



National Center for Children in Poverty



Poverty presents an enormous threat to children's healthy development. For over 30 years, the National Center for Children in Poverty (NCCP) has worked to advance family-oriented policies and the strategic use of public resources to support the economic security, healthy development, and well-being of America's next generation. Formerly located at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health before joining Bank Street Graduate School of Education in July 2019, the nonpartisan center promotes research-informed policies and programs to help improve the lives of low-income children and their families.

Our Approach

NCCP conducts research and policy analysis and uses existing evidence to identify effective, innovative strategies that can improve the lives of children and families experiencing economic hardship. The center provides accessible information and recommendations about research-informed policies and initiatives that can help families and communities support children's success from infancy through young adulthood.

NCCP reaches a large audience with its reports, online data tools, policy resources, technical assistance, and partnerships. This audience includes state and local policymakers, advocates, community leaders, researchers, and administrators in government agencies that use NCCP's research and analyses to make informed decisions about policies and programs that promote secure, nurturing families and thriving children. NCCP often partners with government officials, advocates, and other stakeholders to plan and carry out policy research and analysis—an approach that fully engages decision-makers and helps ensure that results will be used to strengthen policies and programs.

Key areas of the center's work include safety net policies, paid family leave, disability policies, immigration policies, early childhood mental health, early intervention, early care and education policies, and two-generation approaches. NCCP's online resources include the Family Resource Simulator, the Young Child Risk Calculator, the 50-State Policy Tracker, the 50-State Demographic Data Generator, Early Childhood State Policy Profiles, and the Basic Needs Budget Calculator.

Our Impact

NCCP's research and related work have made critical contributions to policy changes that support the well-being and success of low-income children and families. Examples of our contributions include:

- Sharing our research to inform legislation that extended paid family leave to 3.3 million workers in Washington state;
- Demonstrating the negative impacts of family separation and immigrant detention on the health and well-being of children in reports cited in several amicus briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court;
- Calculating how universal pre-K decreases child care expenses with our Family Resource Simulator and Basic Needs Budget Calculator, which helped provide 6,000 children in Cincinnati, Ohio, access to universal pre-K; and
- Conducting a statewide survey of early childhood educators to inform legislation that will establish an early childhood mental health consultation program in Maine, giving child care, pre-K, and Head Start programs access to mental health specialists who help teachers and parents address children's mental health needs.