

# Washington State Institute for Public Policy

## Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [Technical Documentation](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

### Child Welfare

| Program name   | Date of last literature review | Total benefits | Taxpayer benefits | Non-taxpayer benefits | Costs     | Benefits minus costs (net present value) | Benefit to cost ratio | Chance benefits will exceed costs |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for families in the child welfare system | Aug. 2017                      | \$26,807       | \$10,128          | \$16,679              | (\$1,669) | \$25,137                                 | \$16.06               | 96 %                              |
| Intensive Family Preservation Services (HOMEBUILDERS®)                           | Aug. 2017                      | \$17,338       | \$9,876           | \$7,462               | (\$3,553) | \$13,785                                 | \$4.88                | 97 %                              |
| Subsidized guardianship (Title IV-E waivers)                                     | Aug. 2017                      | \$5,668        | \$1,235           | \$4,433               | \$3,684   | \$9,352                                  | n/a                   | 99 %                              |
| SafeCare   | Aug. 2017                      | \$4,224        | \$1,648           | \$2,576               | (\$188)   | \$4,035                                  | \$22.41               | 93 %                              |
| Alternative Response   | Nov. 2018                      | \$1,775        | \$619             | \$1,156               | (\$248)   | \$1,528                                  | \$7.17                | 82 %                              |
| Flexible funding (Title IV-E waivers)  | Apr. 2012                      | \$1,436        | \$462             | \$974                 | \$0       | \$1,436                                  | n/a                   | 90 %                              |
| Promoting First Relationships  | Nov. 2018                      | \$654          | \$689             | (\$34)                | (\$1,330) | (\$676)                                  | \$0.49                | 47 %                              |
| Other Family Preservation Services (non-HOMEBUILDERS®)                           | Aug. 2017                      | (\$4,770)      | (\$1,058)         | (\$3,712)             | (\$3,262) | (\$8,032)                                | (\$1.46)              | 0 %                               |
| Family dependency treatment court  | Aug. 2017                      | (\$6,677)      | (\$1,557)         | (\$5,120)             | (\$5,611) | (\$12,287)                               | (\$1.19)              | 8 %                               |
| Youth Villages LifeSet   | Jun. 2016                      | (\$3,429)      | \$721             | (\$4,150)             | (\$9,970) | (\$13,399)                               | (\$0.34)              | 21 %                              |

### Other Child Welfare topics reviewed:

| Program name   | Date of last literature review | Notes   |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up                      | Nov. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Family Team Decision-Making                                | Aug. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Fostering Healthy Futures                                  | Aug. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Functional Family Therapy-Child Welfare (FFT-CW)           | Sep. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Locating family connections for children in foster care    | Aug. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for child abuse and neglect    | Aug. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Project KEEP   | Aug. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment                 | Aug. 2017                      | Click for meta-analytic results                       |
| Alternatives for Families (AF-CBT)                         | May. 2015                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Circle of Security   | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Including Fathers—Father Engagement Program                | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Kaleidoscope Play and Learn                                | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Kinship care compared to traditional (non-kin) foster care | Sep. 2018                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Parent Mentor Program                                      | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Parents and Children Together (PACT)                       | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Parents for Parents  | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Partners with Families and Children                        | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Pathway to Reunification                                   | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |
| Safe Babies, Safe Moms                                     | Aug. 2017                      | No rigorous evaluation measuring outcome of interest. |

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## Washington State Institute for Public Policy

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A Board of Directors—representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities—governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.