



## **Call for Nominations for Learning Community on Family Economic Well-Being Research**

### **Background**

Existing literature suggests that family economic well-being is an important protective factor to counter child maltreatment. Nationwide, there is growing interest in strengthening families by investing in family economic well-being, including by mitigating income volatility (reducing variance in income over time) and its effects. There are many potential policy and programmatic avenues to address issues related to income volatility, and recent advances in data integration across government systems allow for even more creative approaches. Yet the conversation around income volatility as a lever for change is just beginning.

### **Goal**

In collaboration with the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC), the [Colorado Lab at the University of Denver](#) seeks to convene a Learning Community on Family Economic Well-Being Research to align the needs of policymakers and the public with rigorous research that explores the connection between income volatility and family economic well-being or child maltreatment. The interdisciplinary Learning Community of up to 12 research experts (up to 7 from outside of Colorado) will explore what we know and don't know about the relationship between income volatility and family economic well-being or child maltreatment, and what actionable policies and programs might be part of the solution. The group will develop a mind map or similar visual to provide a centerpiece for conversations in the field, demonstrating where current research is focused and prioritizing where more research is needed to inform policy and practice.

The Learning Community's work will be aligned with Colorado's approach to [Evidence-Based Decision Making](#). The target audiences for the group's findings will include, but not necessarily be limited to, state and federal policymakers deciding where and how to invest future child maltreatment prevention dollars, program managers who are deciding how to invest current dollars (e.g., state CBCAP program administrators), and advocates.

### **Logistics**

Selected participants will be asked to join two virtual convenings from December 2024 through spring 2025 and one in-person convening in Denver, Colorado in summer 2025. Exact dates will be determined based on the availability of Learning Community participants. The costs of travel to Denver will be covered, but there is no stipend. While the initial commitment is through September 2025, the Learning Community may be extended longer in some form depending on the needs identified during the upcoming year, the interest of Learning Community participants, and available funding.

## Nominate

If you have participated in evidence-building activities pertaining to the relationship between income volatility and family economic well-being or child maltreatment, or if you would like to nominate someone else who has, please complete [this form](#) by **October 30** for best consideration. Zoom interviews will begin the week of November 4 with final membership decisions made as soon as possible thereafter until all positions are filled.

Please contact Jo Beletic ([Joanna@ColoradoLab.org](mailto:Joanna@ColoradoLab.org)) for any questions.