

Selected Resources on Preparing Youth for the Workforce

For further information, we list selected resources below. For most organizations we provide a primary contact person, and relevant reports from the organization when available.

Wisconsin Legislative Service Agencies

Wisconsin Legislative Council

1 East Main Street, Suite 401

P.O. Box 2536

Madison, WI 53703

(608) 266-1304

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc>

Contact: Jessica L. Karls-Ruplinger, Senior Staff Attorney

(608) 266-2230

jessica.karls@legis.wisconsin.gov

Interests: Labor and employment

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau

1 East Main Street, Suite 301

Madison, WI 53703

(608) 266-3847

fiscal.bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

State Agencies

Department of Children and Families

201 East Washington Avenue, Second Floor

P.O. Box 8916

Madison, WI 53708

<http://dcf.wi.gov>

Contact: Sara Buschman, Executive Assistant

(608) 261-6588

sara.buschman@wisconsin.gov

Department of Public Instruction

125 South Webster Street

P.O. Box 7841

Madison, WI 53707

(608) 266-3390

<http://dpi.state.wi.us>

Contact: Sharon W. Wendt, Director, Career and Technical Education Team

(608) 267-9251

sharon.wendt@dpi.wi.gov

Department of Revenue

2135 Rimrock Road
Madison, WI 53713
(608) 266-2772
<http://revenue.wi.gov>

Contact: John Koskinen, Chief Economist & Division Administrator, Research and Policy
(608) 267-8973
john.koskinen@revenue.wi.gov
Interests: Wisconsin economy, tax policy

Department of Workforce Development

201 East Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3131
<http://dwd.wisconsin.gov>

Contact: Dennis Winters, Chief, Office of Economic Advisors
(608) 267-3262
dennis.winters@dwd.wisconsin.gov
Interests: Economic development, workforce development, education, per capita income, early childhood development

University Institutes, Extension, & Technical Colleges**School of Business, UW-Madison**

975 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 265-4937
<http://www.bus.wisc.edu>

Contact: Stephen Malpezzi, Lorin and Marjorie Tiefenthaler Professor, Graaskamp Center for Real Estate
(608) 262-6007
smalpezzi@bus.wisc.edu
<http://smalpezzi.marginalq.com>
<http://wisconsinviewpoint.blogspot.com>
Interests: Housing, real estate, urban development, regional economics, local economic development

School of Social Work, UW-Madison

1350 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 263-3660
<http://socwork.wisc.edu>

Contact: Katherine Magnuson
(608) 263-4812
kmagnuson@wisc.edu

Interests: Early childhood policy, early childhood education, family support, child care

University of Wisconsin-Extension

Center for Community & Economic Development
610 Langdon Street, Room 336
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 265-8136
<http://uwex.edu/ces/cced>

Contact: Greg Wise, Director, Center for Community & Economic Development
(608) 263-7804
greg.wise@uwex.edu

Wisconsin Center for Education Research, UW-Madison

1025 West Johnson Street, Suite 785
Madison, WI 53706
(608) 263-4200
<http://wcer.wisc.edu>

Contact: Allen Phelps, Senior Scientist
(608) 263-2714
aphelps@education.wisc.edu

Interests: Career and technical education, secondary special education, career and college readiness, education policy

Current research: Improving Educational Outcomes in Manufacturing Engineering Technologist and Technician Education (<http://mette.wceruw.org>)

Wisconsin Technical College System

4622 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 266-1207
<http://wtcsystem.edu>

Contact: Kathleen Cullen, Vice President of Teaching and Learning
(608) 266-9399
cullenk@wtcsystem.edu

Interests: Dual credit offerings, youth options, youth apprenticeship, programs of study and career pathways

State Organizations

Wisconsin Council on Children and Families

555 West Washington Avenue, Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703

(608) 284-0580

<http://wccf.org>

Contact: David Edie, Early Education Policy Analyst

(608) 284-0580 x315

dedie@wccf.org

Interests: Early learning, economic impact of high-quality early learning, YoungStar, 4K, public policy related to early learning and development

The Economic Benefits of Investing in Early Learning (Report, 2009). Available at http://wccf.org/pdf/great_start_investment_ece.pdf

Wisconsin's Early Care and Education Landscape: Planning for a Coherent System (Executive Summary, 2009). Available at http://wccf.org/pdf/ece_executive-summary_dec2009.pdf

Infants and Toddlers: Crucial Years of Development (Policy Brief, 2010). Available at http://wccf.org/pdf/great_start_5_infants_toddlers.pdf

The Unique History of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in Wisconsin (Policy Brief, 2010). Available at http://wccf.org/pdf/great_start_6_history_4K.pdf

Wisconsin Policy Research Institute

P.O. Box 382

Hartland, WI 53029

(262) 367-9940

<http://www.wpri.org>

The Economic Power of Early Childhood Education in Wisconsin (Report, 2012). Available at <http://wpri.org/Reports/Volume25/Vol25No2/Vol25No2.html>

National Organizations

American Youth Policy Forum

Washington, DC

<http://aypf.org>

Supporting High Quality Career and Technical Education through Federal and State Policy (Report, 2008). Available at <http://aypf.org/documents/CTEMeetingPaper.pdf>

Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond (Report, 2009). Available at <http://aypf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/successateverystep.pdf>

College & Career Academy Support Network

Berkeley, CA
<http://casn.berkeley.edu>

Career Academies: A Proven Strategy to Prepare High School Students for College and Careers (Report, 2010). Available at http://casn.berkeley.edu/resource_files/Proven_Strategy_2-25-1010-07-07-03-29-28.pdf

Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University

Cambridge, MA
<http://developingchild.harvard.edu>

A Science-Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy (Report, 2007). Available at http://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/reports_and_working_papers/policy_framework/

MDRC

New York, NY
<http://www.mdrc.org>

Career Academies Project: Linking Education and Careers. Available at http://mdrc.org/project_29_1.html

Career Academies: Long-Term Impacts on Labor Market Outcomes, Educational Attainment, and Transitions to Adulthood (Report, 2008). Available at <http://mdrc.org/publications/482/overview.html>

National Academy Foundation (Career Academy Network)

New York, NY
<http://naf.org>

Pathways to Prosperity, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Cambridge, MA

Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century (Report, 2011). Available at http://gse.harvard.edu/news_events/features/2011/Pathways_to_Prosperty_Feb2011.pdf

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Kalamazoo, MI
<http://upjohninst.org>

Distributional Effects of Early Childhood Programs and Business Incentives and Their Implications for Policy (Working Paper, 2009). Available at http://research.upjohn.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1168&context=up_workingpapers

How Policymakers Should Deal with the Delayed Benefits of Early Childhood Programs (Working Paper, 2009). Available at http://research.upjohn.org/up_workingpapers/150

The White House Council for Community Solutions
Washington, DC

Final Report: Community Solutions for Opportunity Youth (Report, 2012). Available at http://resourcelibrary.gcyf.org/sites/gcyf/files/resources/2012/12_0604whccs_finalreport.pdf

THE FAMILY IMPACT GUIDE FOR POLICYMAKERS

Viewing Policies Through the Family Impact Lens

- ▶ Most policymakers would not think of passing a bill without asking, **“What’s the economic impact?”**
- ▶ This guide encourages policymakers to ask, **“What is the impact of this policy on families?”** **“Would involving families result in more effective and efficient policies?”**

When economic questions arise, economists are routinely consulted for economic data and forecasts. When family questions arise, policymakers can turn to family scientists for data and forecasts to make evidence-informed decisions. The Family Impact Seminars developed this guide to highlight the importance of family impact and to bring the family impact lens to policy decisions.

WHY FAMILY IMPACT IS IMPORTANT TO POLICYMAKERS

Families are the most humane and economical way known for raising the next generation. Families financially support their members, and care for those who cannot always care for themselves—the elderly, frail, ill, and disabled. Yet families can be harmed by stressful conditions—the inability to find a job, afford health insurance, secure quality child care, and send their kids to good schools. Innovative policymakers use research evidence to invest in family policies and programs that work, and to cut those that don’t. Keeping the family foundation strong today pays off tomorrow. Families are a cornerstone for raising responsible children who become caring, committed contributors in a strong democracy, and competent workers in a sound economy.¹

In polls, state legislative leaders endorsed families as a sure-fire vote winner.² Except for two weeks, family-oriented words appeared every week Congress was in session for over a decade; these mentions of *family* cut across gender and political party.³ The symbol of *family* appeals to common values that rise above politics and hold the potential to provide common ground. However, family considerations are not systematically addressed in the normal routines of policymaking.

HOW THE FAMILY IMPACT LENS HAS BENEFITED POLICY DECISIONS

- ▶ In one Midwestern state, using the family impact lens revealed differences in program eligibility depending upon marital status. For example, seniors were less apt to be eligible for the state’s prescription drug program if they were married than if they were unmarried but living together.
- ▶ In a rigorous cost-benefit analysis of 571 criminal justice programs, those most cost-beneficial in reducing future crime were targeted at juveniles. Of these, the five most cost-beneficial rehabilitation programs and the single most cost-beneficial prevention program were family-focused approaches.⁴
- ▶ For youth substance use prevention, programs that changed family dynamics were found to be, on average, over nine times more effective than programs that focused only on youth.⁵

QUESTIONS POLICYMAKERS CAN ASK TO BRING THE FAMILY IMPACT LENS TO POLICY DECISIONS:

- ▶ How are families affected by the issue?
- ▶ In what ways, if any, do families contribute to the issue?
- ▶ Would involving families result in more effective policies and programs?



HOW POLICYMAKERS CAN EXAMINE FAMILY IMPACTS OF POLICY DECISIONS

Nearly all policy decisions have some effect on family life. Some decisions affect families directly (e.g., child support or long-term care), and some indirectly (e.g., corrections or jobs). The family impact discussion starters below can help policymakers figure out what those family impacts are and how family considerations can be taken into account, particularly as policies are being developed.

FAMILY IMPACT DISCUSSION STARTERS

How will the policy, program, or practice:

- ▶ support rather than substitute for family members' responsibilities to one another?
- ▶ reinforce family members' commitment to each other and to the stability of the family unit?
- ▶ recognize the power and persistence of family ties, and promote healthy couple, marital, and parental relationships?
- ▶ acknowledge and respect the diversity of family life (e.g., different cultural, ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds; various geographic locations and socioeconomic statuses; families with members who have special needs; and families at different stages of the life cycle)?
- ▶ engage and work in partnership with families?

Ask for a full Family Impact Analysis

Some issues warrant a full family impact analysis to more deeply examine the intended and unintended consequences of policies on family well-being. To conduct an analysis, use the expertise of (1) family scientists who understand families and (2) policy analysts who understand the specifics of the issue.

- ▶ Family scientists in your state can be found at <http://www.familyimpactseminars.org>
- ▶ Policy analysts can be found on your staff, in the legislature's nonpartisan service agencies, at university policy schools, etc.

Apply the Results

Viewing issues through the family impact lens rarely results in overwhelming support for or opposition to a policy or program. Instead, it can identify how specific family types and particular family functions are affected. These results raise considerations that policymakers can use to make policy decisions that strengthen the many contributions families make for the benefit of their members and the good of society.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Several family impact tools and procedures are available on the website of the Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars at <http://www.familyimpactseminars.org>.

¹ Bogenschneider, K., & Corbett, T. J. (2010). Family policy: Becoming a field of inquiry and subfield of social policy [Family policy decade review]. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72, 783-803.

² State Legislative Leaders Foundation. (1995). *State legislative leaders: Keys to effective legislation for children and families*. Centerville, MA: Author.

³ Strach, P. (2007). *All in the family: The private roots of American public policy*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

⁴ Aos, S., Miller, M., & Drake, E. (2006). *Evidenced-based public policy options to reduce future prison construction, criminal justice costs, and crime rates*. Olympia: WA State Inst. for Public Policy.

⁵ Kumpfer, K. L. (1993, September). *Strengthening America's families: Promising parenting strategies for delinquency prevention—User's guide* (U.S. Department of Justice Publication No. NCJ140781). Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller, UW-Madison.

