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

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

LOUISIANA

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, Louisiana has taken little legislative action to adopt and implement effective prenatal-to-3 policies. Louisiana is one of 12 states that has implemented one of four effective Roadmap policies.

Louisiana expanded access to comprehensive screening and connection programs and took steps to increase access to child care subsidies. The state also continued support for group prenatal care, community-based doula services, Early Intervention services, and policies to reduce administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

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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 Louisiana has approximately $28,000 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from $23,300 in 2020.

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Louisiana: 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	Louisiana expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act in 2016; 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	Louisiana 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	$7.25 per hour → $7.25 per hour	Louisiana's state statute does not specify a state minimum wage, therefore the minimum wage defaults to the federal minimum of $7.25 per hour.
Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	5% of the federal credit → 5% of the federal credit	Louisiana has a refundable state EITC equal to 5% of the federal credit, resulting in a maximum benefit of over $210 for a household with one child in tax year 2024.

✓ State met Roadmap threshold prior to October 1, 2020

+1 State implemented a policy at or above the Roadmap threshold between October 1, 2020 and October 1, 2024

Louisiana: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary

In 2024, families in Louisiana gained access to Family Connects, an evidence-based **comprehensive screening and connection program**.

Louisiana increased the initial income eligibility limit for **child care subsidies** from 55% of the state median income in 2020 to 85% in 2024. The state also increased reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 172% 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.

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

Louisiana continues to offer an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for **group prenatal care** of $50 per patient, per visit through one managed care organization (MCO). However, many providers may not use the enhanced reimbursement billing code because they are unaware that the code exists and only one MCO is available for billing.

Louisiana does not cover and reimburse for **community-based doula** services under Medicaid, but five of the state's six managed care organizations include reimbursement for doula care in their benefit packages.

Louisiana continues to use very low birthweight as a diagnosable or at-risk qualification for **Early Intervention (EI) services**, a key state policy lever to increase access to EI.

Louisiana took little action to provide additional supports for **Early Head Start** 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 LOUISIANA'S ROADMAP
pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/LA

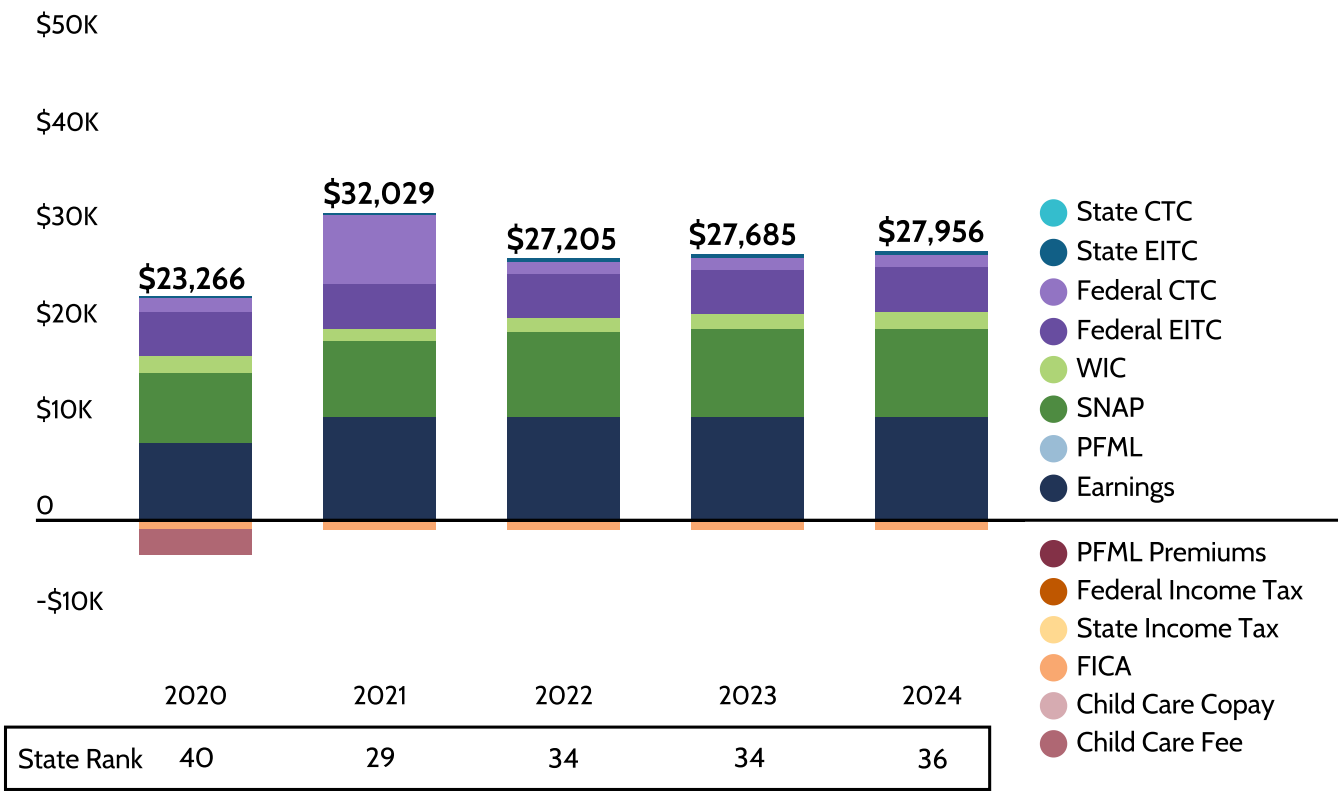
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In Louisiana, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has $27,956 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from $23,266 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + $2,752
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + $1,938

Louisiana's Policy Choices Impact Family Resources

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



	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
State Rank	40	29	34	34	36

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.