

Free, all-day early care sets families on a better financial trajectory.

New research shows **big** effects on family income that **last** for many years.

For families in New Haven, CT selected by lottery for free, all-day pre-K, compared to those not selected:

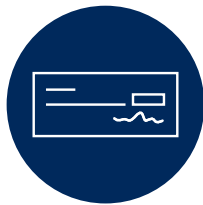
WHEN EARLY CARE HOURS ALLOW PARENTS TO WORK FULL TIME, THEY DO.

Parents work **13 MORE HOURS** per week during pre-K years.

Full-day care helps parents keep their jobs without interruptions, significantly increasing income.

“
I was able to continue working full time. Without the program I would’ve had to quit my job.”
- Enrolled Parent

ENROLLMENT RAISES PARENTS’ EARNINGS BY 22%.



Parents make **\$7,200 MORE** each year enrolled



reduce out-of-pocket costs by **\$4,500** each year enrolled



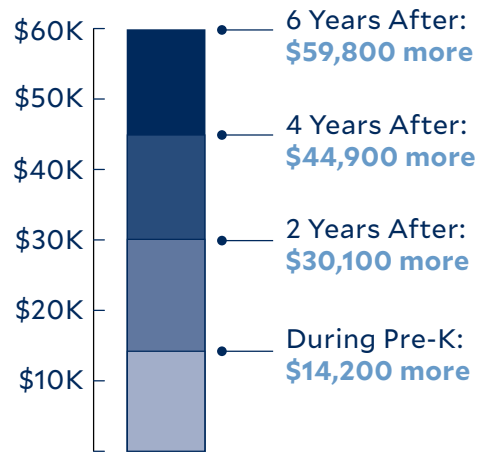
netting **\$11,700** each year when enrolled.

AFTER PRE-K, FAMILIES CONTINUE TO EARN MORE FOR AT LEAST 6 YEARS.

The unselected families may never catch up.

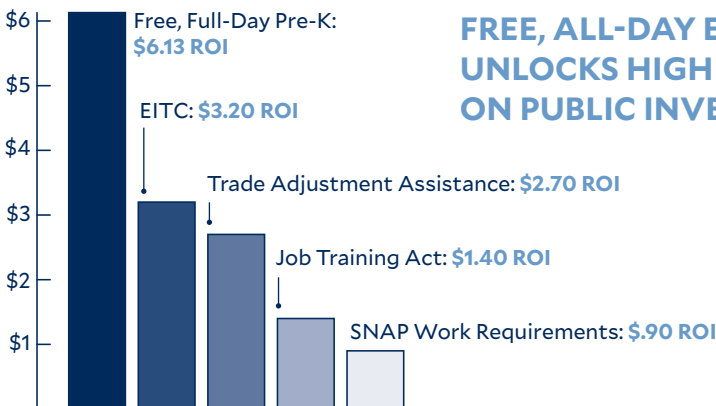
During and for six years after, families with enrolled children make **\$59,800 MORE** than families not enrolled.

CUMULATIVE EARNINGS ADVANTAGE



Why does the earnings gap persist after parent work hours even out?
Job continuity is key to earnings growth.

BENEFITS PER DOLLAR OF SPENDING



FREE, ALL-DAY EARLY CARE UNLOCKS HIGH RETURN ON PUBLIC INVESTMENT.

All figures are averages and dollars are adjusted for inflation (2024 \$)

“
Our main finding is that universal pre-K is one of the most cost-effective active labor market policies ever evaluated in the US.”
- Study Authors

NBER WORKING PAPER No 33038 (2024) | Parents’ Earnings & the Returns To Universal Pre-Kindergarten. John Eric Humphries, Christopher Nielson, Xiaoyang Ye, Seth D. Zimmerman