

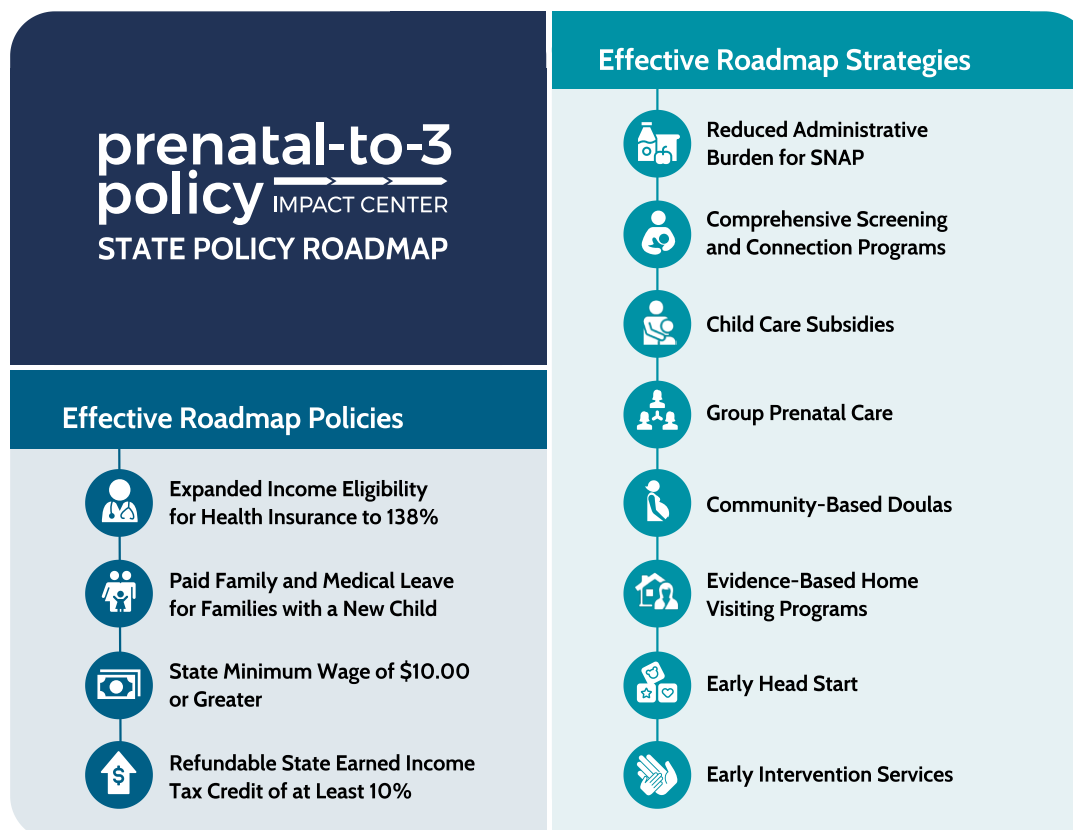
5 Years of Progress on the Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap



ILLINOIS






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, Illinois increased the generosity of the state minimum wage and refundable state earned income tax credit. Illinois is one of 11 states that has implemented three of four effective Roadmap policies.

Illinois newly implemented Medicaid coverage for community-based doula services and took steps to increase access to child care subsidies. The state also continued support for comprehensive screening and connection programs, group prenatal care, Early Head Start, 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 Illinois has approximately \$34,800 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$25,600 in 2020.

Illinois: 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	Illinois 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	Illinois does not have a statewide paid family and medical leave program, but the state does provide paid parental leave to eligible state employees.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$10.00 per hour ↑ \$14.00 per hour	Illinois's minimum wage increased \$4.00 per hour between 2020 and 2024, resulting in an \$8,320 increase in annual earnings.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	18% of the federal credit ↑ 20% of the federal credit	Illinois's refundable state EITC increased from 18% to 20% of the federal credit between tax years 2020 and 2024, resulting in an increase of over \$84 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



Illinois: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary



In 2024, Illinois began reimbursing for **community-based doula** services under Medicaid. As of November 2024, exact reimbursement rates had not been publicly released.



Illinois increased the initial income eligibility limit for **child care subsidies** from 51% of the state median income in 2020 to 59% in 2024. During this same time period, the state also reduced copayments for a family of 3 at 150% of the federal poverty level from 9% to 6% of family income and increased reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 32%.

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.

	State's Contribution (Paid to Provider)	Family Copayment Fee	Additional Fee Paid by Family (Paid to Provider)	Unreimbursed Costs (Absorbed by Provider)	Total Cost of Care (75th Percentile)	
2020	\$826		\$228	\$338	\$1,402	
2024	\$1,208			\$193	\$335	\$1,736



Illinois continues to implement key policy levers to **reduce administrative burden for SNAP** - offering a 12-month certification period for all families and online case management services.



Illinois continues to use Medicaid and state funds to support evidence-based **comprehensive screening and connection programs**. Families in the state have access to Family Connects and HealthySteps.



Illinois continues to make investments to support **group prenatal care** through CenteringPregnancy models.



Illinois continues to allocate state funding to support the Illinois Prevention Initiative, a statewide program with similar quality and performance standards as **Early Head Start**.



Illinois does not implement any key state policy levers to increase access to **Early Intervention (EI) services**, however, between 2020 and 2024, the state took action to improve transition to services for children 3 years old and older, allow telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic, and took steps to consolidate departments and provide additional funding to support EI services.



Illinois took little action 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 ILLINOIS'S ROADMAP

pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/IL



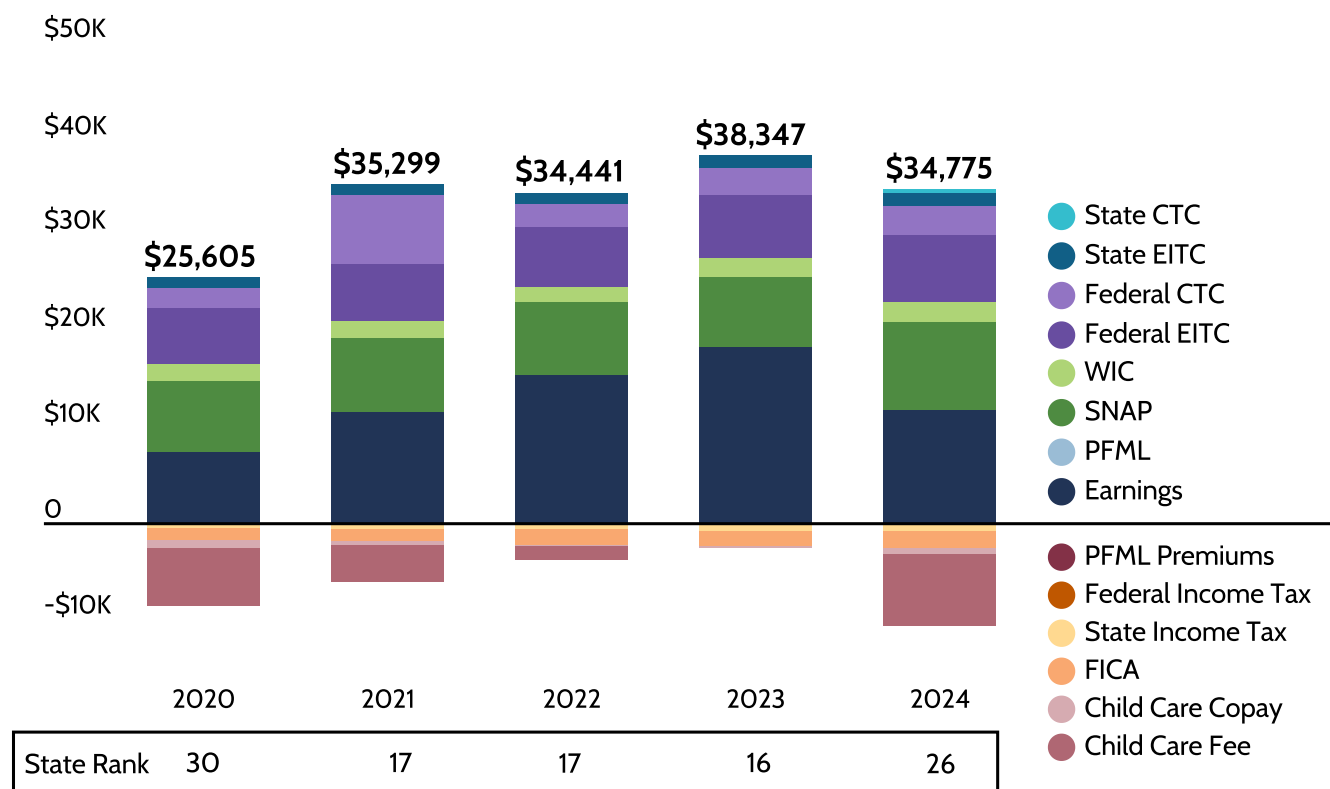
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In Illinois, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$34,775 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$25,605 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + \$5,487
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$3,683

Illinois'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



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