



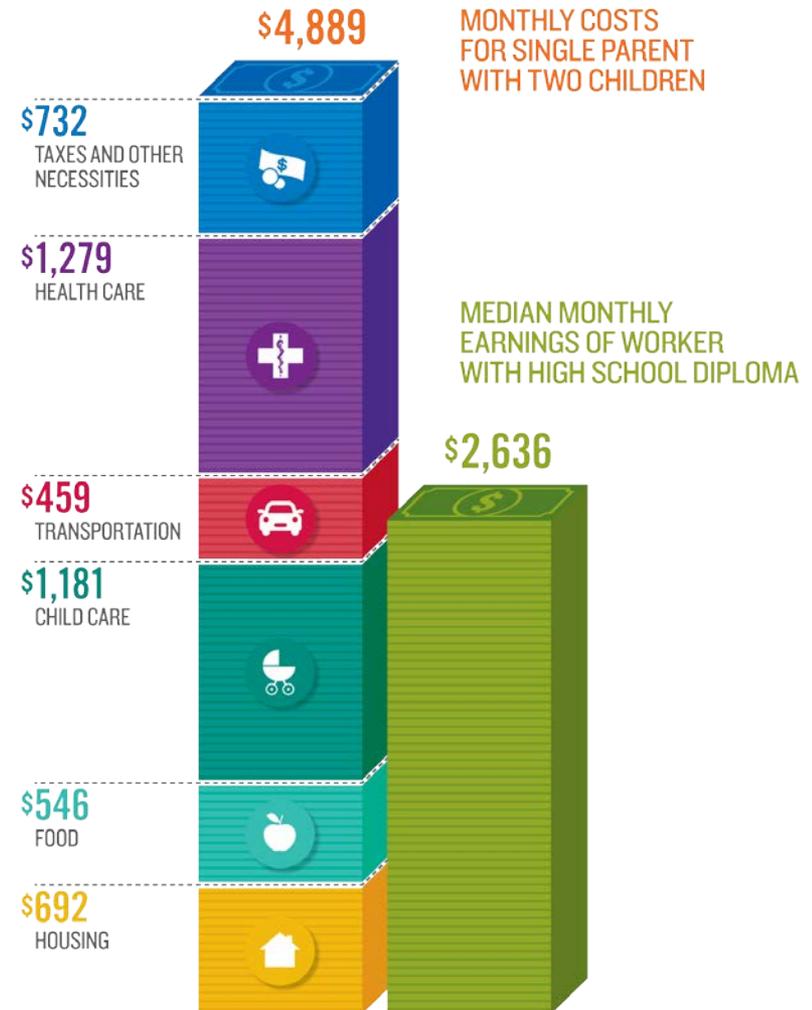
creating  
opportunity for  
families using  
TANF: a  
two-  
generation  
approach

# A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH TO CREATING OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES

- **Problem:** Nearly half of young children — 17 million — are growing up in low-income families.
- We need to ensure these kids have a shot at the American dream.
- Today, too many programs address the needs of parents and children separately and in isolation.
- What we need is a new approach that recognizes kids succeed when families succeed — a two-generation approach.

# FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET

- 10 million low-income families with children age 8 and under
- Limited skills, low wages, inflexible work schedules:
  - Only half with full-time work
  - Nearly 80 percent lack postsecondary degree
  - Nearly five times more likely to have difficulty speaking English



# LOW-INCOME FAMILIES FACE GREATER BARRIERS TO SUCCESS

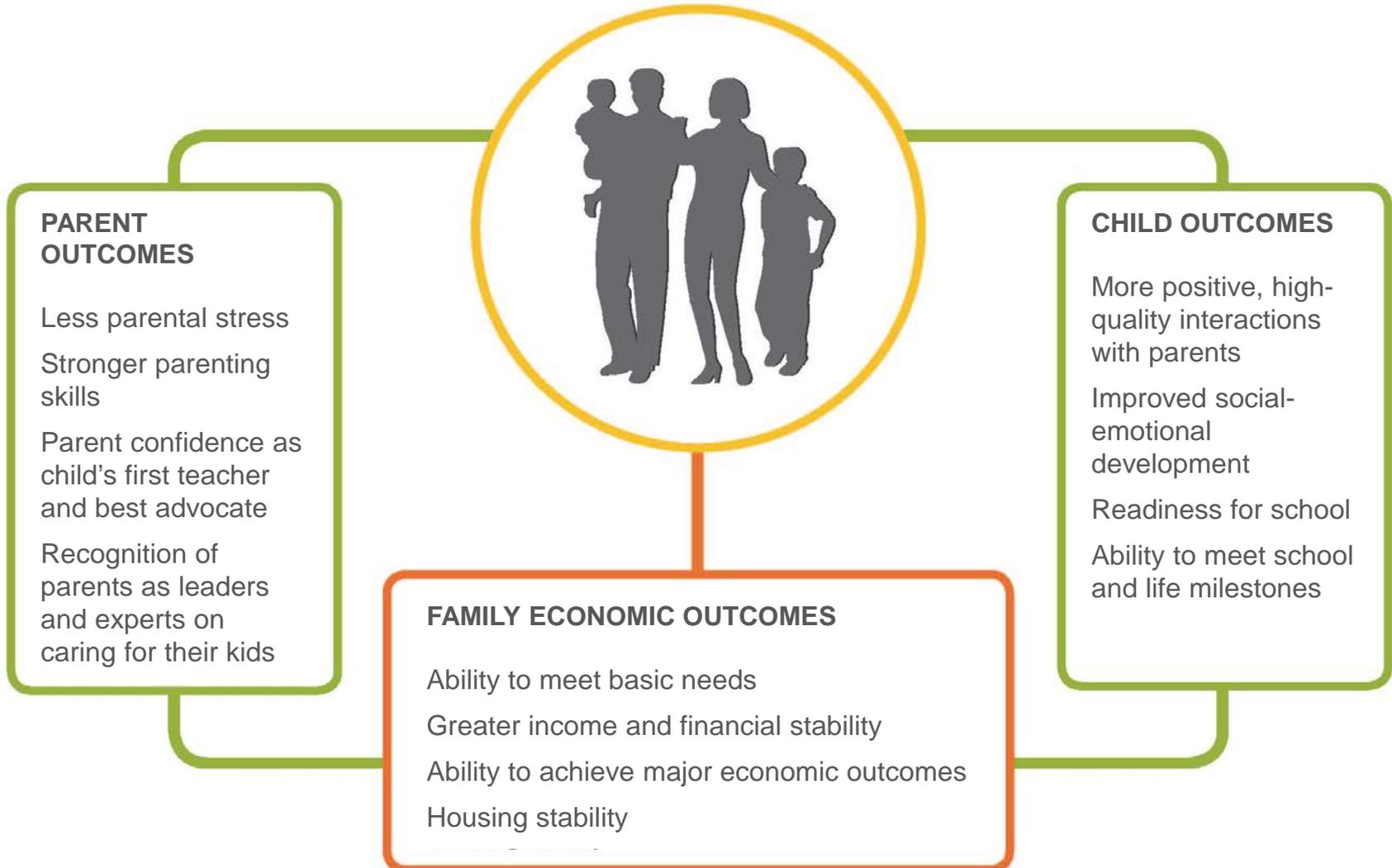


**45%** are single-parent families

**17%** of low-income parents reported child care significantly affected their ability to get and keep a job

**31%** of children in low-income families have parents with concerns about their development

# OUR GOAL: BETTER OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES



# SYSTEMS DON'T SERVE FAMILIES

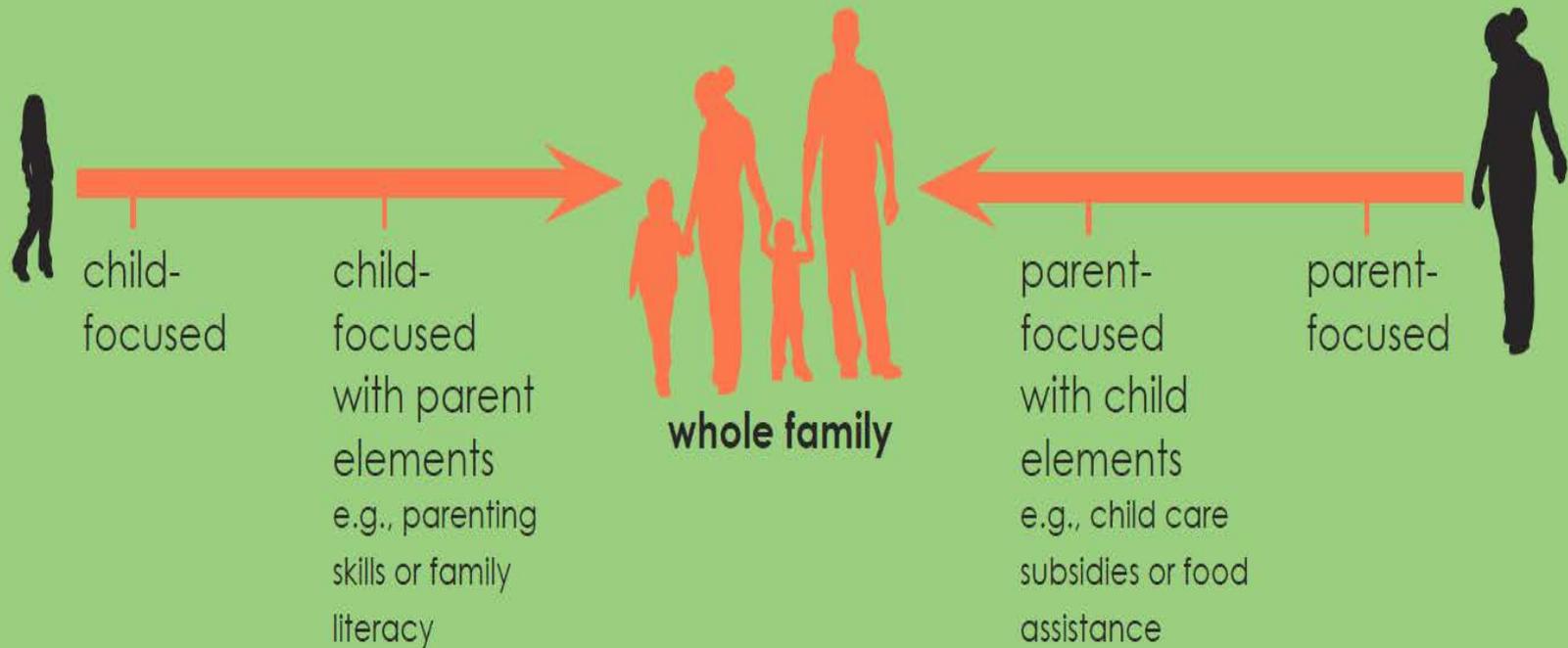
Many federal, state and local programs operate in isolation



- Adult programs treat children as barriers to employment
- Child programs often do not help parents who are struggling with day-to-day stress of providing for their family

# DEFINING TWO – GENERATION: STRENGTHENING THE WHOLE FAMILY

Where is your work on the two-generation continuum?



From: Ascend at the Aspen Institute

# DEFINING TWO-GENERATION: STRENGTHENING THE WHOLE FAMILY

## Financial Stability

- Education and job training
- Access to income and work support benefits
- Financial coaching
- Access to affordable financial products

## Parent Involvement

- Treating parents as assets and experts on their kids
- Having culturally competent staff
- Addressing family stress
- Enhancing social networks

## Quality Early Care and Elementary Education

- Access to high-quality early education programs
- Successful transition to elementary school
- Quality elementary school experiences
- Effective teaching

# DEFINING TWO-GENERATION: STRENGTHENING THE WHOLE FAMILY

- Released a two-generation policy report in November with input from over 65 experts from policy and practice
- Used communications lessons on how to frame two-generation issues
- Developed key systems and program reform ideas to help advance the knowledge base around outcomes
- Access the report at [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)



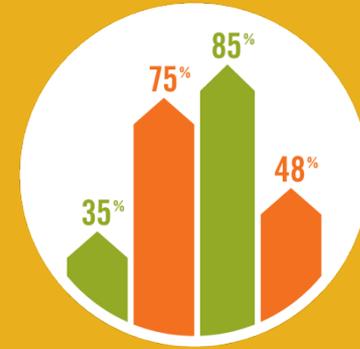
# DEFINING TWO-GENERATION: STRENGTHENING THE WHOLE FAMILY



Create policies that equip parents and children with the income, tools and skills for success.



Make government policies and programs more family friendly.



Build evidence on promising programs and platforms focusing on parents and children together.

# DEFINING TWO-GENERATION: STRENGTHENING THE WHOLE FAMILY

Identifying platforms— **like schools and early-education sites, home-visiting programs, community colleges, TANF offices, and job-training programs** that offer opportunities to create partnerships that address in the needs of parents and children together.



# MOMENTUM ON USING A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN TANF

## Bipartisan TANF bill introduced, including:

- Allocates \$75 million for two-generation projects
- “Designed to build human capital across generations by providing families early education for children and vocational education for parents.”

"We need to do another round of welfare reform, not as an exercise to save money, but as an exercise to save lives and to get people from welfare to work and realize opportunity and upward mobility because there are too many people who don't think the American idea is ever there for them again, and that's a tragedy."

Chairman Paul Ryan

# MOMENTUM : USING A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN TANF

- **Office of Family Assistance** is working with a group of TANF directors on two-generation innovations
- **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities** is working to create practice approaches on adult executive function principles in workforce and TANF programs

“A portion of the fund could also be set aside...to support the development of two-generation approaches aiming to improve outcomes for parents and children simultaneously.”

-- Dr. LaDonna Pavetti, CBPP Testimony House Ways and Means Committee, April 30, 2015

# MOMENTUM: BUILDING NEBRASKA FAMILIES

- Building Nebraska Families study, worked with rural welfare families (2002 and 2005). In addition to TANF cash assistance, the project provided:
  - home visiting services, strong curriculum on personal improvement, which included goal-setting, problem-solving, and communication skills, family life skills, child development, parenting skills, and family management.
  - Randomized trial showed impacts for all the participating families, and significant effects for hard-to-employ:
    - In the last six months of the 30-month follow-up, hard-to-employ TANF parents earned 56% more than the control group.



# MOMENTUM: UTAH TANF DEMONSTRATION

- The NEXT GENERATION KIDS pilot will focus on the entire family by assisting parents with employment and intensive services that benefit the whole family.
- The pilot project will work in a community with high intergenerational poverty—targeting families with children 12 years old and on TANF in the last year.
- Individualized services will be offered to parents and children to eliminate barriers to work and health care and also address other facets of self-sufficiency.



## MOMENTUM: WFSN-CC INITIATIVE

- Community Colleges– and a TANF bridge
  - **Working Families Success Network-Community College** expansion in 19 community colleges
  - Many TANF students on campuses across the country are part of the initiative.
  - More information at [www.achievingthedream.org](http://www.achievingthedream.org) under Initiatives



# MOMENTUM: USING A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN TANF

- Follow the evidence and integrate new science into two-generation efforts
  - Integrate coaching practices and goal setting
  - Focus on skill building
  - Learn from executive function prototypes
  - Pay attention to health, mental health and substance abuse



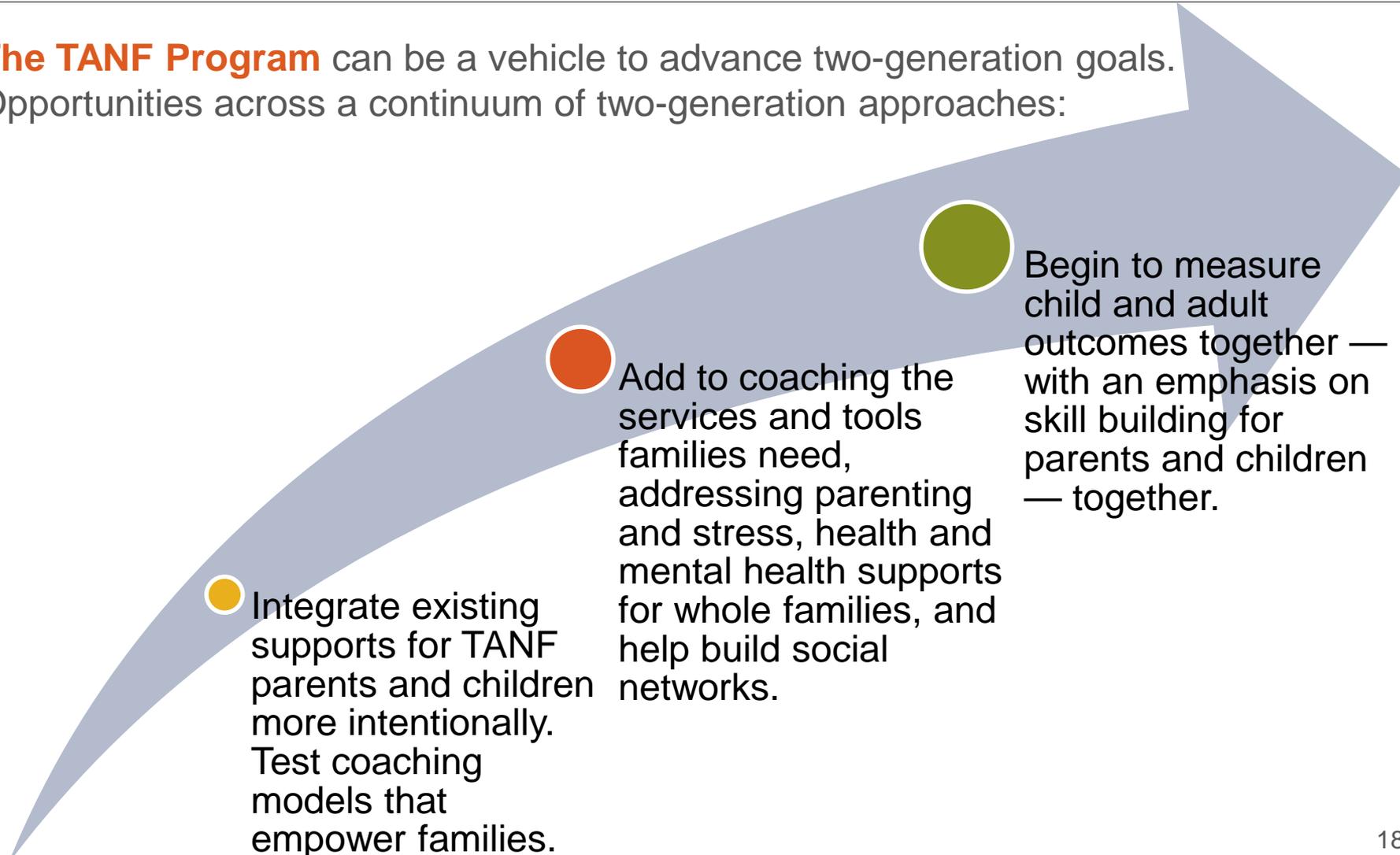
JEREMIAH PROGRAM

**The New Haven  
MOMS Partnership**



# MOMENTUM : USING A TWO-GENERATION APPROACH IN TANF

**The TANF Program** can be a vehicle to advance two-generation goals. Opportunities across a continuum of two-generation approaches:



Integrate existing supports for TANF parents and children more intentionally. Test coaching models that empower families.

Add to coaching the services and tools families need, addressing parenting and stress, health and mental health supports for whole families, and help build social networks.

Begin to measure child and adult outcomes together — with an emphasis on skill building for parents and children — together.

# CONTACT



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Report and additional resources:  
[www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org)



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