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 the economic security, healthy development, and well-being of children. The nonpartisan center promotes research-informed policies and programs to improve the lives of low-income families.

Our Approach

NCCP conducts research and policy analysis to identify effective, innovative strategies to enable families to improve their economic security and help children thrive. The center provides accessible information and recommendations about research-informed policies and programs that help families and communities support children's growth from infancy through young adulthood. NCCP's work highlights disparities related to race/ethnicity and income and communicates policies that can help eliminate these disparities.

NCCP reaches a large audience with its reports, 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 infant-early childhood mental health, Early Intervention, home visiting, child welfare, early care and education, and two-generation approaches. NCCP's online resources include 50-state tools to help improve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) state policies, and the Promoting Research-Informed Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Policies (PRiSM) resource.

Our Impact

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

- Analyzing quality supports for early childhood education programs that help increase states' use of evidence-based strategies
- Developing resources for state advocates and others to use in strengthening policies that provide adequate financial and nutrition assistance for families facing severe hardship
- Providing analyses and recommendations to eliminate benefit cliffs, enhancing families' financial security and supporting parents' workforce participation
- Facilitating conversations among state and local advocates to develop effective strategies, priorities, and messaging in support of policy changes that optimize outcomes for children
- Applying policy expertise to support technology that can help states' implementation of public benefits programs and ensure that supports will remain accessible to those who are eligible
- Partnering with state leaders to learn about access to high-quality early care and education for young children in foster care and examine potential strategies to increase access