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The Northwestern University Two-Generation Research Initiative

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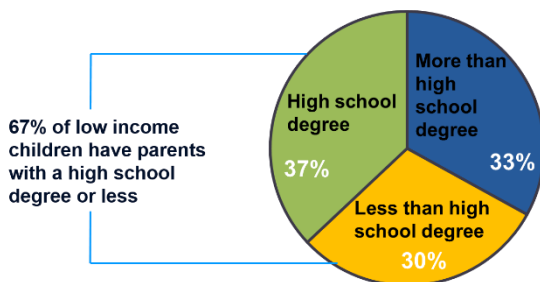
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Disparities in Education and Income across the Life Course

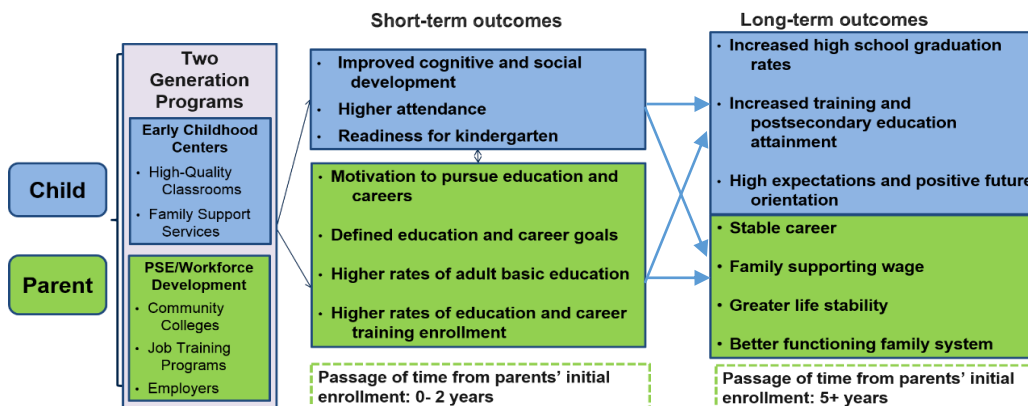
- The proportion of young children living in poverty has been on the rise since 2000
- Children from low-income families perform less well on reading and math assessments by the time they enter kindergarten compared to children from more affluent families
- Low-income children are also less likely to complete high school and attain a postsecondary degree than their higher income peers
- More than half of low-income children have parents with a high school degree or less, but when mothers increase their education, children's learning improves



Two-Generation Educational Approaches

- Explicitly target children and parents from the same family simultaneously
- Link intensive, high-quality education, job training, and career-building programs for low-income parents with early childhood education services for their young children

Change Model for Two-Generation Programs



An Exemplary Two-Generation Human Capital Program: CareerAdvance®



- Program description
 - Work-readiness development program designed for low-income parents of young children enrolled in Head Start programs run by the Community Action Project of Tulsa County, OK (CAP Tulsa)
 - Educational pathways for parents at all levels, including ESL, Skill Ready, College Bound, and Career Bound
 - Provides parents with intensive and high-quality social and financial supports, including career coaching, tuition, and incentives for school attendance and performance



- CAP Family Life Study
 - Quasi-experimental, mixed-methods study of CareerAdvance® Healthcare (Career Bound)
 - Uses a rich array of quantitative and qualitative data to examine the program's short- and longer-term effects on children and families
 - After 16 months in the program, 76% of parents attained a certificate



- CAP Family Advancement Study
 - Randomized control trial of the implementation and effectiveness of CareerAdvance® pre-college pathways (Skill Ready, College Bound, and ESL)
 - Implementation study focuses on fidelity to the program model and the strengths and challenges of the two-generation program
 - Effectiveness study examines the impact of CareerAdvance® on parent and child outcomes

Resources and References:

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