



MISSISSIPPI LIFT RESOURCE & REFERRAL NETWORK

Challenges

- Research indicates a 5.2% increase in lifetime earnings due to quality early childhood education, but childcare providers and parents have difficulty accessing affordable, quality educational materials.
- Objective fundamental referral services are necessary to help educators and parents address unique situations in early childhood development.
- Early childhood educators need access to quality professional development programs.

EXTENSION RESPONSE

The Mississippi LIFT Resource & Referral Network provides a “one-stop shop” for educators and parents of preschool children to access educational materials, referrals, family engagement activities, and professional development opportunities.

- MS LIFT R&R operates 31 brick and mortar sites and four mobile units to serve educators and parents.
- In 2025, MS LIFT R&R facilities hosted 9,877 teachers and 16,992 parents.
- Community events are offered at least monthly to further engage parents in their child’s early education.
- In 2025, the program offered 73 professional and educational events for teachers and parents and made 560 referrals for issues faced by children and their parents.
- A lending library at each facility provided 21,377 checkouts of developmentally appropriate educational materials for children and individuals with special needs through 18 years of age.
- Each facility also offers a “maker space” where parents and educators can receive assistance in developing their own teaching materials.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- We estimate that MS LIFT R&R could increase the lifetime earnings potential of one-fourth of the preschool child population by 5% (**\$6.9 million**) and the elementary school population by 7% (**\$4.9 million**).
- Lifetime earnings increases could result in an estimated additional **59 jobs** in Mississippi’s economy, earning **\$2.6 million**.
- This increase in earnings could also increase value-added in the state by **\$5.6 million** and total output by **\$9.9 million**.
- In addition, program expenditures (\$6.3 million in FY2025) generated an estimated **84 jobs** earning **\$3.5 million**, **\$5 million** in value-added, and **\$7.3 million** in output.



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TAKING CARE OF WHAT MATTERS