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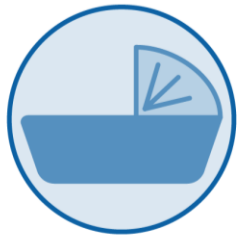
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# Working-Family Tax Credits help at Every Stage of Life

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) not only reward work and reduce poverty for low- and moderate-income working families with children, but a growing body of research shows that they help families at virtually every stage of life:



**Improved infant and maternal health:** Researchers have found links between increased EITCs and improvements in infant health indicators such as birth weight and premature birth. Research also suggests receiving an expanded EITC may improve maternal health.



**Better school performance:** Elementary and middle-school students whose families receive larger refundable credits (such as the EITC and CTC) tend to have higher test scores in the year of receipt.



**Greater college enrollment:** Young children in low-income families that benefit from expanded state or federal EITCs are more likely to go to college, research finds. Researchers attribute this to lasting academic gains from higher EITCs in middle school and earlier. Increased tax refunds also boost college attendance by making college more affordable for families with high-school seniors, research finds.



**Increased work and earnings in the next generation:** For each \$3,000 a year in added income that children in a working-poor family receive before age 6, they work an average of 135 more hours a year between ages 25 and 37 and their average annual earnings increase by 17 percent, leading researchers have found.



**Social Security retirement benefits:** Research suggests that by boosting the employment and earnings of working-age women, the EITC boosts their Social Security retirement benefits, which should reduce poverty in old age. (Social Security benefits are based on how much one works and earns.)

Note: For further details on the research, see Chuck Marr, Chye-Ching Huang, and Arloc Sherman, “Earned Income Tax Credit Promotes Work, Encourages Children’s Success at School, Research Finds,” CBPP