

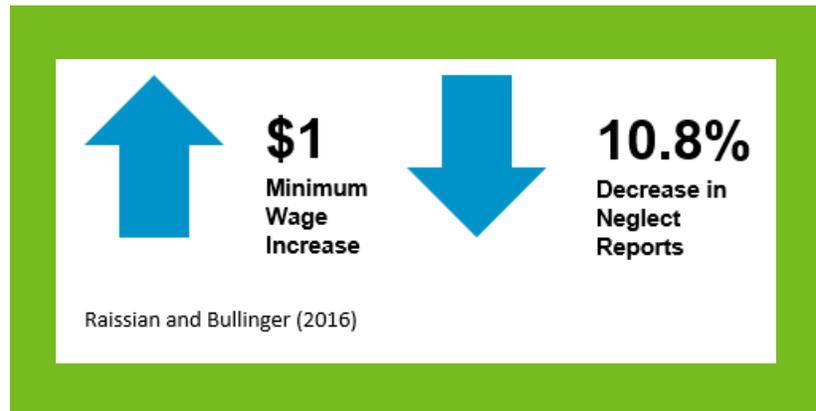
# KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION BRIEF

## 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).

In 2016, 20% of children in California were living in poverty and 15% were living in high poverty areas (Annie E Casey Foundation, 2018). Additionally, 31% of children were among those whose parents lacked secure employment and 44% of children lived in a household with a high housing cost burden (Annie E Casey Foundation, 2018).



The 2018 Kids Count Profile by the Annie E. Casey Foundation found that the percentage of single parent families in California went up to 34% in 2016 from 33% in 2010. Further, a large portion of individuals in poverty in California are working families. For nearly half of those in poverty in California, a minimum of one family member worked full time throughout the year and 34.7% worked part time or part of the year (Bohn and Danielson, 2017). However, 3% of children in California were without health insurance, a notable and significant decrease from 9% in 2010 (Annie E Casey Foundation, 2018).

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. If a caregiver is not able to "devote as much time to parenting due to a lack of financial resources, the quantity and quality of parenting and willingness to invest in children may decrease" (Raissian and Bullinger, 2016, p. 61).

Data examined from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) to understand the relationship between minimum wage and child maltreatment rates found that 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" (Raissian and Bullinger, 2016, p. 65).

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

- 1) Link families to support and benefit programs such as [CalWorks](#), [CalFresh](#), and [First Five](#) which can help increase a family's income.
- 2) Assist families in creatively and proactively accessing untapped resources. For example, utility companies and other agencies often offer reduced costs for services such as [electricity, water, and legal assistance](#).
- 3) Connect families with local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies to support them in accessing affordable child care. Visit <https://rrnetwork.org/> to search for your local CCR&R.

### Resources:

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.](#)

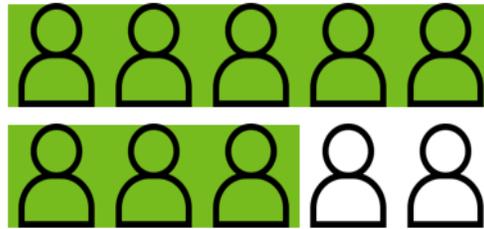
### References:

Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2018). 2019 Kids Count Profile. *Children Now*. Retrieved from [https://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC\\_profiles\\_CA.pdf](https://www.aecf.org/m/databook/2018KC_profiles_CA.pdf)

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

Raission & 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.



8 in 10

Poor California Children live in working families

Bohn and Danielson (2017)

## Strategies 2.0

Strategies 2.0 is a multi-dimensional initiative to help professionals and organizations make a bigger impact.

We train, support, and link professionals and organizations together to more effectively support families as well as build power to advance equity and opportunity in our communities.

