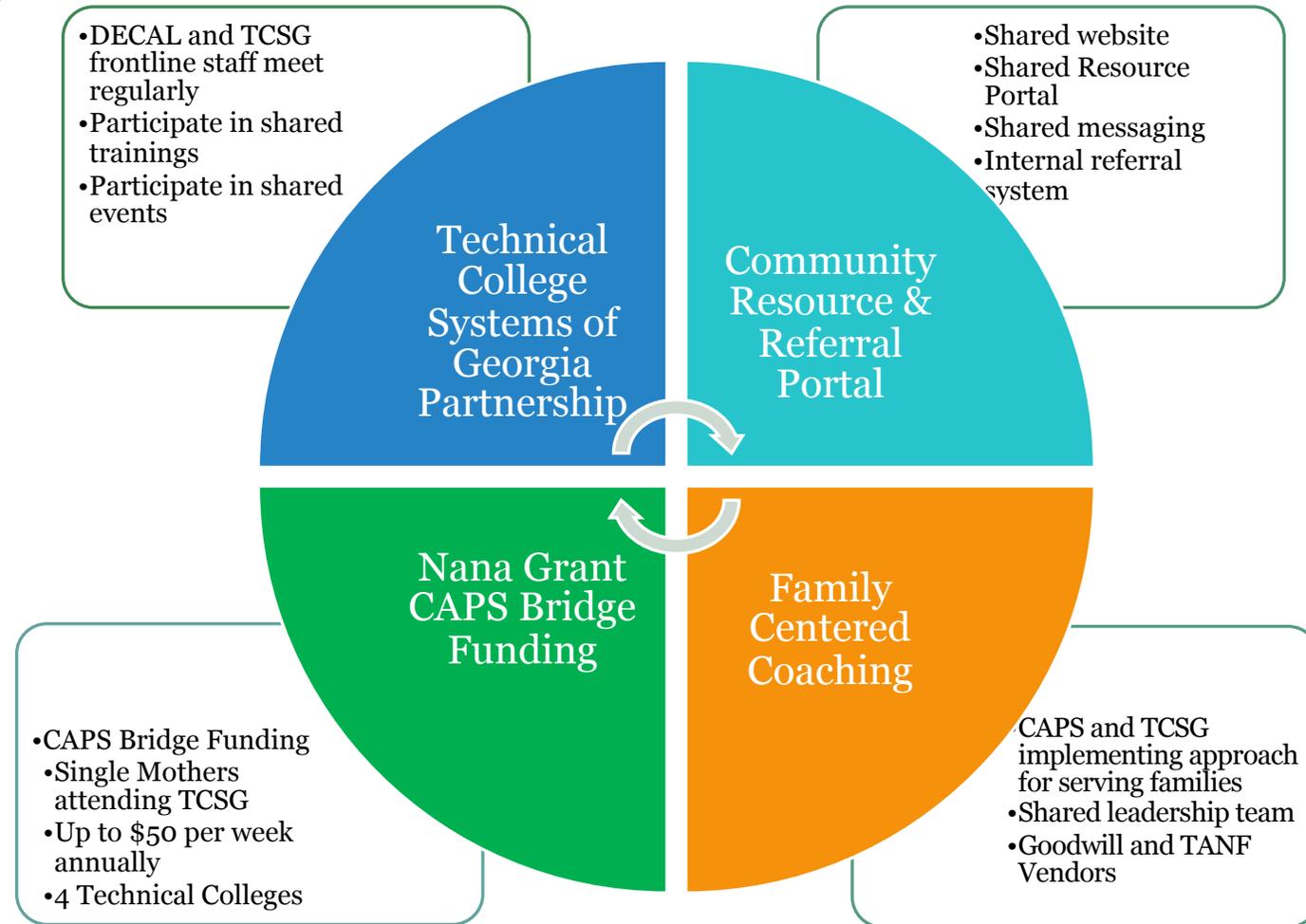


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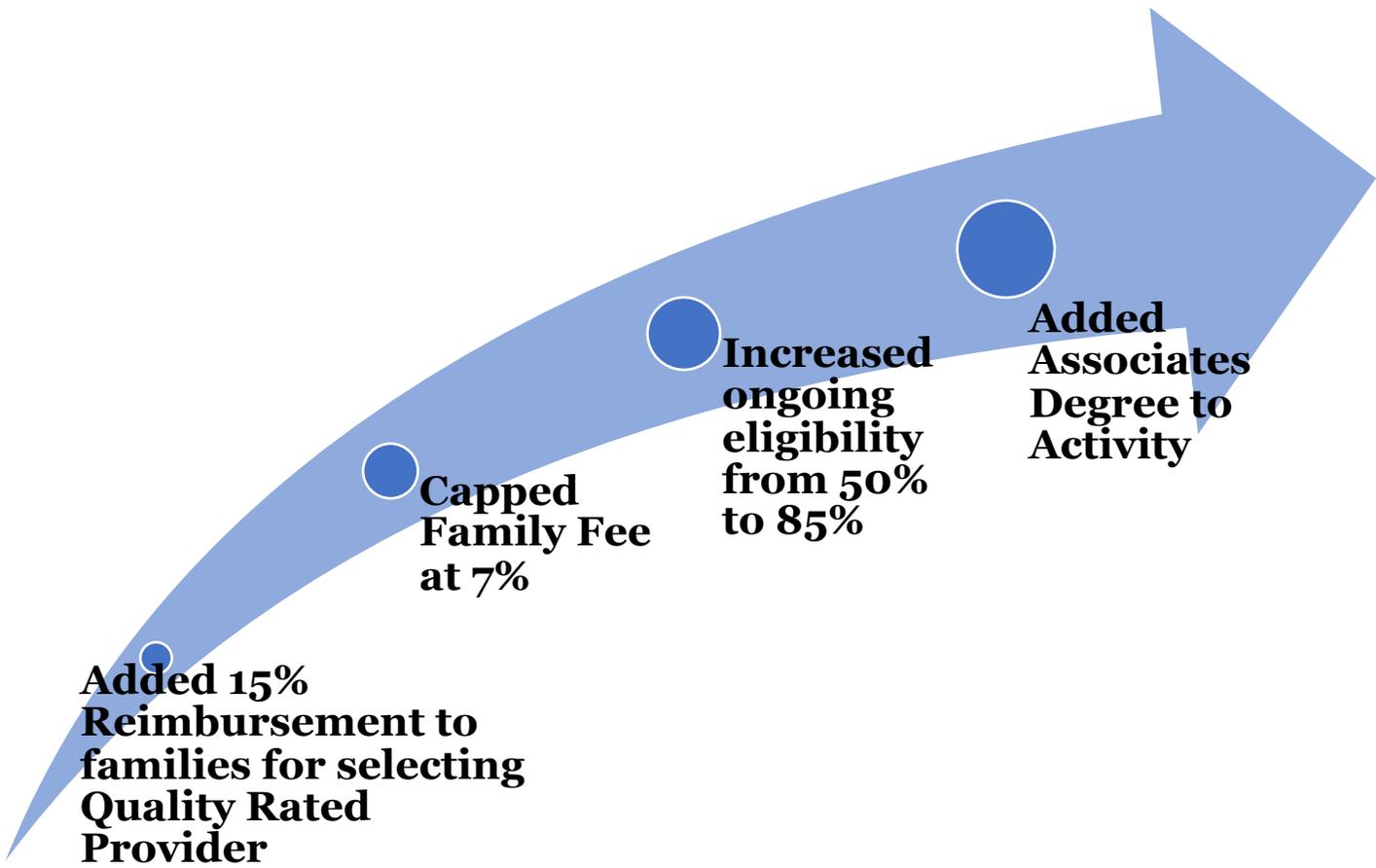
Two-Gen Initiatives



Policy Changes



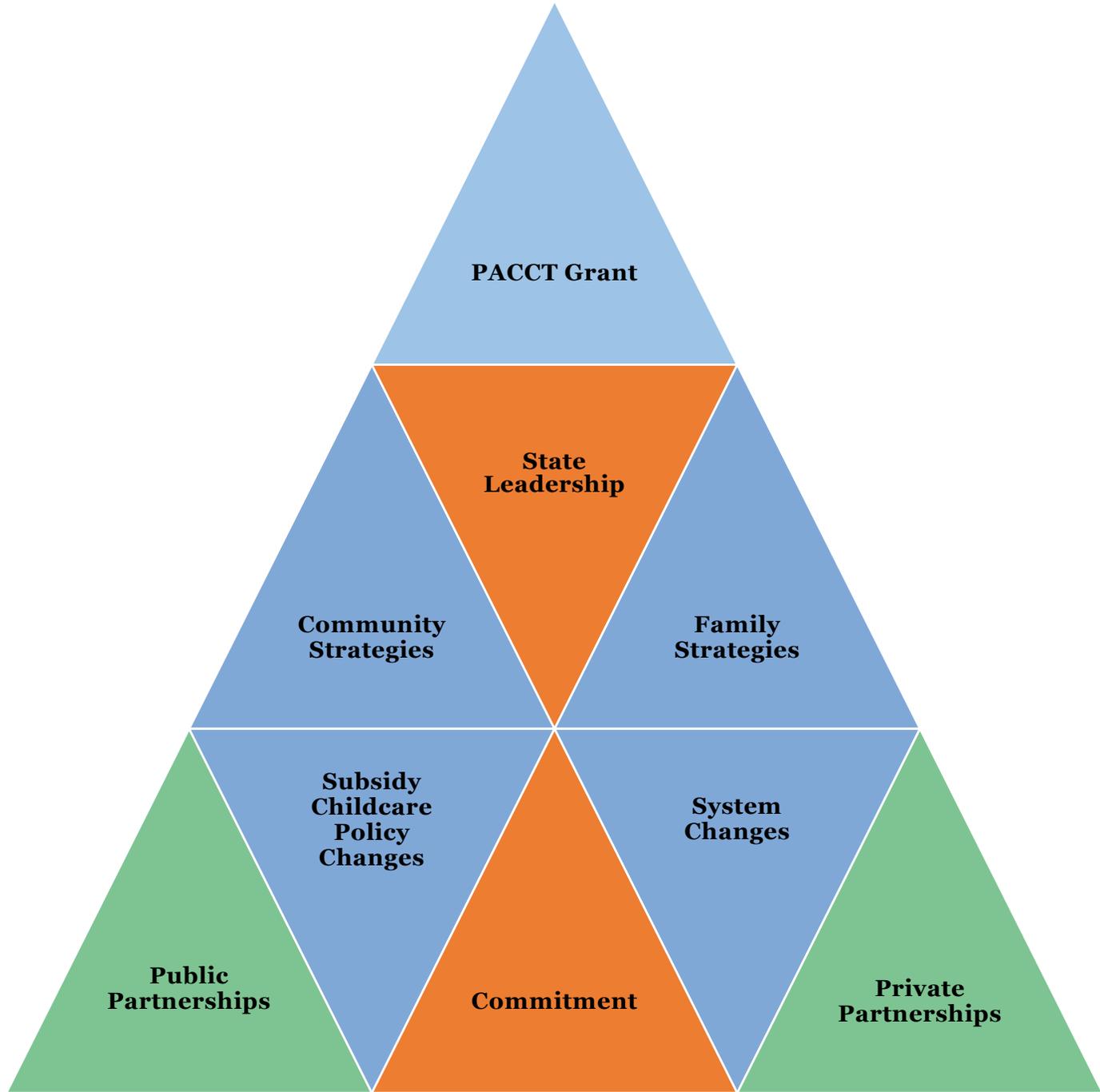
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Key Outcome
5

Commitment to 2Gen





Strength of 2Gen In Georgia

**Questions?
Please share via Zoom's
Q&A system!**

**Email inbox for future
questions:
[aspenppsfrfp@
aspeninstitute.org](mailto:aspenppsfrfp@aspeninstitute.org)**

