



November 30, 2018

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of the State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

Congratulations again on your reelection as Governor of the state of Maryland. Ascend at the Aspen Institute is proud to support efforts that give Maryland's families a bright future. We agree that, "the status quo is simply not good enough for Maryland's children," and an investment in children and families will pay great dividends for the state's economy and overall health. As promised, this follow-up letter offers policy and programmatic solutions, resources, and experts in your state to help develop a strategy to achieve that end. As you form your leadership team and set your focus for the term, please call on us to assist.

Ascend at the Aspen Institute is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that support two generations (2Gen), an anti-poverty strategy that concurrently addresses the basic needs of two (or more) generations that results in improved outcomes and the creation of intergenerational cycles of opportunity for whole families. We commit to applying a racial equity and gender lens to our work. Ascend collaborates with local organizations, such as Maryland Family Network, CASA, and Community Action Council of Howard County to implement 2Gen strategies.

Maryland is one of the states leading the way in implementing practices to create intergenerational cycles of success for families. We believe Maryland's recent successes in passing legislation to provide tuition assistance scholarships for residents attending local community colleges and protecting health insurance for children are great starting points. Now is the time to build on this momentum.

Included with this letter are 2Gen recommendations and local resources. We welcome an opportunity to brief you and your team about other innovations and outcomes from 2Gen initiatives across the country that may be leveraged in Maryland. Kimberly Miyazawa Frank, the Morgridge Innovator in Residence at Ascend at the Aspen Institute, will follow up. In the meantime, if you have any questions or immediate next steps, please reach out to us.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne B. Mosle".

Anne Mosle
Vice President and Executive Director
Ascend at the Aspen Institute



Maryland is leading the way in 2Gen strategies

- Maryland's Two-Generation Family Economic Security Commission leads ambitious 2Gen programming. In addition to launching MD THINK, the state is improving how it collects family outcome data and has established No Wrong Door, a family-first, interagency collaboration initiative, and Two-Gen In & Out, an effort to support workers who put 2Gen values into action.
- Maryland invested \$200 million in its MD THINK system.
- The Community Development Network of Maryland, a statewide network of nearly 200 community organizations, hosted a community development week to celebrate family support successes.
- Home visits served 3,644 children in Maryland in 2016.
- 45 percent of incoming kindergarten children in Maryland displayed the foundational skills that indicate being fully ready for school.

To further support Maryland's children and families

1. **Expand pre-K programming.** Consider universal free or low-cost pre-K for four-year-old children across Maryland.
2. **Invest earlier for greater returns.** More than 300,000 Maryland families lack access to home visits, which improve health and life outcomes for mothers and their children.
3. **Include more Maryland residents.** Broaden the impact of Maryland's services for children and families by engaging groups of families that commonly are excluded from outreach plans, such as families that are experiencing homelessness or speak multiple languages, for example.

Ascend Network Partners in Maryland

- Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission, Rebecca Roby, Assistant Director
- CASA, Gustavo Torres, Executive Director
- Community Action Council of Howard County Maryland, Bita Dayhoff, President
- Garrett County Community Action Committee, Duane Yoder, President
- Human Services Programs of Carroll County, Inc., Angela Gustus, Executive Director
- Maryland Department of Human Services, La Sherra Ayala, Assistant Director
- Maryland Family Network, Jean Mitchell, Program Director
- Ready at Five, Robin Hopkins, Partnerships Director
- WorkSource Montgomery, Heather Henry, Vice President of Industry Engagement and Job Services

"This [Two-Generation Family Economic Security] Commission will look at the potential benefits as well as the obstacles to this type of collaboration, in which the state provides services simultaneously for a family as a whole rather than for the adult and child separately."

- GOVERNOR
LARRY HOGAN

Ascend Fellow in Maryland

- Joe Jones, Founder and CEO, Center for Urban Families

More 2Gen Resources

- States Leading the Way: Practical Solutions that Lift Up Children and Families
- Making Tomorrow Better Together: A Guide to Outcomes for 2Gen Policymakers