



A key connection:

## ECONOMIC STABILITY AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Building evidence and developing policy recommendations to address economic hardship



**We want to eliminate the need for long-term foster care, and to address disproportionate outcomes based on race. There is evidence that addressing economic and concrete supports is key to achieving that.**

**—Bryan Samuels, Chapin Hall Executive Director**



**Economic stability and family well-being are related. A growing body of evidence shows that families do better when they have access to concrete services and can achieve economic stability.** Economic and concrete supports are “protective factors” – factors that prevent families from becoming involved in the child welfare system. The evidence indicates that increasing access to these supports may be an effective strategy to prevent child maltreatment, keep families together, and address racial inequities.

Learn more about Chapin Hall's work on economic & concrete supports



[Chapinhall.org/ecspj](https://Chapinhall.org/ecspj)



### Public Benefit Programs

Each additional \$1,000 that states spend on public benefit programs annually per person living in poverty is associated with a **reduction** in child maltreatment reports, substantiated child maltreatment, foster care placements, and child fatalities due to maltreatment (Puls, 2021).



### Expanded Medicaid

Between 2013 and 2016, neglect referrals to child protective services decreased in states that expanded Medicaid and increased in states that did not expand Medicaid. If the nonexpansion states had expanded Medicaid, there would have been an estimated 125,000 fewer screened-in neglect referrals in the U.S. from 2014 through 2016 (Brown, 2019).



### Subsidized Child Care

Children who attended Early Head Start had significantly fewer child welfare encounters between ages 5 and 9 than those who didn't attend (Green, 2014).



### Refundable EITC

States with state-level refundable EITC, compared to those without, had 11% fewer entries into foster care (even after controlling for poverty, race, education, and unemployment; Rostad, 2020).



### TANF & Full Child Support

Mothers who participate in TANF and are eligible to receive full child support payments for their children (without a decrease in benefits) are 10% less likely to have a screened-in maltreatment report than mothers who are eligible to receive only partial child support payments (Cancian, 2013).



### Minimum Wage Increase

Every \$1 increase in the minimum wage is associated with a 9.6% reduction in neglect reports (Raissian, 2017).



**Its important to understand that the economic and concrete supports policy agenda is also a critical race equity strategy.**

**— Clare Anderson, Chapin Hall Senior Policy Fellow**

## REFERENCES

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