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

- Improved cognitive and social development
- Higher attendance
- Readiness for kindergarten
- Motivation to pursue education and careers
- Defined education and career goals
- Higher rates of adult basic education
- Higher rates of education and career training enrollment

- Increased high school graduation rates
- Increased training and postsecondary education attainment
- High expectations and positive future orientation
- Stable career
- Family supporting wage
- Greater life stability
- Better functioning family system
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:**