

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



## MONTANA

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, Montana increased the state minimum wage to more than \$10.00 per hour and increased the generosity of the refundable state earned income tax credit to 10% of the federal credit. Montana is one of 11 states that has implemented three of four effective Roadmap policies.

Montana reduced administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by implementing online case management services and took steps to increase access to child care subsidies. The state also continued support for group prenatal care and Early Intervention services.

**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 Montana has approximately \$33,200 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$27,700 in 2020.

# Montana: 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	Montana expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act in 2016 and the expansion is effective through 2025; 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	Montana does not have a statewide paid family and medical leave program.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$8.65 per hour ↑ \$10.30 per hour	Montana's minimum wage increased by \$1.65 per hour between 2020 and 2024 due to cost-of-living adjustments, passing the \$10.00 per hour threshold in 2024. The minimum wage increases from 2020 to 2024 are equivalent to \$3,432 in additional annual earnings.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	3% of the federal credit ↑ 10% of the federal credit	Montana increased the generosity of its refundable state EITC from 3% to 10% of the federal credit in tax year 2024. The change resulted in an increase of nearly \$295 in the maximum benefit for a household with one child between tax years 2020 and 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	



# Montana: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary

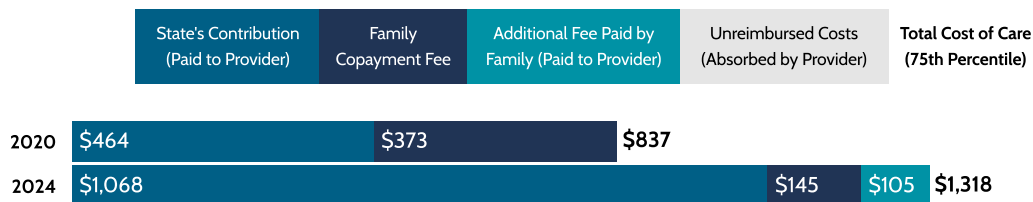


Montana began offering online case management services for SNAP in 2024 and continues to assign 12-month certifications for all families with children - key policy levers to **reduce administrative burden for SNAP**.



Montana increased the initial income eligibility limit for **child care subsidies** from 48% of the state median income in 2020 to 60% in 2024. The state also reduced copayments for a family of 3 at 150% of the federal poverty level from 14% to 4% of family income and increased reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 45%.

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.



Montana continues to offer an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for **group prenatal care** of \$30 per patient, per visit and continues to make investments to support CenteringPregnancy models.



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



Montana took little action to provide additional supports for **comprehensive screening and connection programs, community-based doulas, or 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 MONTANA'S ROADMAP**  
[pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/MT](https://pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/MT)



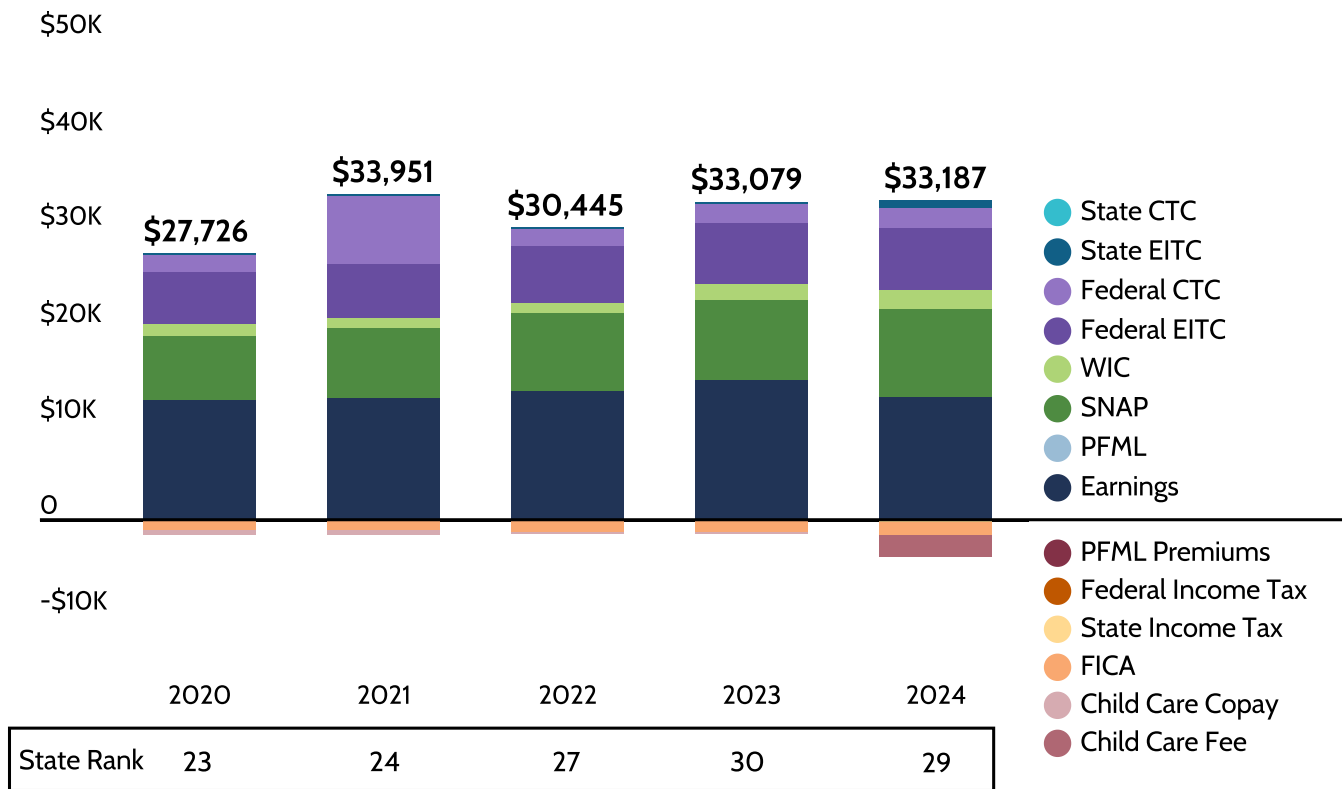
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In Montana, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$33,187 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$27,726 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + \$1,103
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$4,358

## Montana'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](https://pn3policy.org/policy-impact-calculator-5yrs)



**WE'RE HERE TO HELP.** Contact us to inquire about our state services at [pn3center@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:pn3center@vanderbilt.edu) or submit a request for our services at [pn3policy.org/state-services](https://pn3policy.org/state-services).