

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







IOWA

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, Iowa has taken little legislative action to adopt and implement effective prenatal-to-3 policies. Iowa is one of 11 states that has implemented two of four effective Roadmap policies.



Iowa took steps to increase access to child care subsidies. The state also continued support for comprehensive screening and connection programs, Early Head Start, Early Intervention services, and policies to reduce administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**prenatal-to-3
policy** IMPACT CENTER
STATE POLICY ROADMAP

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

Because of state and federal investments, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children in Iowa has approximately \$28,600 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$25,900 in 2020.

Iowa: 5-Year Policy Progress Summary

Policy	2020 to 2024	Progress Summary
 Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	138% of the FPL → 138% of the FPL	Iowa expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act in 2014; thus, childless adults and parents earning up to 138% of the FPL are eligible for Medicaid coverage.
Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks → 0 weeks	Iowa does not have a statewide paid family and medical leave program.
State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$7.25 per hour → \$7.25 per hour	Iowa's state statute specifies a state minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour or the federal minimum, whichever is higher.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	15% of the federal credit → 15% of the federal credit	Iowa has a refundable state EITC equal to 15% of the federal credit, resulting in a maximum benefit of nearly \$632 for a household with one child in tax year 2024.
 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	

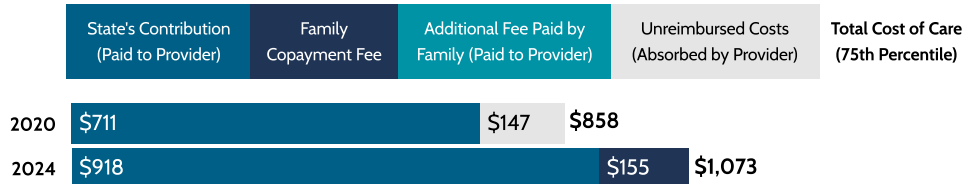


Iowa: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary



Iowa increased the initial income eligibility limit for **child care subsidies** from 43% of the state median income in 2020 to 47% in 2024. The state also increased reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 51% during this period.

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.



Iowa continues to implement one of the key policy levers to **reduce administrative burden for SNAP** - offering simplified reporting for all families.



Iowa continues to use state funds to support Family Connects, an evidence-based **comprehensive screening and connection program**. Families in Iowa also have access to an alternative state program model, 1st Five Iowa.



Iowa continues to allocate state funding to support **Early Head Start**, a key state policy lever to promote access to EHS.



Iowa continues to use very low birthweight as a diagnosable or at-risk qualification for **Early Intervention (EI) services**, as well as eliminate family fees, two of the key state policy levers to increase access to EI. In 2024, Iowa legislators enacted a bill appropriating funding to support the expansion of the state's Part C program, Birth to Three, due to increased numbers of children qualifying for those services.



Iowa took little action to provide additional supports for **group prenatal care** or **community-based doulas**, or to use Medicaid funding to support **evidence-based home visiting programs**.

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 IOWA'S ROADMAP

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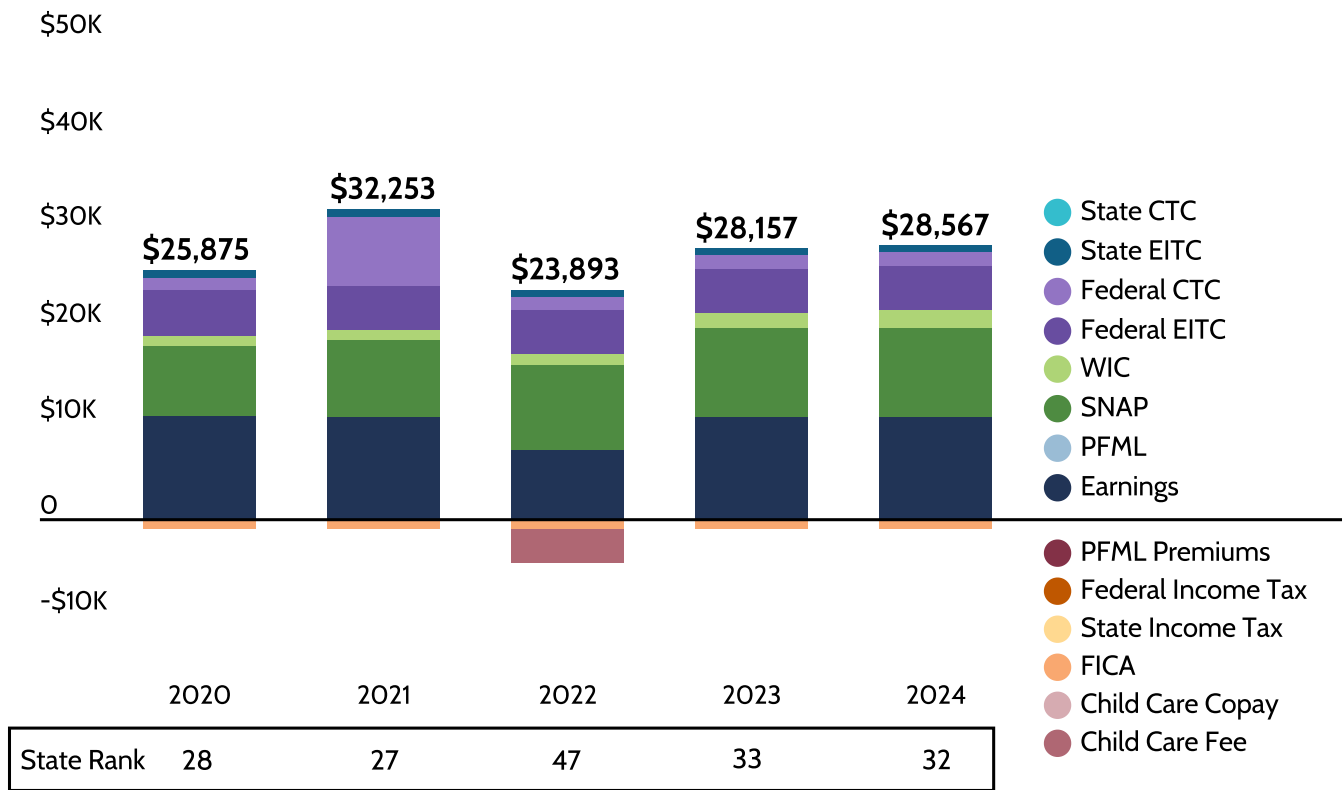
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In Iowa, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$28,567 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$25,875 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: \$0
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$2,692

Iowa'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.