

The Working Families Tax Credit would support kids in early childhood

The Working Families Tax Credit, our state's expansion of the highly successful Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), could help Washington's children thrive in school, both immediately and over a lifetime. Research has shown that refundable tax credits like the Working Families Tax Credit:

Promote healthy childhood development



Children in families that receive the EITC are healthier than their counterparts in families that do not receive the credit.¹ The credit has been linked to reduced low birthweight babies^{2,3} and meaningful improvements in child development.⁴

Lift children out of poverty



The Earned Income Tax Credit has lifted millions of families with young children out of poverty.¹ Economic hardships, like not having stable housing or regular meals, creates toxic stress for children. These adverse experiences in childhood can have ripple effects throughout a child's lifetime, including lower achievement in school.⁵ The Working Families Tax Credit would put Washington's children on a path to success by putting money into the pockets of families with low incomes.

Support the long-term educational success of children



Tax credit increases have been linked to higher math and reading scores among elementary and middle schoolers, with a boost to child test scores immediately after families receive funds.⁶⁻⁹ Children in families that receive the credit are also more likely to graduate high school on time.⁹ The benefits are greater in families with young children and for families with low incomes.⁸

Sources:

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