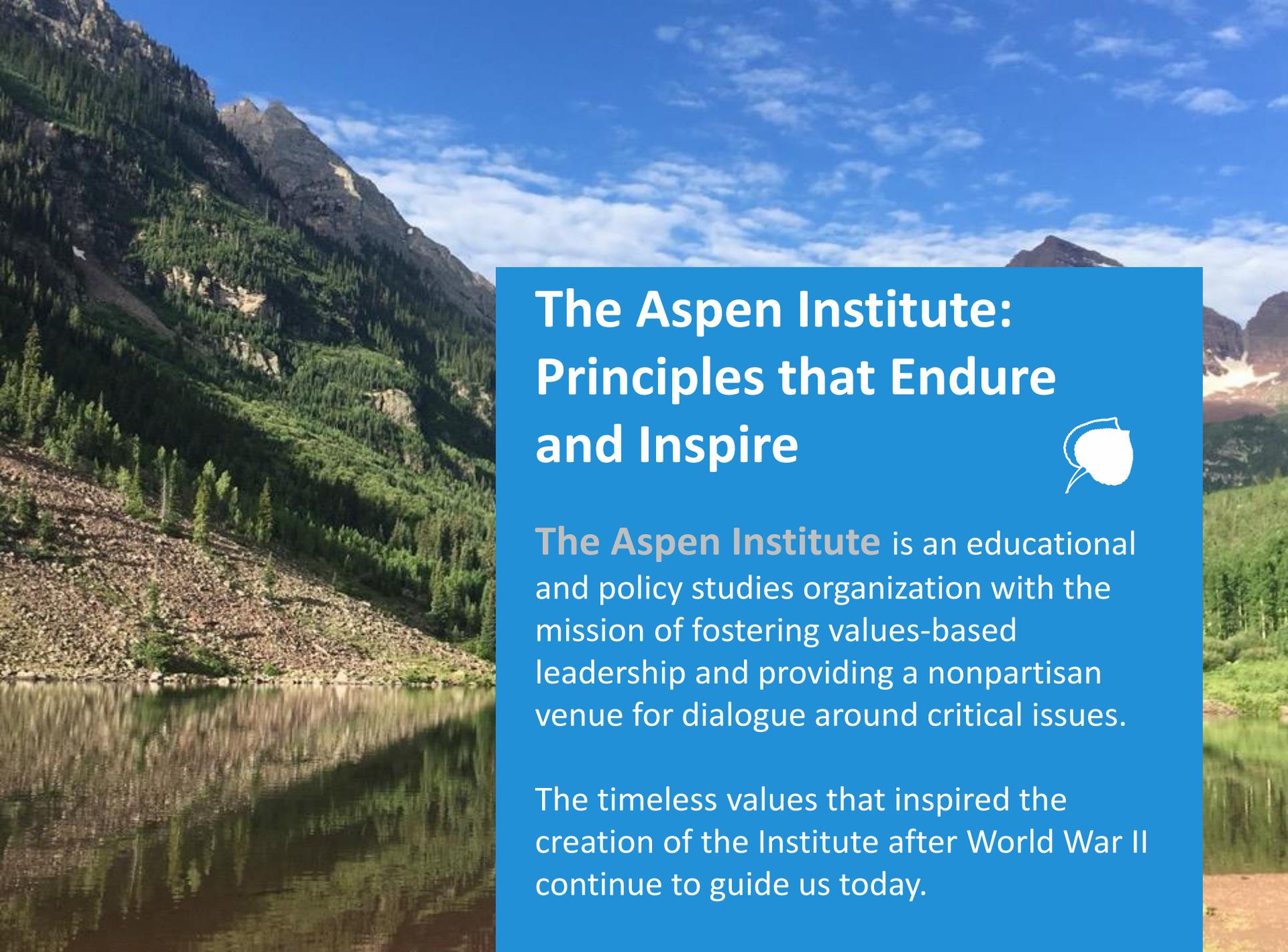


# Fueling Change for Children and Families

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**Marjorie Sims**  
Managing Director, Ascend at the Aspen Institute

**Presentation for the United Way of Snohomish County**



# The Aspen Institute: Principles that Endure and Inspire



**The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization with the mission of fostering values-based leadership and providing a nonpartisan venue for dialogue around critical issues.

The timeless values that inspired the creation of the Institute after World War II continue to guide us today.



# Ascend at the Aspen Institute: A New Way Forward for Children and Families

**Ascend at the Aspen Institute** is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and the adults in their lives toward educational success, economic security, and health and well-being.

## How We Work:

- Convene and communicate
- Build leadership and a national network
- Advance practice and policy solutions

We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens.



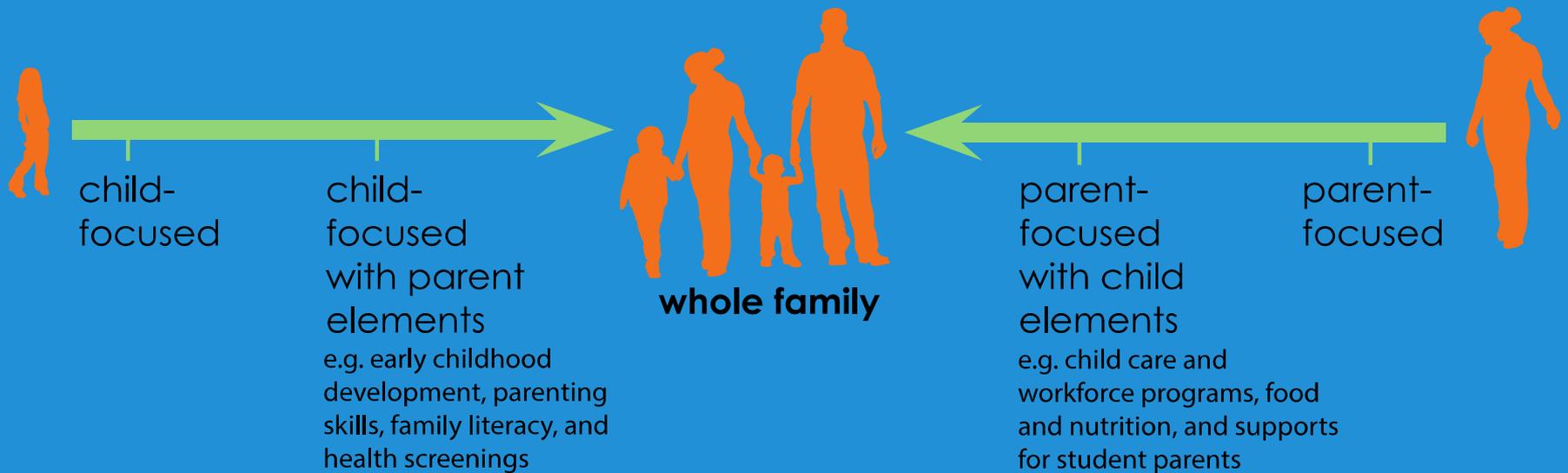
## Why a Two-Generation Approach

New research from Nobel-winning economist James Heckman demonstrates a **13% return on investment** in high-quality early childhood for each year of a child's life. And a college degree **doubles** a parent's income.

For families with young children who have an annual income of \$25,000 or less, a \$3,000 increase during the years of early childhood yields a 17% increase in adult earnings for those children.

Recent brain research shows that the brains of new parents undergo major structural changes just as babies' brains do. Studies also show that parents with health insurance are more likely to seek care for themselves and their children.

# The Two-Generation Continuum



# 2Gen Core Components

## social capital

peer and family networks, coaching, and cohort strategies

## early childhood development

Head Start, Early Head Start child care partnerships, preK, and home visiting

## postsecondary & employment pathways

community college, training and certification, workforce partnerships

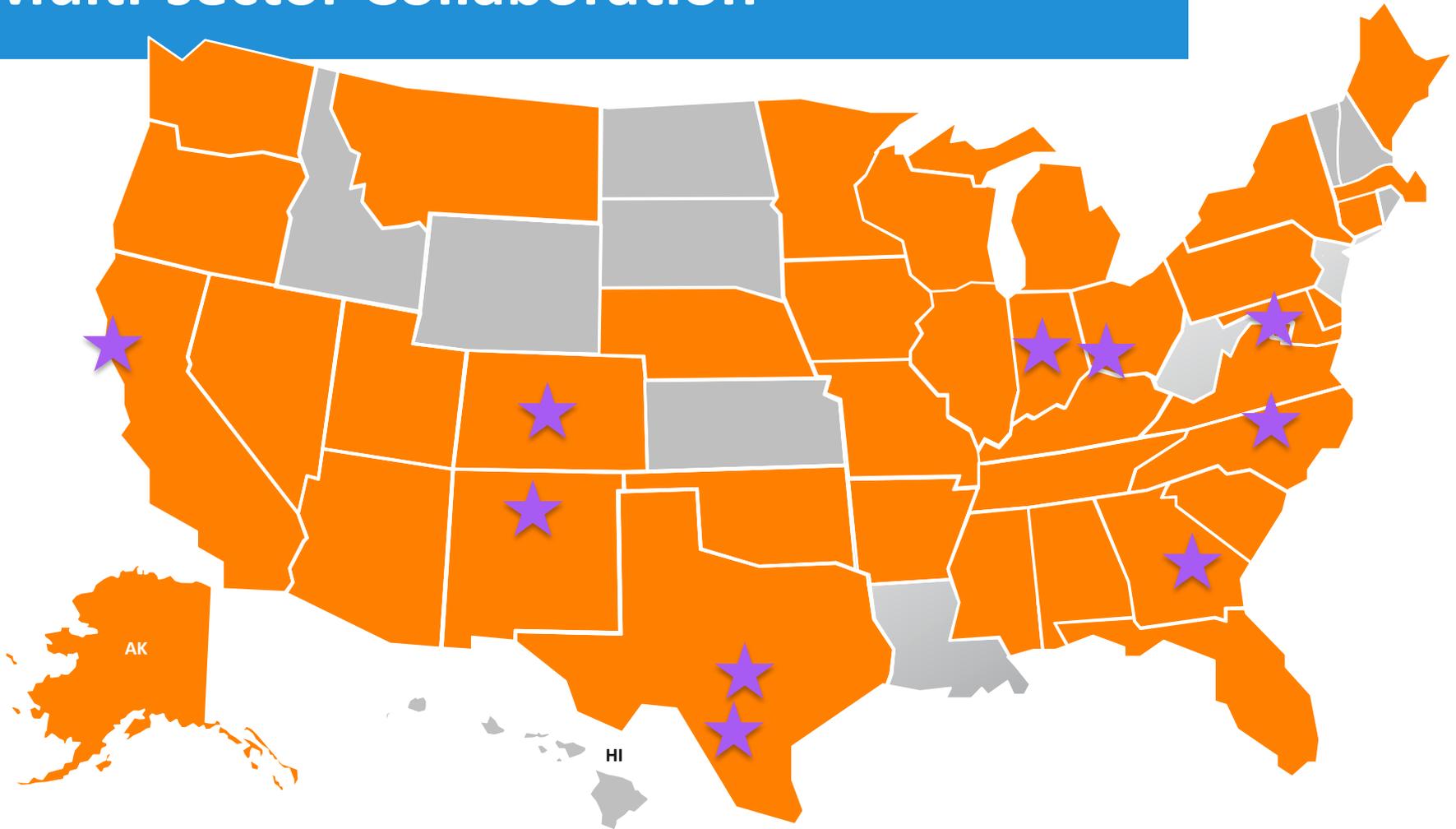
## health & well-being

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

# Ascend National Network – Leveraging Multi-sector Collaboration

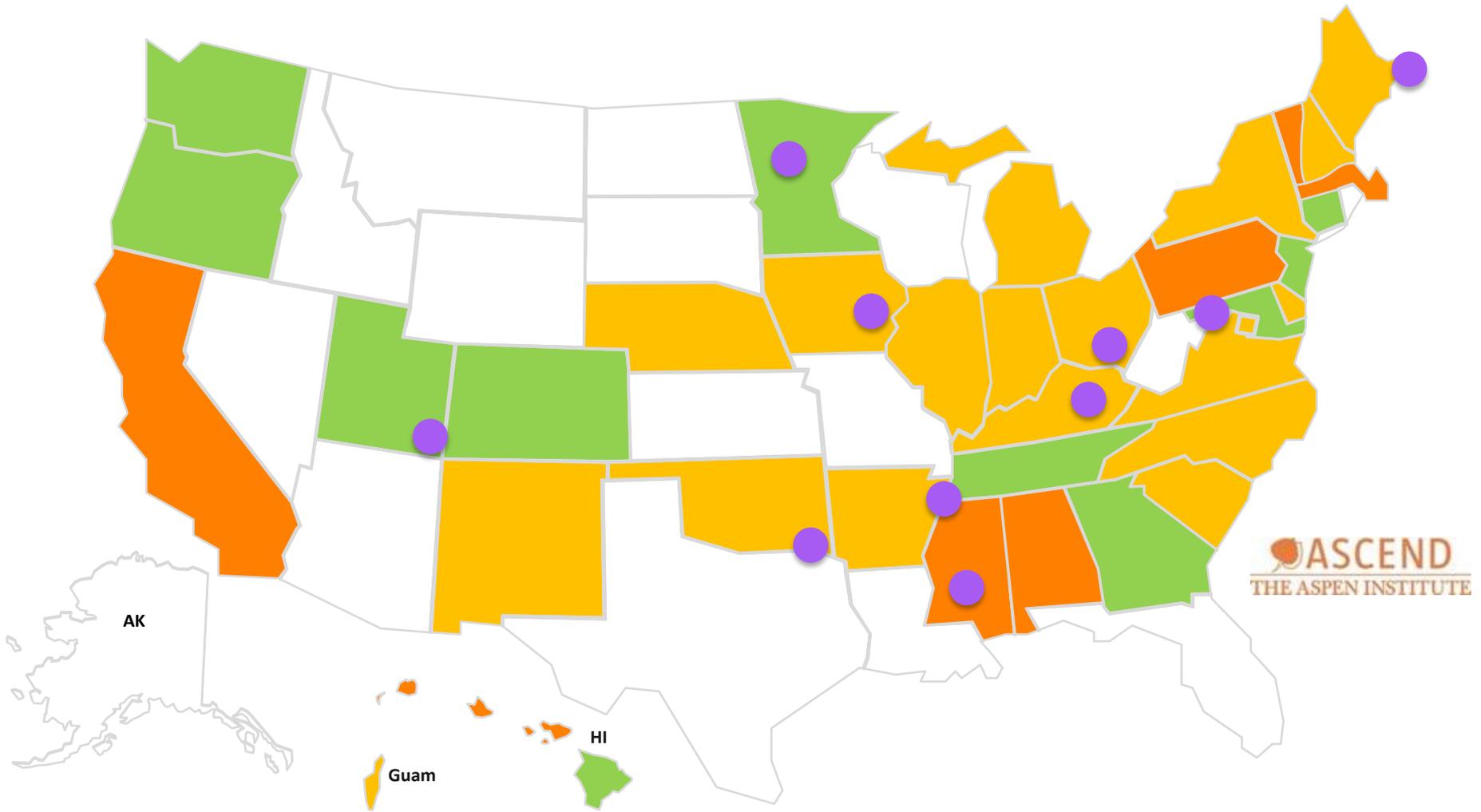


Ascend Network



United Way Members of the Ascend Network

# 2Gen Policy Momentum in the States



**ASCEND**  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

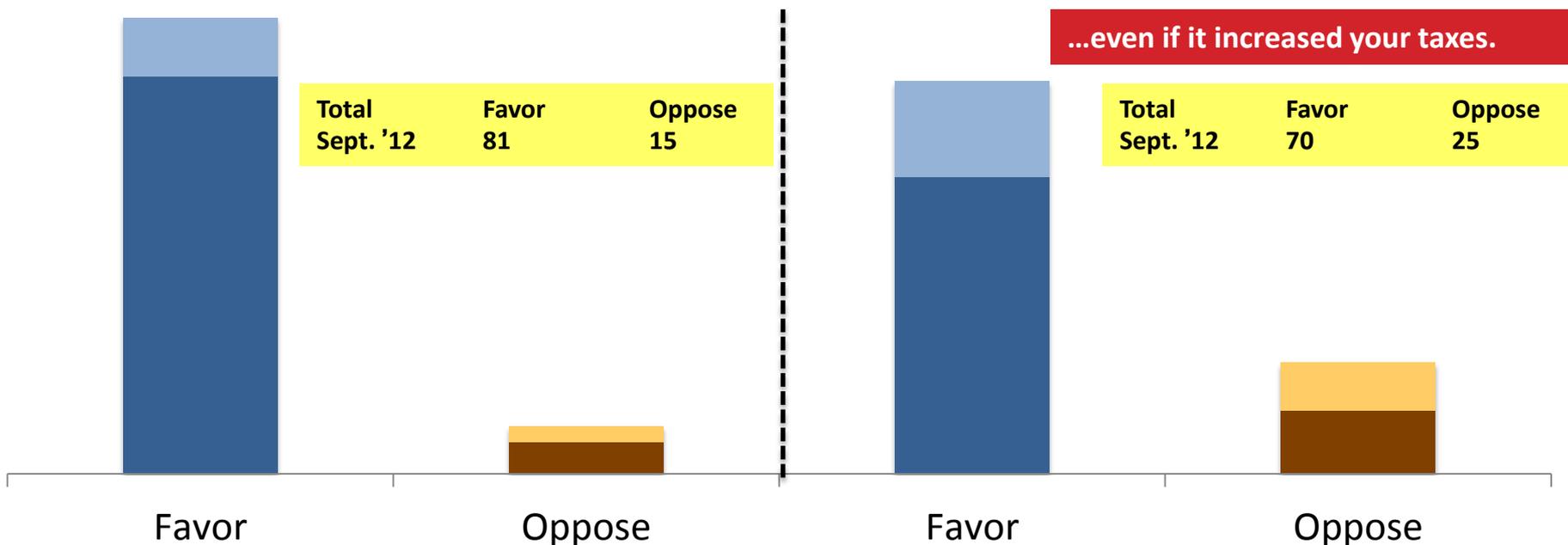
 States Implementing a 2Gen Approach  
 States Emerging with a 2Gen Approach

 States Exploring a 2Gen Approach  
 White House Rural IMPACT demonstration sites

# Pulse of the Public

Support for a two-generation program that helps parents get education and skills training to get a better job, has increased since 2012. Tax sensitivity remains, but a 56 percent majority strongly favor it even if it increased their taxes.

One program designed to help people who are living in poverty get out of poverty targets both parents and their children, so that parents get education and skills training to get a better job and at the same time their children get a good start with Head Start, early education, and quality schools...



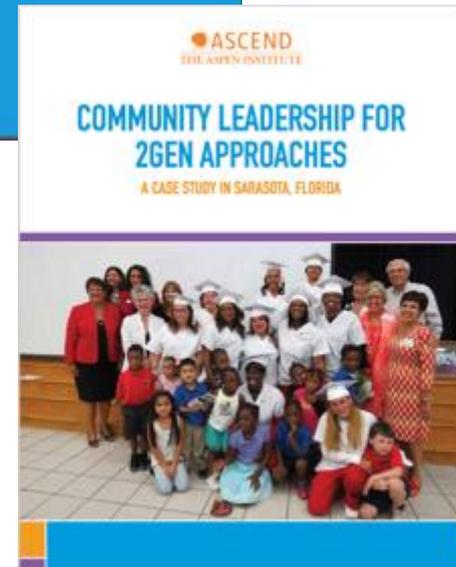
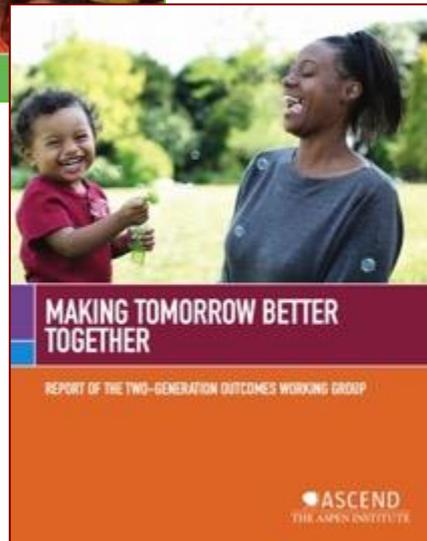
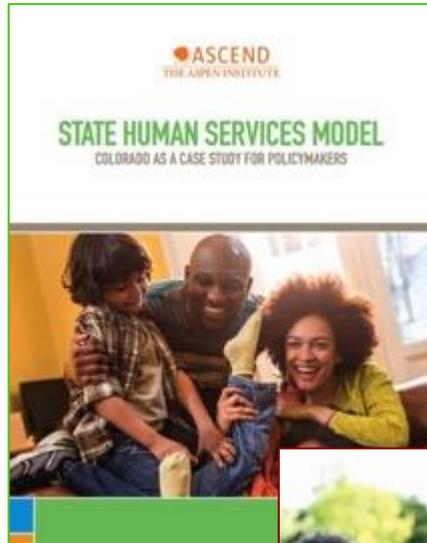
# 7 Opportunities for Putting Children & Families at the Center in Washington

- 1) Set outcome goals for children, parents & families;
- 2) Create strong pathways to quality employment and “career jobs” (focus on WIOA implementation and leverage the TANF, Opportunity Youth, and single parent designated population focus);
- 3) Catalyze a new paradigm for child & parent work supports;
- 4) Fuel health and human services innovation, collaboration capacity, and leadership;
- 5) Build a culture of early learning and brain-building with quality child care and early childhood development;
- 6) Streamline existing services and financial supports;
- 7) Develop real-time feedback loops and evaluation capacity.

# Shared Principles to Put Children & Families at the Center through 2Gen Approaches

- 🗣️ Measure and account for outcomes for both children and their parents
- 🗣️ Engage and amplify the voices of families
- 🗣️ Ensure equity
- 🗣️ Foster innovation and evidence together
- 🗣️ Align and link systems and funding streams

# Ascend at the Aspen Institute: A Resource for Snohomish County



**Thank you for your commitment to  
children and families!**

