

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



RHODE ISLAND

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, Rhode Island increased the generosity of the paid family and medical leave program to more than 6 weeks of leave for all parents. The state also increased the generosity of both the state minimum wage and refundable state earned income tax credit. Rhode Island is one of 10 states that has implemented all four effective Roadmap policies.





Rhode Island began using Medicaid funding to support comprehensive screening and connection programs, 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 evidence-based home visiting programs, Early Intervention services, and policies to reduce administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Assistance Program (SNAP).

Because of state and federal investments, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children in Rhode Island has approximately \$42,700 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$34,200 in 2020.

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

Rhode Island: 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	Rhode Island expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordability 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	4 weeks ↑ 6 weeks	Rhode Island fully implemented a paid family leave program in 2014. The program initially provided up to 4 weeks of benefits, but was increased to 5 weeks in 2022 and to 6 weeks in 2023. Future increases to 8 weeks are planned.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$11.50 per hour ↑ \$14.00 per hour	Rhode Island's minimum wage increased \$2.50 per hour between 2020 and 2024, resulting in a \$5,200 increase in annual earnings.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	15% of the federal credit ↑ 16% of the federal credit	Rhode Island's refundable state EITC increased from 15% to 16% of the federal credit between tax years 2020 and 2024, resulting in an increase of \$42 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	



Rhode Island: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary



In 2023, families in Rhode Island gained access to DULCE, one of the evidence-based **comprehensive screening and connection programs**. The state began using Medicaid and state funds to support DULCE.

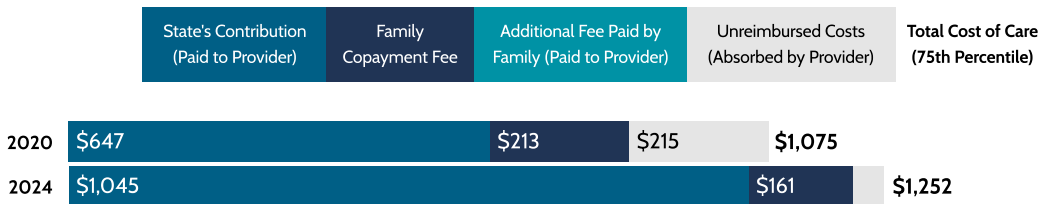


In 2022, Rhode Island began reimbursing for **community-based doula services** under Medicaid up to \$1,500 total.



Rhode Island increased the initial income eligibility limit for **child care subsidies** from 46% of the state median income in 2020 to 54% in 2024. The state also reduced copayments for a family of 3 at 150% of the federal poverty level from 8% to 5% of family income and increased reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 40%.

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.



Rhode Island 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.



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



Rhode Island continues to use very low birthweight as a diagnosable or at-risk qualification for **Early Intervention (EI) services**, as well eliminate family fees, two of the key state policy levers to increase access to EI. In 2024, legislators in Rhode Island also enacted a bill which provided \$1.7 million in general revenue to fully fund a rate increase for EI providers in Fiscal Year 2025.



Rhode Island took little action to provide additional supports for **group prenatal care** or **Early Head Start**.

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 RHODE ISLAND'S ROADMAP
pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/RI



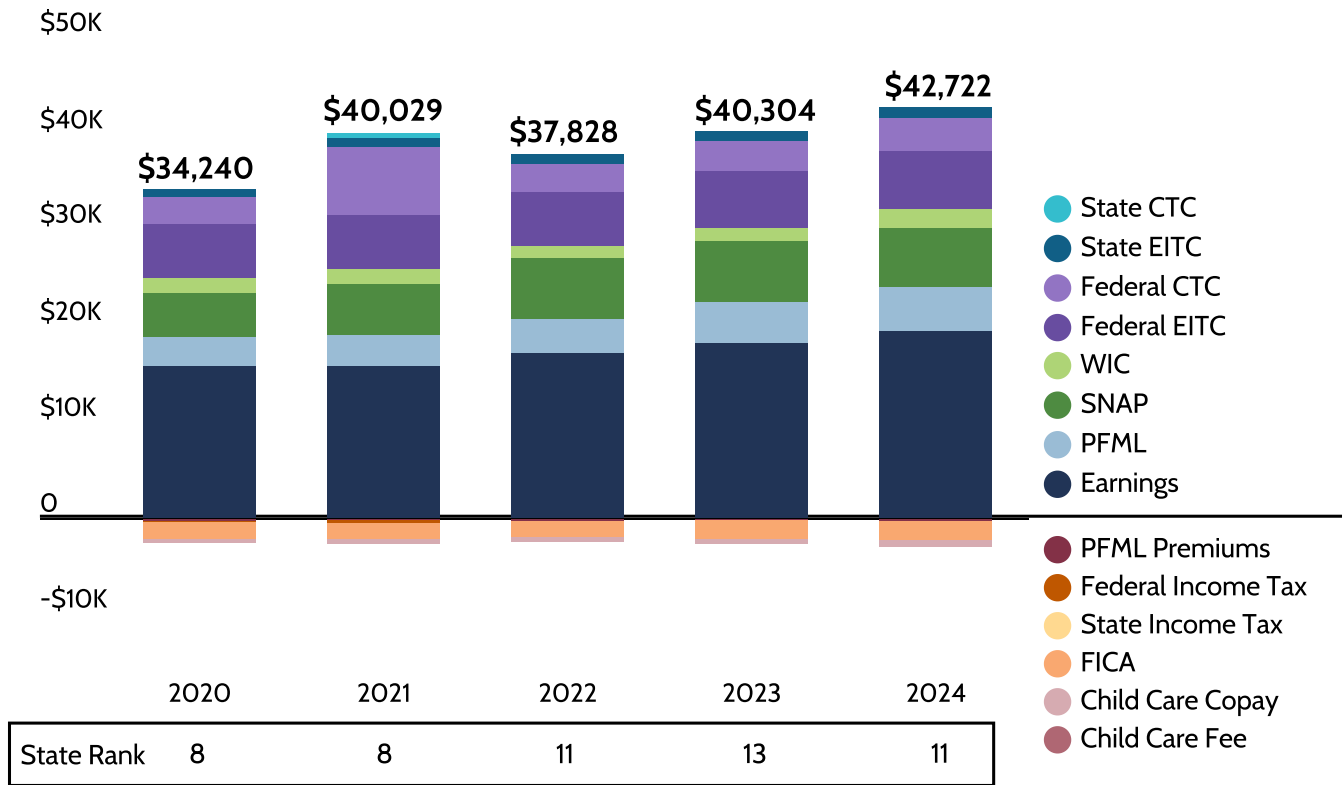
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In Rhode Island, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$42,722 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$34,240 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + \$5,753
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$2,729

Rhode Island'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.