

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

Income Supports: All Colorado families work hard to provide a better life for their children.



However, policies and practices have created and maintained inequitable opportunities for some families, in particular for families of color. We all benefit when Colorado families facing the greatest barriers to economic security have the opportunity to thrive.

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) put money back into the pockets of working families.
- TANF Basic Cash Assistance (BCA) helps families who are experiencing extreme poverty make ends meet.
- SNAP and WIC help families put food on the table and meet their children's nutritional needs and improve birth outcomes for pregnant people.

We can help Colorado families by ensuring that income supports like the EITC and CTC, BCA and SNAP and WIC are robust and that every family can access these supports.



The hardships and stressors associated with poverty can harm children of any age—but research shows that poverty experienced during early childhood is particularly damaging to a child's development. One study found that people who experienced poverty between birth and age 5:



-2 yrs

Completed 2 fewer years of school



2x

Were twice as likely to be arrested (among men)



3x

Were nearly 3x more likely to be in poor health as adults than peers who lived in moderate- to upper-income settings



The same study found that **boosting the income** of families with young children by **\$3,000 per year** was associated with better outcomes in adulthood—including a 17% increase in adult earnings and more hours worked.

Income supports like the EITC and CTC, BCA and SNAP help lift families out of poverty and place them on the path to self-sufficiency.

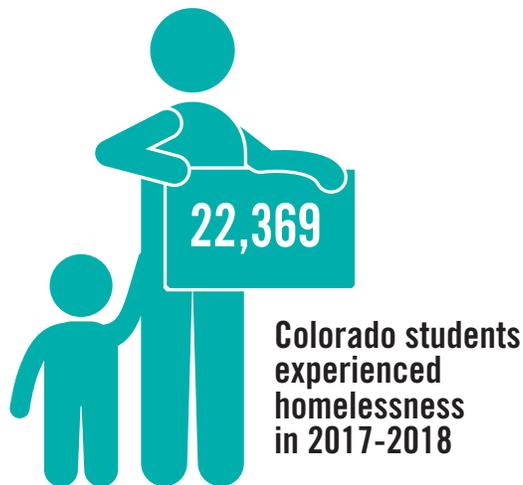
Housing Security: Everyone benefits when all Colorado families have access to a place to call home.

Safe and stable housing is essential to child well-being. However, many Colorado families are struggling to find an affordable place to call home, as housing costs have skyrocketed in many parts of the state and incomes have not kept pace.

Housing insecurity puts families at risk of homelessness and negatively impacts health and education outcomes for kids. We can help by ensuring families have access to affordable, quality, safe housing without having to move frequently.



More than 1.5 million American public school students experienced homelessness in the 2017-18 school year— the highest number ever recorded. In Colorado:



- Nearly 7 in 10 low-income kids in Colorado are living in housing cost-burdened families.
- Families with children are more likely to be evicted than families without children.

Paid Family Leave: When all families have access to a paid family and medical leave program it will work better for everyone.

Paid family and medical leave is critical to support family economic security and infant and maternal health. However, many Colorado families do not currently have access to paid leave that allows them to take time off to care for a new child or a sick family member.

We can help by designing a statewide paid family and medical leave program that is accessible, affordable, adequate, and equitable for every family in Colorado.



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