

POLICY



## STATE MINIMUM WAGE

A state minimum wage of at least \$10.00 per hour is one of the five most effective policies a state can implement to ensure children get off to a healthy start and thrive, and that promote greater equity in child wellbeing.

The federal minimum wage requires that most hourly workers be paid at least \$7.25, but states can establish higher wage thresholds.

The most rigorous research studies show that an increase in the minimum wage:

IMPACT OF STATE MINIMUM WAGE	EVIDENCE OF IMPACT
Increases earnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 10% increase in the minimum wage led to a 3.5% increase in earnings for low-income families</li> </ul>
Has no adverse effects on employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For children under age 6 whose mothers had no college degree, a 10% boost in the minimum wage increased the likelihood of parental employment by 7.4%</li> </ul>
Reduces poverty rates among children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For children under age 6 whose mothers had no college degree, a 10% increase in the minimum wage reduced poverty by 9.7%</li> </ul>
Improves birth outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$1.00 minimum wage increase above the federal level led to approximately a 2% decrease in low birthweight and a 4% decrease in postneonatal mortality</li> </ul>
Reduces child neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A \$1.00 increase in the minimum wage reduced child neglect reports by 10.8% for children under age 5</li> </ul>

► Go to [pn3policy.org/clearinghouse](https://pn3policy.org/clearinghouse) for the comprehensive evidence review on state minimum wage.

[pn3policy.org](https://pn3policy.org)

The prenatal period to age 3 is the most sensitive and rapid period of growth for the brain and body. State policy choices have a substantial impact on the wellbeing of infants, toddlers, and their parents, and on promoting equity among children. See the Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap at [pn3policy.org](https://pn3policy.org) for more information on the most effective policies and strategies states can implement to help children thrive from the start.