

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




MARYLAND

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, Maryland adopted a statewide paid family and medical leave program (to be fully implemented in 2026) and increased the generosity of both the state minimum wage and the refundable state earned income tax credit. Maryland is one of 11 states that has implemented three of four effective Roadmap policies.





Maryland reduced administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by offering 12-month certification periods for all families, began offering an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate for group prenatal care services, newly implemented Medicaid coverage for community-based doula services, 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, evidence-based home visiting programs, and Early Intervention services.









Because of state and federal investments, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children in Maryland has approximately \$43,600 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$30,000 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

Maryland: 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	Maryland 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	Maryland adopted a statewide paid family and medical leave program in 2022. The program will provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave to bond with a new child once fully implemented in July 2026.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$11.00 per hour ↑ \$15.00 per hour	Maryland'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	28% of the federal credit ↑ 45% of the federal credit	Maryland's refundable state EITC increased from 28% to 45% of the federal credit between tax years 2020 and 2024, resulting in an increase of over \$716 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	



Maryland: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary



Maryland continues to implement key policy levers to **reduce administrative burden for SNAP** - offering simplified reporting for all families, providing online case management services, and extending certification periods for all families from 6 to 12 months in 2022.



In 2022, Maryland began offering an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate of \$50 per patient, per visit to incentivize **group prenatal care** and continues to make investments to support CenteringPregnancy models.



In 2022, Maryland began reimbursing for **community-based doula services** under Medicaid up to \$930 total.

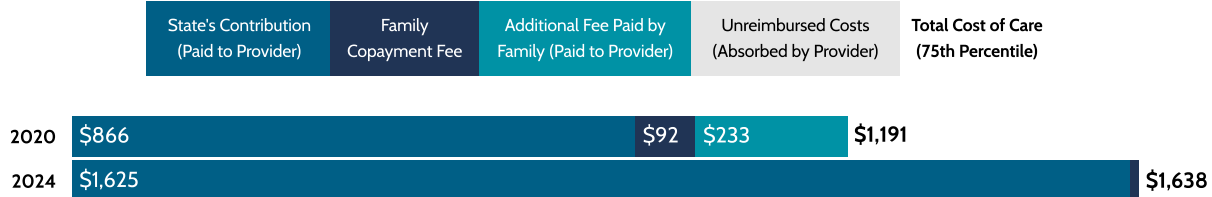


In 2021, Maryland began allocating state funds to **Early Head Start**, a key state policy lever to promote access to EHS.



Maryland increased **child care subsidy** reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 71% between 2020 and 2024.

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.



Maryland 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.



Maryland uses Medicaid funding to support **evidence-based home visiting programs** in the state.



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

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 MARYLAND'S ROADMAP
pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/MD



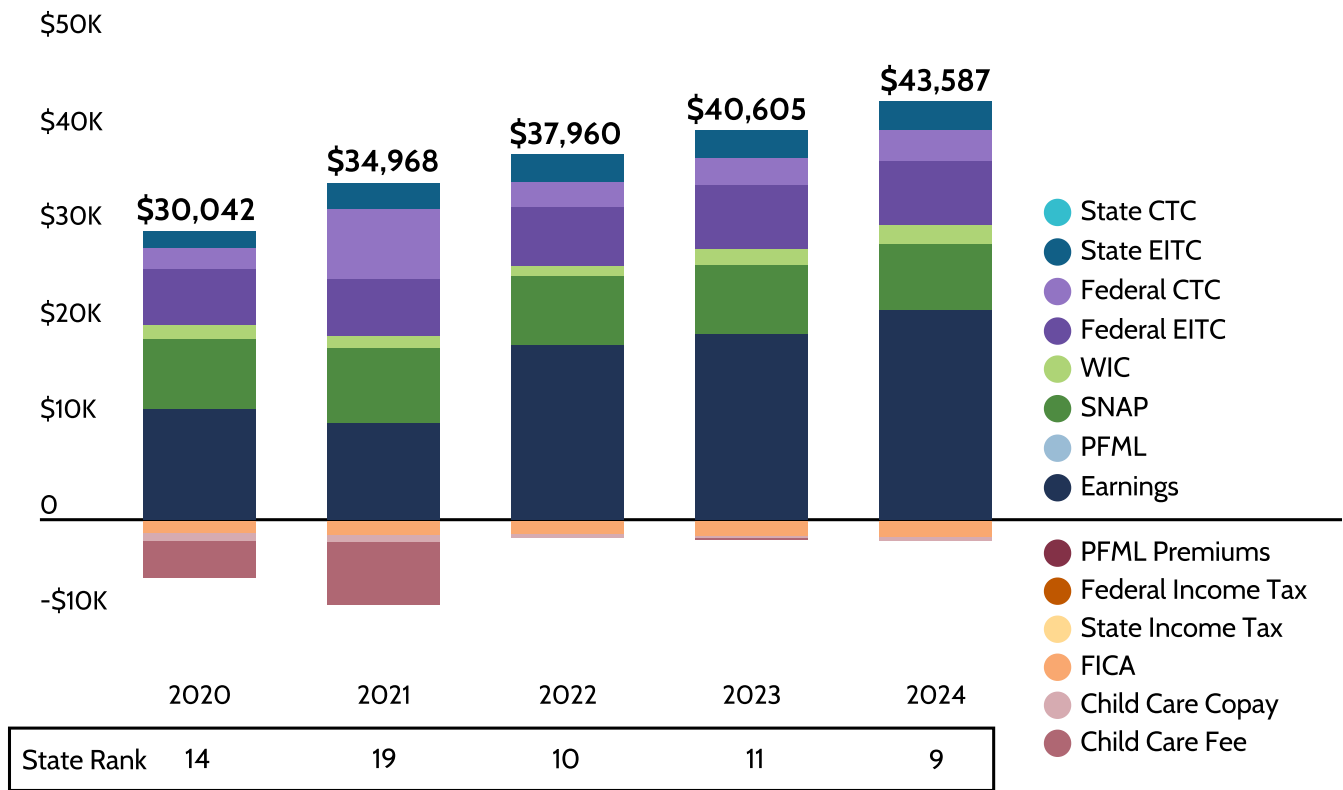
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In Maryland, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$43,587 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$30,042 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + \$12,147
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$1,398

Maryland'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.