

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	\$33,584	\$12,319	\$21,265	(\$1,931)	\$31,652	\$17.39	95%
Intensive Family Preservation Services (HOMEBUILDERS®)	Aug. 2017	\$21,081	\$11,704	\$9,377	(\$4,109)	\$16,971	\$5.13	96%
Subsidized guardianship (Title IV-E waivers)	Aug. 2017	\$6,949	\$1,511	\$5,438	\$4,271	\$11,220	n/a	99%
SafeCare	Aug. 2017	\$5,222	\$1,993	\$3,229	(\$218)	\$5,004	\$23.94	93%
Alternative Response	Nov. 2018	\$2,381	\$863	\$1,519	(\$287)	\$2,095	\$8.31	85%
Flexible funding (Title IV-E waivers)	Apr. 2012	\$1,821	\$574	\$1,247	\$0	\$1,821	n/a	90%
Promoting First Relationships	Jun. 2021	\$993	\$897	\$96	(\$1,542)	(\$549)	\$0.64	47%
Other Family Preservation Services (non-HOMEBUILDERS®)	Aug. 2017	(\$5,870)	(\$1,311)	(\$4,559)	(\$3,775)	(\$9,645)	(\$1.55)	0%
Family dependency treatment court	Aug. 2017	(\$8,170)	(\$1,942)	(\$6,227)	(\$6,494)	(\$14,664)	(\$1.26)	9%
Youth Villages LifeSet (YV LifeSet) for former foster youth	Jul. 2019	(\$4,754)	\$366	(\$5,121)	(\$11,545)	(\$16,300)	(\$0.41)	6%

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.
King County Family Treatment Court	May. 2019	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.
Extended Foster Care in Washington State	Jun. 2020	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.

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Washington State Institute for Public Policy

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