

# TWO-GENERATION APPROACHES NATIONAL VOICES PROJECT

To learn more about the National Voices Project and Ascend at the Aspen Institute, visit:  
[NationalVoicesProject.org](http://NationalVoicesProject.org) • <http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org> [@NatlVoices](https://twitter.com/NatlVoices) or [@aspenscend](https://twitter.com/aspenscend)

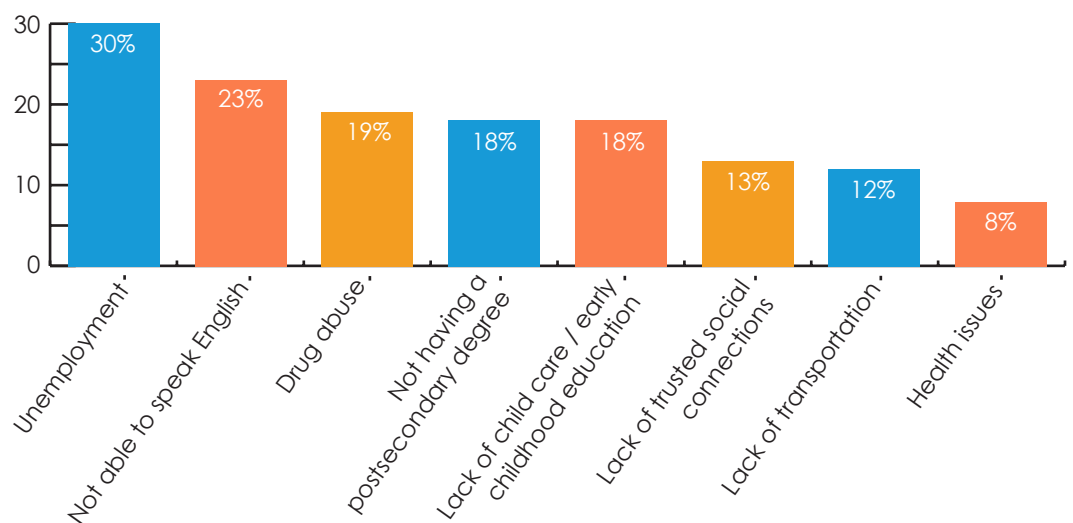


Ascend at the Aspen Institute partnered with the National Voices Project to conduct a major national survey of adults who work and volunteer on behalf of children. The focus of the survey was on key components for two-generation approaches and barriers to economic security and serving two generations.

The survey brings together community perspectives about opportunities and barriers for children of color across the country. Participant responses provide useful insights for those designing two-generation programs. The National Voices survey builds on *Voices for Two-Generation Success*, polling and focus groups research Ascend has conducted since 2011.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATED AS BIGGEST BARRIER TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

Adults were asked to rate the following barriers to economic security for parents of the children they work and/or volunteer with. The proportions of adults who rated these barriers as a 'big problem' are shown below.



## Significant findings related to barriers to economic security

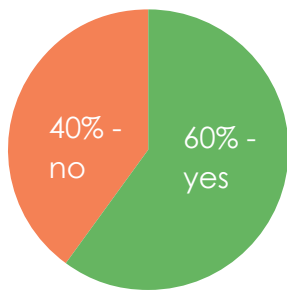
Consistently, respondents who reported racial inequities in their communities identified more barriers to economic security and more need for two-generation programs.



Funding for the National Voices Project is provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation as part of the America Healing Initiative.

- Multi-race/other (39%), Hispanic (26%), and African-American (23%) were more likely than white (13%) respondents to report lack of child care as a big problem.
- Hispanic respondents (36%) were more likely than white (22%), African-American (19%), and multi-race/other (15%) respondents to report 'not being able to speak English' as a big problem.
- Respondents who perceived many/some (30%) racial/ethnic inequities in their communities were more likely to report not having a postsecondary degree as a big problem than those who perceived few/no (12%) inequities in their communities.
- Hispanic (25%), multi-race/other (21%), and African-American (20%) respondents were more likely than white (7%) respondents to report lack of transportation as a big problem.
- Multi-race/other (20%) and Hispanic (18%) respondents were more likely than African-American (14%) and white (4%) respondents to report health issues as a big problem.

### MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS SEE A NEED FOR TWO-GENERATION PROGRAMS

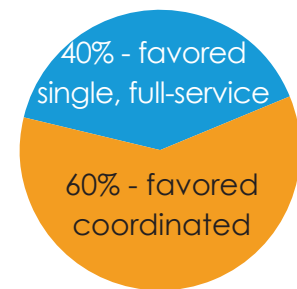


- Sixty percent of respondents saw a need for two-generation programs.
- Respondents who perceived many/some (78%) racial/ethnic inequities in their communities were more likely than those who perceived few/no (53%) inequities to report a need for two-generation programs, at a rate of 60 to 40 percent respectively.

### MAJORITY BELIEVE COORDINATED TWO-GENERATION PROGRAMS ARE BEST

Two-generation programs can be implemented in two ways. Comprehensive services are offered to children and their parents through either:

- A single, full-service program, or
- Coordinated programs (which may or may not be located in the same place) that have formal partnerships to work together.

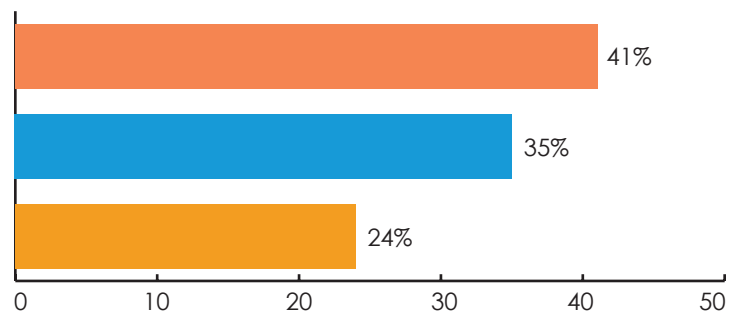


### ECONOMIC SUPPORTS ARE THE MOST NEEDED SERVICES IN ADDITION TO EDUCATION

**Economic supports**, such as transportation, child care subsidies

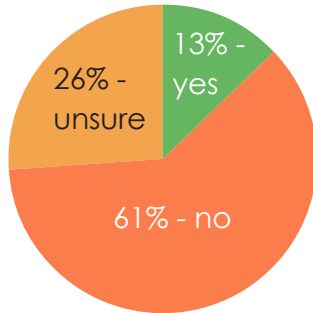
**Development of connections** and relationships that help families access opportunities

**Mental and physical health services**, such as counseling and nutrition support



- Respondents who perceived many/some (53%) racial/ethnic inequities in their communities were more likely than those who perceived few/no (34%) inequities to think economic support is most needed.
- Respondents who perceived few/no (43%) racial/ethnic inequities in their communities were more likely than those who perceived many/some (26%) inequities to think developing connections is most needed.

## FEW AWARE OF TWO-GENERATION ORGANIZATIONS



- Respondents were provided some examples of two-generation programs and asked if they were aware of any two-generation nonprofit organizations.
- As the chart shows, few were aware of any such organizations in their communities; however, the majority saw a need.

## GAP BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND CREATES OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES BETTER

The results of this survey highlight the demand for two-generation approaches, especially for those facing racial barriers. Two-generation programs meet the needs of children and their parents together. Expanding the availability of such programs offers low-income families a path towards educational success and economic security that passes from one generation to the next.

## METHODOLOGY

Data are based on responses from the National Voices Project Partners Survey, fielded March - April 2014. The National Voices Project is conducted in partnership with GfK, an international survey research organization that maintains KnowledgePanel®, a nationally representative web-enabled panel of adult members of households across the United States. Survey respondents included 1,398 adults that work or volunteer with children in the area of education.

*While primary school students are in class, parents take ESOL classes. Later in the day there is a shared learning environment to improve communication between children and their parents.*

—Survey respondent from Boston

*Program [is] part of county and is housed at many of the school district's adult ed locations. Child care is provided to parents taking English speaking classes and those working toward GED/diploma.*

—Survey respondent from Myrtle Beach

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL VOICES PROJECT

The National Voices Project is a new effort to bring the perspectives of thousands of people to the national dialogue about children. Children thrive on opportunity. But when opportunities differ because of children's race or ethnicity, where they live, or because of who they are, children face barriers in their health, education, and economic security and success. Measuring disparities for children is a key step toward addressing disadvantage. Careful measurement of sensitive issues can bring greater understanding. In turn, understanding informs new initiatives that can lead to meaningful changes for children.

## ABOUT ASCEND AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Ascend is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success and economic security. We embrace a two-generation approach and a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens.



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.

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