

THE FAMILY CENTER AT UNITED WAY'S NEIGHBORHOOD ZONE IN BROOKLYN

ANALYSIS OF BENEFITS AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT (SUMMARY)

KEY FINDINGS

1. THE UNITED WAY FAMILY CENTER:

The United Way Family Center at our Neighborhood Zone in Brooklyn was created to support expectant and parenting teens in Brooklyn/Curtis Bay. This neighborhood has historically been geographically and systemically isolated and bereft of resources. Located within Benjamin Franklin High School, the Family Center provides case management and clinical services to parenting teens as well as high quality early childhood education to their infants and toddlers, which helps parenting teens complete high school.

2. CHALLENGES FOR NON-GRADUATES

- Students not graduating from high school report being in worse health in a variety of domains, including increased mortality, and mortality is measurably worse for Black students with no high school degree than for white non-graduates.
- The risk of experiencing homelessness is 3.5 times higher for youths with less than a high school education. This is even worse for African American youth who have an 83% higher risk than White students (and a 33% higher risk for Latinx).
- Equity matters. A recent study found that “Black-White differences in test scores were strongly connected to differences in economic mobility.” Plus, a 2017 U.S. Department of Education study documented pervasive disparities in resources, educational opportunities, and treatment of children of color.

3. ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR FAMILY CENTER GRADUATES

- Based on our analysis of Family Center graduation rates, 16 of 22 (74%) 12th grade student-parents graduate from high school.
- Without the Family Center, we can estimate that only 9 of the 22 students would have graduated, based on a national graduation rate of 40% for teen parents.

4. BENEFITS OF THE FAMILY CENTER'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

- The Family Center has an annual capacity of serving 18 infants and toddlers. Based on our analysis of Family Center graduation rates, 13 of 18 (74%) children are likely to graduate from high school.
- Without the Family Center, we can estimate that only 11 of the 18 children will graduate in the future, based on research studies showing a 63% graduation rate for children who did not receive an early childhood education.

5. RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT

- Return-on-Investment for Parents—An investment of \$1 results in \$6.8 in economic gains over the working lifetime of parents
- Return-on-Investment for Children—An investment of \$1 results in \$16.9 in economic gains over the working lifetime of children