



**February 2015:
Two Generations Together**

Background

For 50 years, Head Start has been dedicated to supporting life-long success for children and their families. In her recent [Huffington Post blog](#), NHSA's Executive Director, Yasmina Vinci, highlights Head Start's two-generation approach to early learning. She writes that "reliable federal funding that allows for local flexibility" has allowed Head Start programs to build innovative partnerships with strategic organizations. As we celebrate Head Start's 50th anniversary, she adds that "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."

This past year we were excited to partner with [Ascend at the Aspen Institute](#) and launch the *Two Generations Together* Initiative to help increase awareness of two-generation efforts in Head Start and support programs working to establish or expand two-generation efforts of their own. The initiative was kicked off with the Two Generations Together Institute and the release of [Two Generations Together: Case Studies from Head Start](#), which features the two-generation efforts of remarkable Head Start programs from across the country, as well as common strategies for successful whole family models. If you missed the Institute, visit our youtube channel ([LINK TO COME](#)) to watch the sessions and panels today! As the conversation moves forward, we'll be hosting a [2Gen Learning Network](#) for NHSA members interested in creating or deepening their two-generation efforts as well as a webinar series beginning in March. Stay tuned for dates and times!

We hope that this month's Research Blast spurs your program to look at your two-generation efforts through a new lens. New opportunities to establish or expand strategic partnerships are always on the horizon. For example, President Obama's new initiative, [America's College Promise](#), which would waive tuition costs for students attending community colleges, would be much more effective if those families had safe and high-quality settings for their children. The possibilities are endless! To help you foster these ideas and collaborate with other Head Start and Early Head Start leaders, [sign up](#) for our 2Gen Learning Networks.

Resources

[Voices for Two-Generation Success Top 10 Polling & Messaging Tips](#)

The audience at this year's Winter Leadership Institute was staggered by the national support for two-generation programs demonstrated by this bipartisan national public opinion poll conducted by Lake Research Partners. The poll was commissioned by Ascend at Aspen Institute in the fall of 2014 and offers both polling data and messaging tips. This is a great resource for helping inform and educate key stakeholders and policymakers about the benefits of two-generation policies.

[Assets and Opportunity Scorecard](#)

Last week the Corporation for Enterprise Development launched their 2015 Assets & Opportunity Scorecard, a source for data on household financial security and state policies. Check out how your state compares and see what the data reveal about the areas you might want to target for supporting families!

[Grads of Life](#)

This campaign for Year Up, in partnership with the Ad Council, focuses on getting the message out to employers about the power of investing in low-income young adults and helping them work their way toward professional careers. Many Head Start parents are in this demographic, and these tools may help you talk to employers as you plan your two-gen effort!

[Campus Child Care Declining Even As Growing Numbers of Parents Attend College](#)

Did you know that of parents who enroll in 2-year colleges, only 3.5% complete a BA within six years and more than half drop out without a degree? This Fact Sheet from the Institute for Women's Policy Research - as well a number of their other publications - can help frame the importance of Head Start programs working with "student parents" and may inspire you to seek deeper child care partnerships with campus-based child care.

[HHS Grants Forecast](#)

Right now, grant forecasts are posted for a wide range of grants that can support your two-gen efforts, including Assets for Independence with matching IDA funds, the Health Profession Opportunity Grants, New Pathways for Fathers and Families, and more! Also be sure to check out the American Apprenticeship Initiative funding from the Department of Labor.

Research

National Head Start Association

[Two Generations Together: Case Studies from Head Start](#)

by Emmalie Dropkin and Sylvia Jauregui

This report highlights the exceptional efforts of six Head Start programs to design two-generation programs with local partners and resources to best support families in achieving stability and self-sufficiency. In addition, it examines common mechanisms for funding, partnerships, research and evaluation. The programs featured are [AVANCE-Houston](#) in Texas; [Educational Alliance](#) in New York; [Pacific Clinics](#) in California; [Friends of Children of Mississippi](#) in Mississippi; [Parents in Community Action](#) (PICA) in Minnesota; and [Southwest Human Development](#) in Arizona.

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management

[The Influence of Low-Income Children's Participation in Head Start on Their Parents' Education and Employment](#)

by Terri Sabol and P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale

What impact does Head Start have on parents' education and employment? In this study, Sabol and Chase-Lansdale set out to answer this question by using data from the Head Start Impact Study (HSIS). The authors found that parents of children in the three-year-old cohort had higher increases in their own educational attainment compared to parents of children in the control group. This study provides insight into the positive impact that Head Start programs as a whole have on parents - and raises questions about the potential for even stronger findings for those programs with a particularly strong two-generation focus.

LBJ Journal of Public Affairs

[Investing in Children and Parents: Fostering Dual Generation Strategies in the United States](#)

by Christopher T. King, Tara C. Smith, and Robert W. Glover

In this article, the authors focus on key policy, program, and research elements that foster two-generation strategies. One obstacle that they highlight related to Head Start is the part-day, part-year structure of the program and the challenge that it poses to working parents and those in education and training programs. The authors state that this structure requires parents with limited resources to arrange for secondary, and often fee-based, care. To help key decision

makers establish successful models that address such obstacles, the report includes tips on outlining a two-generation strategy agenda and important program features.

Discussion Questions

1. In [Investing in Children and Parents: Fostering Dual Generation Strategies in the United States](#), the authors point out the obstacles faced by parents due to the part-day, part-year structure of Head Start. How has your community responded to President Obama's proposal to extend (and fund!) full-day services in Head Start?
 2. What elements of the two-generational models featured in [Two Generations Together: Case Studies from Head Start](#) would work for your program and community?
 3. What jobs in your community offer parents a true living wage? What's the first step you could take to connect interested families with those jobs?
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Do you know of other recent research that may be of interest to the Head Start field? Do you have other questions, comments or concerns? E-mail Emmalie Dropkin (edropkin@nhsa.org).