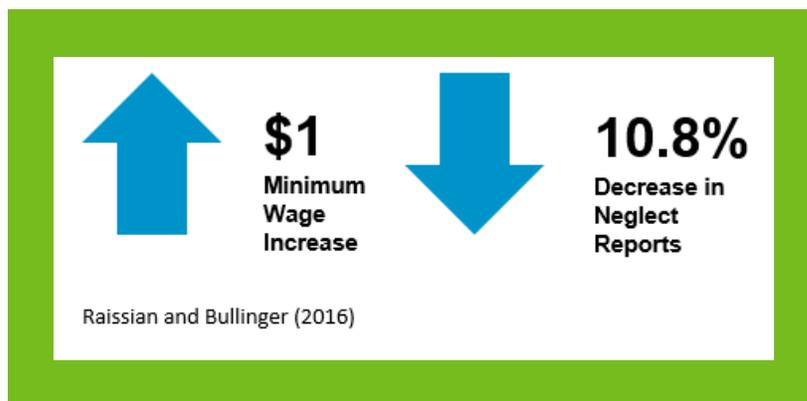


# KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION BRIEF

## Poverty in California

Children who live in poverty are **3 times** more likely to be abused and **7 times** more likely to be neglected than children in higher socioeconomic status families (Sedlak et al., 2010). Families in poverty are at a high risk of experiencing chronic stress which could significantly reduce the caregivers' ability to meet their child's basic needs.

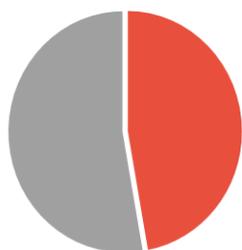
For example, Raissian and Bullinger (2016) examined data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to understand the relationship between minimum wage and child maltreatment rates. The results are noteworthy for finding solutions that improve child and family outcomes.



A \$1 increase to the minimum wage **decreased** neglect reports for young children (0-5 years) by 10.8% and school-aged (6-12 years old) by 9.2%. The results provide evidence that “increases in minimum wage reduce the risk of child welfare involvement particularly for neglect reports” (p. 65).

A 2010 study found if low income families received a \$3000 a year increase in additional income before the child turned 6 years old; the child's adult annual earnings **increased** by 17% (Duncan et al., 2010). Research is demonstrating outcomes for family and child well-being are improved if caregivers' disposable income is increased.

How can family strengthening professionals help low-income families increase their income?



47.2%

of California Children are poor or near poor

Bohn and Danielson (2017)

### Take Action

Linking families to support and benefit programs such as [CalWorks](#), [CalFresh](#), and [First Five](#) can help increase a family's income; however this is often not enough.

As family strengthening professionals, it is important to be knowledgeable about resources and assist families to

creatively and proactively tap into resources. For example, Amazon recently announced customers with valid EBT cards can get a [Prime](#) subscription for \$6 a month. A benefit

of a Prime membership is free two-day shipping and access to AmazonFresh, a grocery delivery service.

For a low income family that struggles with enough money to fill a gas tank, the immediate access to a few extra dollars a month might be enough to make a substantial difference. Additionally, utilities and other agencies offer reduced cost for services such as [electricity](#),

[water, and legal assistance](#). Linking families to existing and untapped resources may help families have more options in how they spend their limited income, thus reducing some of the stressors low income families face.



## Strategies 2.0

Strategies 2.0 offers training, consultation, peer learning, and other professional development opportunities both in-person and online at no cost to you. Services are designed to help organizations and individuals develop the skills, organizational structure, and collaborative relationships necessary to mitigate the risk factors of child abuse and neglect.

## Resources

For additional information on understanding the complexity of poverty, check out:

Beegle, D. (2007) See poverty: Be the difference. Oregon: Communication Across Barriers.

Hughes, K. (2017). SACHS review of the research: Innovative approaches to reducing poverty. The Academy of Professional Excellence. Retrieved from: <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/sachs-poverty-report-feb-2017-2.pdf>

Raising up the children:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/publications/Pages/Obesity-Prevention-Project.aspx>

## References

Bohn, S. & Danielson, C. (2017). Just the facts: Child poverty in California. Public Policy Institute of California.

Duncan et al., (2010). Early childhood poverty and adult attainment, behavior and health. Child Development 81:1, p. 306-352

Raissan & Bullinger (2016). Money matters: Does the minimum wage affect child maltreatment rates? Children and Youth Services Review 72, 60-70.

Sedlak et al., (2010). Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4): Report to Congress. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

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