



Young Parents' Advocacy for Policy & Systems Changes

We ignite and nurture the ambition of young parents who are most impacted by gangs, violence, and incarceration so they can advocate to remove barriers to their family's upward mobility.

OUR NORTH STAR GOAL

We aim to increase the civic engagement of young parents so they can advocate for policy and systems changes to benefit families, positively impact their communities, and move beyond violence and poverty towards social and economic success.



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Young parents who are involved with gangs or returning from incarceration need access to childcare and job training so that they can focus on their children and their personal development.

SOLUTION & VALUE PROPOSITION

We are able to advocate for policy and systems change because we tie our success directly to the involvement of the young adults in our intensive job training and personal development program. When young adults take the lead, we succeed.

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE



Increased sense of self among young adults yields progress towards breaking generational cycles of violence and poverty



Young adults engaged in civic and community advocacy for policy change through testimony, meetings with legislators, awareness campaigns, and coalition building with other grassroots organizations.

HOW IT WORKS

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

- Young adults take the lead in advocating for policy change through testimony, meetings with legislators, awareness campaigns, and coalition building with other grassroots organizations.

EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

- Offer education through onsite HiSET (high school credential) plus social and emotional learning and one-to-one coaching and mentoring.
- Provide employment experience through multiple social enterprises.

FAMILY CARE

- Offer free on-site childcare and parenting workshops.
- Assist with basic needs, transportation to and from UTEC, and emergency housing.
- Centralize job training, mental health, child care, and wraparound services.

RESOURCES NEEDED

- Employees with lived experiences
- Blended funding for 2Gen work
- Diversified funding sources
- Data collection and use for learning and improvement
- Relationships with policy makers and stakeholders
- Parent voice



75%

of young adults who completed UTEC's Transformational Beginnings orientation in FY23 moved up to our intensive job training and education program.



EARLY INTERVENTION

Children enrolled in UTEC's childcare program in 2019 and 2020 as infants did not require early intervention services while enrolled.

This concept poster codifies a program or best practice of a two-generation (2Gen) approach for practitioners to replicate and systems and policy leaders to scale in order to improve outcomes for children and their families. Ascend at the Aspen Institute and the 2Gen Accelerator Community developed this concept poster alongside a portfolio of resources so that leaders can advance opportunities for families to achieve intergenerational success and well-being.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? ascend.aspeninstitute.org/2gen-accelerator

