

5 Years of Progress on the Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap




DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA





The **Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap** guides state leaders on the most effective investments to ensure all children thrive from the start. Since the 2020 Roadmap, the District of Columbia increased the generosity of the paid family and medical leave program, state minimum wage, and refundable state earned income tax credit. The District of Columbia is one of 10 states that has implemented all four effective Roadmap policies.

The District of Columbia newly implemented Medicaid coverage for community-based doula services, began using Medicaid funding to support evidence-based home visiting programs, invested in Early Head Start, and took steps to increase access to child care subsidies. The state also continued support for comprehensive screening and connection programs, Early Intervention services, and policies to reduce administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).









Because of state and federal investments, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children in the District of Columbia has approximately \$47,600 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$39,100 in 2020.









Effective Roadmap Policies

-  Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance to 138%
-  Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child
-  State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater
-  Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10%

Effective Roadmap Strategies

-  Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP
-  Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs
-  Child Care Subsidies
-  Group Prenatal Care
-  Community-Based Doulas
-  Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs
-  Early Head Start
-  Early Intervention Services

District of Columbia: 5-Year Policy Progress Summary

Policy	2020 to 2024	Progress Summary
 Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	221% of the FPL → 221% of the FPL	The District of Columbia expanded Medicaid eligibility under an early Medicaid expansion option in 2010. The District of Columbia is the state with Medicaid income eligibility for childless adults and parents set above 138% of the FPL.
 Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	8 weeks ↑ 12 weeks	The District of Columbia fully implemented a paid family and medical leave program in 2020 and increased the duration of leave from 8 to 12 weeks in 2022.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$15.00 per hour ↑ \$17.50 per hour	The District of Columbia's minimum wage increased \$2.50 per hour between 2020 and 2024, resulting in a \$5,200 increase in annual earnings.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	40% of the federal credit ↑ 70% of the federal credit	The District of Columbia's refundable state EITC increased from 40% to 70% of the federal credit between tax years 2020 and 2024, resulting in an increase of nearly \$1,264 in the maximum benefit for a household with one child.
 State met Roadmap threshold prior to October 1, 2020	 State implemented a policy at or above the Roadmap threshold between October 1, 2020 and October 1, 2024	



District of Columbia: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary



In 2022, the District of Columbia began reimbursing for **community-based doula** services under Medicaid, up to \$1,951 total.



The District of Columbia passed legislation in 2024 to require the coverage of **evidence-based home visiting programs** under Medicaid. The District bill has not yet been implemented.

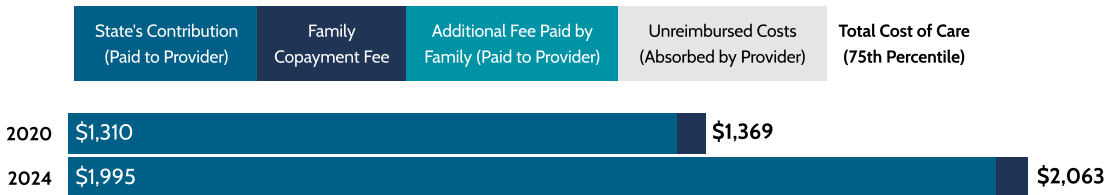


In 2021, the District of Columbia began allocating state funds to **Early Head Start**, a key state policy lever to promote access to EHS. The District continues to serve as an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantee.



The District of Columbia increased **child care subsidy** reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 51% between 2020 and 2024 and continues to reimburse providers based on a cost estimation model.

In the figure below, the total cost of child care is based on the cost associated with the equal access target (or 75th percentile), which includes the amount the state provides as a subsidy, the family's required copayment contribution, the additional fee, if allowed, and any unreimbursed cost to providers.



The District of Columbia continues to implement key policy levers to **reduce administrative burden for SNAP** - offering simplified reporting for all families and online case management services.



The District of Columbia continues to use Medicaid to support HealthySteps, an evidence-based **comprehensive screening and connection program**.



The District of Columbia continues to eliminate family fees for **Early Intervention (EI) services**, a key state policy lever to increase access to EI.



The District of Columbia took little action to provide additional supports for **group prenatal care**.

Notes: A teal icon indicates that a state made progress to increase access to an effective strategy since the 2020 Roadmap. A gray icon indicates maintenance of state efforts or little progress.

EXPLORE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S ROADMAP
pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/DC



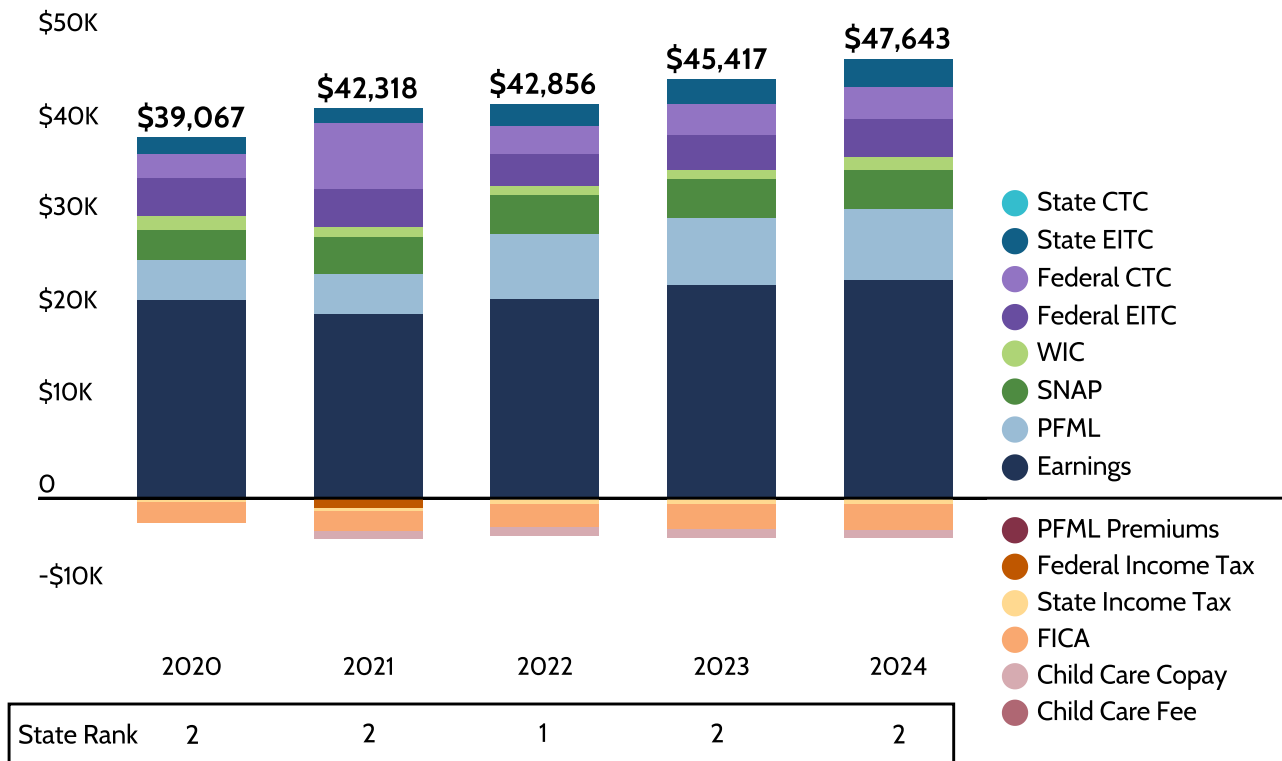
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the impact of policy choices on family resources over time.

In the District of Columbia, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$47,643 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$39,067 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + \$7,495
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$1,081

District of Columbia's Policy Choices Impact Family Resources

Family resources, accounting for minimum wage, paid family & medical leave, child care expenses, federal & state benefits



To the extent possible, data reflect state policies as of October 1st & that tax year. All earnings, benefits (both federal and state), and child care costs are based on a family of three comprised of a single parent working a full-time, minimum wage job for 9 months with 12 weeks of maternity leave. The family includes two children (an infant and a toddler) in full-time, center-based child care. For detailed source notes and additional information see our [Policy Impact Calculator](#) and [Methods and Sources](#).

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POLICY IMPACT CALCULATOR
pn3policy.org/policy-impact-calculator-5yrs



WE'RE HERE TO HELP. Contact us to inquire about our state services at pn3center@vanderbilt.edu or submit a request for our services at pn3policy.org/state-services.