

# Reader's Guide to the State Profiles

The state profiles highlight efforts in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (which is treated as a state for simplicity) to promote family economic security and to support child development and family support services. This guide provides information about the data, data sources, and dates of data collection. Some of the data were gathered and analyzed by NCCP; other data were drawn from secondary sources, as noted below.

- **General note about references to poverty levels:**

There are two official measures of the federal poverty level (FPL): poverty thresholds and poverty guidelines. Poverty thresholds are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each fall by the U.S. Census Bureau and are used mainly for statistical purposes—for instance, preparing estimates of the number of Americans in poverty. The poverty guidelines are issued each winter by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The guidelines simplify the poverty thresholds so they can be used for administrative purposes—for instance, to determine financial eligibility for certain federal programs. The explanations of indicators below note which measure was used where applicable.

- **General note about data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, March Current Population Surveys:**

Given the small sample sizes in less-populated states, NCCP averaged three years of data: 1994, 1996, and 1998. Three out of five years were selected to avoid any duplication of cases, since many respondents are interviewed for two years in a row. See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for more information.

## MINNESOTA

**1** 423,632 young children (0-6)

**3** Percent of young children who live in poverty

State	Percent
MI	17.6%
US	23.1%

**2** State rank in income inequality: 36 (1 is most unequal)

**4** Percent of young children who are low-income (below 200% of the federal poverty level, FPL)

State	Percent
MI	35.3%
US	48.0%

**5** State median income for families with young children

State	Income
MI	\$40,004
US	\$28,910

### State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

**9** Wage and Income Supports

**Income tax policies**

- State income tax threshold is at or above the federal poverty level for a single-parent family of three
- Refundable earned income credit—% of federal credit: 34.0%\*
- Refundable dependent care credit—Maximum credit for a family with two or more dependents: \$1,400

**Minimum wage**

- Above federal level of \$5.15

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)\*\***

Maximum annual TANF benefit for a single-parent family of three with no earnings: \$9,468

Percent of state median income: N/A

Percent of federal poverty level: N/A

**6** Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty

State	Percent
MI	7.7%
US	7.7%

**7** Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time

State	Percent
MI	65.0%
US	51.0%

**10** Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

**CCDF subsidy coverage**

Children who use CCDF subsidies as a percent of those who would be eligible under maximum federal guidelines: MN: 6% US: 12%

**Subsidy purchasing power**

- Maximum payment rate set at or above 75th percentile of market rate based on a recent survey

**Subsidy co-payment burden**

- Co-payment does not exceed 10% of income for single-parent family of three at 150% FPL.

**State spending**

- Transfers TANF block grant funds to CCDF

**8** Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance

State	Percent
MI	22.2%
US	20.7%

**11** Health and Nutrition Assistance

**Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels**

- Infants (0-1 year) above 200% FPL (MN: 280% FPL)\*\*
- Children (1-6 years) above 200% FPL (MN: 275% FPL)
- Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid (single-parent family of three)

Income eligibility limit: \$37,538

Percent of federal poverty level: 275.0%

**Food stamp coverage**

Young children (under age 5) who receive benefits as a percent of those below 130% FPL: MN: 48.4% US: 58.5%

**Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)**

- State supplements WIC funding

\* This is an average; the percent varies by earnings.  
 \*\* Minnesota provides a risk grant that combines TANF and food stamp benefits; \$9,468 is the total amount.  
 \*\*\* Children below age 2 are covered up to 280% FPL.  
 Data are most recent available (ranging from 1998 to 2000). Bar graph data are averaged across 1994, 1996, and 1998. See Reader's Guide.

## MINNESOTA

### State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

**12** Overview

Minnesota continues to fund a variety of child development and family support services for young children and their families, many of which have universal eligibility. Funding levels have not changed significantly since *Map and Track* 1998, only the Early Childhood Family Education program has had an increase. The state has continued a systems development effort to improve and integrate early care and education services to promote school readiness.

**0-6** **Early Childhood Family Education** offers parent-child activities, parent education groups, play and learning for children, family events, home visits, health and developmental screenings, and information about community resources to families with children from birth to age 5. The core service is ongoing classes for parents and their children which meet a maximum of 1.5 hours per week.

Eligibility:  Low income  Selected risk factors

Funding: \$20.8 million (FY00) ▲

Served: 305,000 parents and children (FY00)

**Home Visiting to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect** provides assessments, home visits, and referrals to needed services to families at risk of child abuse or neglect, from the prenatal stage until children turn age 6. The state provides funds to local community health boards for five years to build infrastructure and enhance local service delivery. Fifteen projects serve 21 percent of counties and one reservation.

Eligibility:  Low income  Selected risk factors

Funding: \$500,000 (FY00) ▼

Served: 800 families (FY00)

**13** Programs for Young Children and Their Families

**0-3** **Early Head Start Supplement** \$1 million (FY00) ◆

**Minnesota Healthy Beginnings Home Visiting** offers expectant and new parents information on parenting, infant growth and development, and health and safety; support for strengthening parenting; and links to community resources. Services are provided through local collaborations that include public health, early childhood family education, and community agencies. Six counties are served.

Eligibility:  Low income  Selected risk factors

Funding: \$870,000 (FY00) ◆

Served: N/A

**14** The Transition to School

Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-K:

- Required  Encouraged
- None reported  Not applicable

**Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:**

- Full-day  Half-day  Not required
- Compulsory  Voluntary

**3-6** **Head Start Supplement** \$17.4 million (FY00) ◆

**School Readiness** supports flexible child development programming and funds more than 20 types of services, such as prekindergarten, kindergarten preparation, home visits, summer programs, and links to family literacy programs. Services offered depend on community need, but all target 3 1/2- and 4-year-olds and their families to promote school readiness. Although open to all children, those with greatest need are given priority. The program is available in 99 percent of school districts.

Eligibility:  Low income  Selected risk factors

Funding: \$10.4 million (FY00) ◆

Served: 44,889 children, includes all services (FY99)

**15** Early Childhood Systems Development

The Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Children, Families & Learning to develop a plan by January 2001 for improving and integrating early care and education services. The plan, *No Better Time: Starting Early for School Success*, identifies outcomes that focus on three components of school readiness: (1) readiness in the child; (2) schools' readiness for children; and (3) relevant family and community supports. An early childhood workgroup is developing specific proposals with input from a broad range of stakeholders.

**6-16** **Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening** screens 1 1/2- to 4-year-olds to address conditions interfering with young children's health, growth, development, and learning. Results are used to prioritize children for services through School Readiness (see above). Children must be screened before they can enroll in public school.

Eligibility:  Low income  Selected risk factors

Funding: \$2.5 million (FY00)

Served: 61,000 children (FY00)

**16** Related Initiatives

The state interagency *Children's Cabinet* develops policies and strategies to meet the state's benchmarks for children (Minnesota Milestones).

Funding change since *Map and Track* 1998: ▲ increase ▼ decrease ◆ no significant change T includes TANF funds

National Center for Children in Poverty

Map and Track: 2000 Edition—Reader's Guide 1

## 1 Number of young children (0–6)

*Explanation of indicator:* Estimate of the number of children under age 6 in the state, derived from averaging three years of data: 1994, 1996, and 1998.

*Source:* NCCP analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, March Current Population Surveys.

*Dates of data:* 1994, 1996, and 1998

## 2 State rank in income inequality

*Explanation of indicator:* State rank (out of 51, including the District of Columbia) based on the income gap between the average income of the poorest fifth of families and the average income of the richest fifth of families in that state (1 is the most unequal).

*Source:* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Bernstein, J.; McNichol, E. C.; Mishel, L.; & Zahradnik, R. (January 2000).

*Pulling apart: A state-by-state analysis of income trends*, Chapter 2, Table 2: Ratio of Incomes of Top and Bottom Fifths of Families with Children, 1996–1998.

*Dates of data:* 1996–1998

## Profiles of Low-income Young Children (bar graphs)

The following indicators compare the state with the U.S. as a whole.

*Explanation of indicators:*

### 3 Percent of young children who live in poverty

Percent of children under age 6 living in families with income below the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold. Between 1994 and 1998, the poverty threshold for a family of three ranged from \$11,821 to \$13,003.

### 4 Percent of young children who are low-income

Percent of children under age 6 living in families with income below 200 percent of the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold. Between 1994 and 1998, 200 percent of the poverty threshold for a family of three ranged from \$23,642 to \$26,006.

### 5 State median income for families with young children

Median income level of families with children under age 6 in the state. The median is the point at which half the population is above and half is below that income level.

### 6 Percent of young children with at least one parent working full-time who remain in poverty

Poverty rate among young children living in single- or two-parent families with at least one parent working full-time, full-year.

## 7 Percent of low-income young children whose parents are employed full- or part-time

Among low-income young children (below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold), percent living either in single-parent families with one parent employed (full- or part-time) or in two-parent families with both parents employed (full- or part-time).

## 8 Percent of low-income young children who lack health insurance

Among low-income young children (below 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold), percent reported to lack health insurance. (See Appendix A: *Technical Appendix for Demographic Statistics* for information about how to interpret this figure.)

*Source:* NCCP analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics, March Current Population Surveys.

*Dates of data:* 1994, 1996, and 1998

## State Efforts to Promote Family Economic Security

### 9 Wage and Income Supports

#### *Income tax policies*

Most states tax personal income. States that do not are marked “not applicable” (N/A).

#### **State income tax threshold**

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state tax threshold for a single-parent family of three is above the poverty level. The tax threshold is the income level at which a family begins to owe state income tax. NCCP compared the tax threshold in 1999 to the 2000 federal poverty guideline for a family of three (\$14,150); the 2000 guideline was used because it reflects price changes through calendar year 1999.

*Source:* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Johnson, N.; Zahradnik, R.; & McNichol, E. C. (March 2000). *State income tax burdens on low-income families in 1999*, p. 13, Table 1A: State Income Tax Thresholds for Single-Parent Families of Three, 1999.

*Date of data:* Tax year 1999

#### **Refundable earned income credit**

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state offers a refundable earned income credit. State earned income credits are modeled on the federal Earned Income Tax Credit; they typically follow federal eligibility guidelines and are expressed as a percentage of the federal credit. Only refundable credits are noted here, as nonrefundable credits provide no benefits to families whose incomes are too low to owe state taxes.

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Johnson, N. (November 2000). *A hand up: How state earned income tax credits help working families escape poverty: 2000 edition*, p. 18, Table 4: State Earned Income Tax Credits Based on the Federal EITC, Tax Year 2000.

Date of data: November 2000

### Refundable dependent care credit

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state offers a refundable dependent care credit. State dependent care credits are modeled on the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, although often with additional eligibility limits. Only refundable credits are noted here, as nonrefundable credits provide no benefits to families whose incomes are too low to owe state taxes.

Source: National Women's Law Center, Steinschneider, J.; Donahue, E. H.; Campbell, N. D.; & Williams, V. L. (April 1998). *Making care less taxing: Improving state child and dependent care tax provisions*, pp. 27–32, Appendix: State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credits: Tax Year 1997; with updates from National Women's Law Center. (January 2000). Recent changes in state child and dependent care tax provisions: Tax year 2000 [unpublished table].

Date of data: December 31, 1999

### Minimum wage

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state has a minimum wage (applicable to nonsupervisory, nonfarm, private sector employment) that exceeds the federal standard.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor. (2000). Minimum wage laws in the states, Table: Minimum Wage and Overtime Premium Pay Standards Applicable to Nonsupervisory NONFARM Private Sector Employment Under State and Federal Laws, August 1, 2000.

Date of data: August 1, 2000

### Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

*Explanation of indicator:* Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance benefits for a single-parent family of three with no earnings, multiplied by 12 to obtain an annual figure. In states where welfare benefits vary by region or for different categories of recipients, the benefit level used is the one that applies to the largest number of TANF recipients in the state. NCCP compared the maximum annual benefit in 2000 to the state median income for families with young children (as reported at the top of the state page). Maximum annual benefit amount was also compared to the 2000 federal poverty guideline for a family of three (\$14,150). The 2000 guideline was used because it was the most recent guideline available at the time of publication, although it reflects price changes only through calendar year 1999.

Source: State Policy Documentation Project. (2000). TANF cash assistance: Categorical and financial eligibility rules:

Monthly Cash Assistance and Food Stamp Benefits for Single-Parent Family of Three with No Earnings, 2000 [table].

Date of data: June 2000

## 10 Child Care Assistance (through the Child Care and Development Fund, CCDF)

### CCDF subsidy coverage

*Explanation of indicator:* CCDF subsidy coverage rates standardized by estimating the number of children who *would be eligible* for subsidies if each state adopted the maximum federal eligibility guideline and comparing this figure to the number of children actually served. Calculations include only CCDF subsidies; other state child care subsidies are not included.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (December 2000). Child Care and Development Block Grant/Child Care and Development Fund: Children served in Fiscal Year 1999 (average monthly). This table updates the information reported in Table 1: Estimates of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Eligibility and Receipt: Children (Average Monthly Estimate) in *Access to child care for low-income working families*. (October 1999).

Date of data: Fiscal year 1999

### Subsidy purchasing power

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state rates for providers are set at a level not lower than the 75th percentile of the local market rate based on the results of a recent market rate survey (conducted in 1997 or later), as recommended by federal guidelines.

Source: Children's Defense Fund, Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). *State developments in child care and early education, 1999*, pp. 34–35, Table 3: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: State Child Care Reimbursement Rates.

Date of data: June 1, 1999

### Subsidy co-payment burden

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state subsidy co-payment rates do not exceed 10 percent of a family's income, as recommended by federal guidelines. Analysis is based on the co-payment rates required of a family of three living at 150 percent of the 1999 federal poverty guideline (\$20,820). States where the subsidy eligibility level for a family of three is set below 150 percent of the poverty level are marked "not applicable" (N/A).

Source: Children's Defense Fund, Blank, H. & Poersch, N. O. (1999). *State developments in child care and early education, 1999*, pp. 26–27, Table 2: June 1, 1999 Snapshot: Co-payments for a Family of Three at 150 Percent of FPL.

Date of data: June 1, 1999

## State spending

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if TANF funds from fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 were transferred to CCDF in fiscal year 1999.

*Source:* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2000). TANF program expenditures in FY 1999 through the 4th quarter, Table D: Percentages of Transfer Amounts to CCDF and SSBG.

*Date of data:* Fiscal year 1999

## 11 Health and Nutrition Assistance

### Maximum Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility levels

#### Infants (0–1 year) above 200% FPL Children (1–6 years) above 200% FPL

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if Medicaid/CHIP eligibility levels for infants (0–1 year) and children (1–6 years) are above 200% FPL; where a state has implemented a separate CHIP program with an eligibility limit that differs from Medicaid, the higher of the two limits is used. Federal law requires states to set Medicaid eligibility for children under age 6 no lower than 133 percent of the federal poverty level, and CHIP offers states incentives to expand health coverage for children up to 200 percent of the poverty level.

*Source:* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2000). State income eligibility guidelines for children's Medicaid and separate child health insurance programs [table].

*Date of data:* April 5, 2000

#### Parent earning poverty-level wages is eligible for Medicaid

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if Medicaid eligibility limit for parents applying for coverage is at or above the poverty level, as compared to the 1998 federal poverty guideline for a family of three (continental United States: \$13,650; Alaska: \$17,070; Hawaii: \$15,700). These data are based on a 3-person family with one wage earner that does not receive cash assistance and does not pay child care expenses out-of-pocket; data assume that the family's only source of income is earnings.

*Source:* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Guyer, J. & Mann, C. (February 1999). *Employed but not insured: A state-by-state analysis of the number of low-income working parents who lack health insurance*, p.11, Table 3: How Much Can a Working Parent Who is Applying for Medicaid Earn and Still Be Eligible for Coverage?

*Date of data:* February 1999

### Food stamp coverage

*Explanation of indicator:* Estimate of the percent of eligible children under age 5 enrolled in food stamps. To be eligible for food stamps, a family must have a gross income at or below

130 percent of the poverty level and a net income at or below the poverty level. In the absence of recent data on the percent of eligible young children enrolled in food stamps in each state, NCCP created a proxy: the estimated number of children under age 5 living below 130 percent of the federal poverty level is compared to the number of children under age 5 receiving food stamps. Since this measure only approximates eligibility, reported coverage rates may exceed 100 percent.

*Source:* U.S. Department of Agriculture. (February 2000). *Characteristics of food stamp households: Fiscal year 1998*, p. 80, Appendix B, Table B-10: Distribution of Participants by Age and by State.

*Date of data:* Fiscal year 1998

### Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

*Explanation of indicator:* Checked if state supplements federal WIC allocation.

*Source:* U.S. Department of Agriculture, Supplemental Food Programs Division. (March 2, 2000). WIC program: State appropriations—fiscal year 2000 [unpublished table].

*Date of data:* Fiscal year 2000

## State Child Development and Family Support Efforts

To collect this information, NCCP sent a survey to a single informant in each state who was identified by the National Governors' Association as an early childhood contact, generally in the Governor's Office. Surveys were followed up between April and October 2000 with phone calls to over 300 informants across state departments for education, human services, and health. After the data were compiled, all informants were asked to verify the accuracy of the information.

## 12 Overview

The overview describes changes in state child development and family support efforts since *Map and Track 1998*.

## 13 Programs for Young Children and Their Families

This section contains brief descriptions of the state's child development and family support programs, including target populations and services offered. To be included, programs had to meet the following criteria:

*Focus:* Programs have a central focus on child development and/or family support, such as an explicit focus on promoting positive parent-child relationships or school readiness. Programs whose *predominant* focus is child care or health were excluded. Programs that serve only children with identified developmental delays or disabilities were also excluded; however, programs that serve children *at risk* for developmental delay because of environmental factors such as poverty were included.

**Funding:** Programs were funded in fiscal year 2000 with state funds or federal TANF funds. Programs funded by multiple sources were included as long as the amount of state and/or TANF funding met the scale criterion (see below).

**Scale:** Programs have a fiscal year 2000 state and/or TANF spending level equal to or greater than \$1.00 per child under age 6 in the state.

Programs are grouped by the ages of children served:

- 0–3 Infants and toddlers up to age 3.
- 3–6 Preschoolers ages 3 to 6.
- 0–6 Children from birth to age 6; may include specific services for infants and toddlers and/or preschool-aged children.
- Other Children of all ages.

Programs implemented since *Map and Track 1998* are marked “New.”

### Eligibility:

Indicates criteria for determining a child’s eligibility for services (see program description for more information).

- Low income Eligibility based on income criteria.
- Selected risk Eligibility based on selected risk factors, which may include poverty among others.
- Universal Eligibility not restricted by income or risk factors.

### Funding:

State funds and/or federal TANF funds reported for fiscal year 2000. Where dramatic increases were reported for fiscal year 2001, these figures are also noted.

- T Funding includes federal TANF funds
- ▲ Funding has increased by more than 10 percent since *Map and Track 1998*
- ▼ Funding has decreased by more than 10 percent since *Map and Track 1998*
- ◆ Funding has not changed by more than 10 percent since *Map and Track 1998*

### Served:

Reported number of children, families, or individuals served, as noted. Figures reported were the most recent available.

## 14 The Transition to School

### Transition efforts through state-funded Head Start or pre-k:

- Required State requires programs to have a plan for preparing children for the transition to kindergarten.
- Encouraged State encourages programs to have a transition plan.

- None reported No transition efforts reported.
- Not applicable State does not supplement Head Start or fund other prekindergarten services.

### Kindergarten—school districts required to provide:

- Full-day All districts are required to provide full-day kindergarten services.
- Half-day All districts are required to provide half-day kindergarten services.
- Not required School districts are not required to provide kindergarten services.

### Kindergarten attendance:

- Compulsory Parents are required to enroll their children in kindergarten.
- Voluntary Parents may choose whether to enroll their children in kindergarten.

## 15 Early Childhood Systems Development

This section describes reported early childhood systems development initiatives, defined as strategies to develop the infrastructure, resources, and leadership necessary to create a coordinated system of services and supports to address the many needs of young children and their families. Also included here are systems development strategies that target children of all ages but have a specific focus on young children.

## 16 Related Initiatives

This section describes reported systems development efforts that target children of all ages, without a specific focus on young children.