



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 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's work highlights disparities related to race/ethnicity and disability in family and child well-being and access to services, as well as policies that can help eliminate these disparities.

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 in planning and conducting research to help ensure diverse perspectives and actionable results.

Key areas of the center's work include policies that can strengthen family financial security, as well as early childhood mental health, early intervention, early care and education policies, and two-generation approaches. NCCP's online resources include 50-state tools to help improve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other family economic security policies, as well as the Early Childhood State Policy Profiles and Promoting Research-Informed Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Policies (PRISM) tools.

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:

- Developing resources used by state advocates to strengthen policies that provide adequate financial and nutrition assistance for families facing severe hardship
- Conducting a 50-state survey of Medicaid agencies and helping advocates and policymakers advance Medicaid policies that support family and early childhood mental health, a key contributor to school readiness and positive school outcomes
- Assisting advocates and stakeholders in multiple states in work to develop policies and systems that reduce expulsion and racial disparities in early care and education programs' use of exclusionary practices
- Partnering with state leaders to learn about access to high-quality early care and education for young children in foster care and test strategies to increase access