



INNOVATION IN COLORADO

THE TWO- GENERATION FRAMEWORK & THE COLORADO APPROACH

**Presentation to the Wisconsin
Legislative Council
September 9th, 2014**

WHY A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH?



ALMOST HALF OF ALL CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES LIVE IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

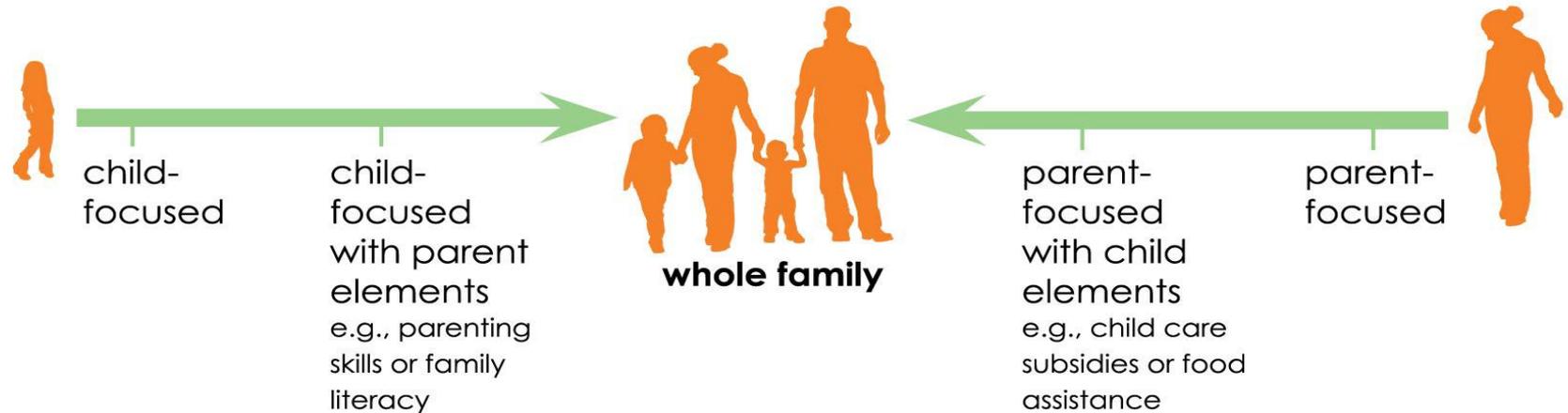
WHY A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH?



THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS IS HIGH

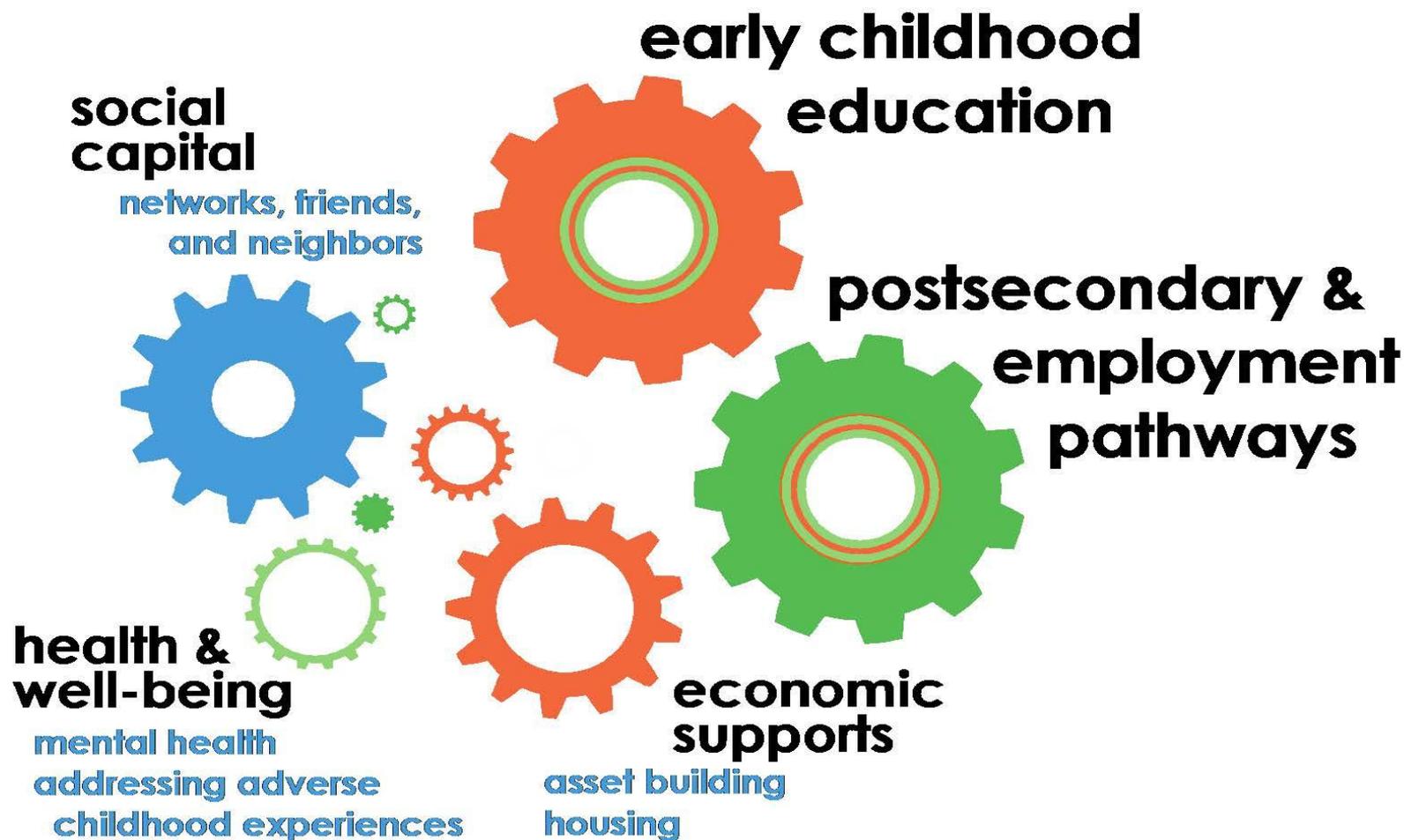
WHAT IS A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH?

The Two-Generation Continuum



TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AND MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS TOGETHER

TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES PUT THE WHOLE FAMILY ON A PATH TO ECONOMIC SECURITY



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN COLORADO

Three priorities shaping Colorado's two-generation approach:

1. Families achieve self-sufficiency through work
2. Wealth is achieved through financial literacy
3. Children succeed through early learning



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN COLORADO

1. Create “dual” approach to employment for BOTH parents to improve child economic well-being
2. Increase pathways to realize college education and learn financial savings habits through matched college funds
3. Expand access to high-quality child care for low income families

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

All Families Achieve through Work

- Research confirms that children do best when both parents are involved in their lives.
- Social welfare policy has not kept pace with growth of joint custody and shared parenting arrangements.
- Goal is to demonstrate that children will do better if both parents are supported to achieve work.

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

All Families Achieve through Work

- **Colorado Parent Employment Program**
 - A pilot program through child support to assist non-custodial parents to gain employment.
- **ReHire Colorado**
 - Transitional jobs program to help targeted groups, non-custodial parents, veterans and individuals over 50, re-enter the workforce.
- **Colorado “ReWorks”**
 - Refocus of our TANF employment program to focus on work, pay and retention outcomes, with less process.

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

*Wealth is Achieved Through
Financial Literacy*

- Children with the means to attend college are more likely to do so than those without the means.
- Help parents to create a pathway to an education for their child that is otherwise not visible to them.
- Develop lifelong financial habits around saving.

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

*Wealth is Achieved Through
Financial Literacy*

- Developing a children's savings account pilot program that has the potential to be scalable and sustainable, statewide, following the 3-year period
 - Delivered through the Colorado Preschool Program
 - Public/Private/Philanthropic Partnership



A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

Children Achieve through Early Learning

- Children who attend high-quality child care are more prepared for kindergarten and achieve better life-long outcomes.
- Low income families do not have the same access to high-quality programs as middle-class or wealthy families.
- State policy views “child care” as a work support strategy.
- Shift culture to recognize child care as both a work support for parents AND educational strategy for kids.

A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH

Children Achieve through Early Learning

- Established the Office of Early Childhood
- Rebuild the Quality Rating and Improvement System
- Establish a statewide professional development strategy
- Improve access to high-quality child care options for low-income families