

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






SOUTH CAROLINA

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, South Carolina has taken little legislative action to adopt and implement effective prenatal-to-3 policies. South Carolina is one of eight states that has not implemented any of the four effective Roadmap policies, leaving families with limited access to effective supports during the prenatal-to-3 period.



South Carolina 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, Early Intervention services, and policies to reduce administrative burden for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

**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

Because of state and federal investments, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children in South Carolina has approximately \$27,700 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$25,200 in 2020.

South Carolina: 5-Year Policy Progress Summary

Policy	2020 to 2024	Progress Summary
Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	67% of the FPL → 67% of the FPL	South Carolina has not expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act. Only parents earning up to 67% of the FPL are eligible for Medicaid coverage; childless adults are not eligible. An estimated 141,000 uninsured adults would become eligible for Medicaid if the state opted to expand coverage.
Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks → 0 weeks	South Carolina 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	South Carolina's state statute does not specify a state minimum wage, therefore, the minimum wage defaults to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour.
Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	62% Nonrefundable ↑ 125% Nonrefundable	South Carolina's nonrefundable state EITC increased from 62% to 125% of the federal credit between tax years 2020 and 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



South Carolina: 5-Year Strategy Progress Summary

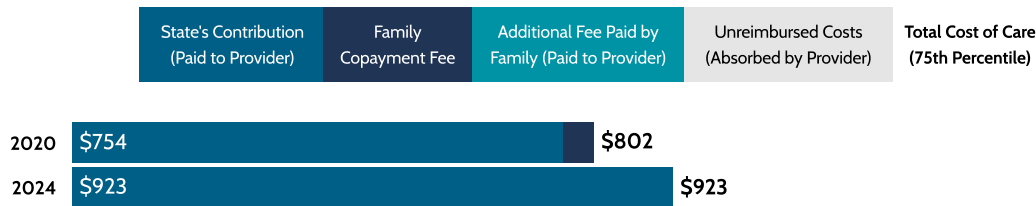


South Carolina uses Medicaid and state funding to support evidence-based **comprehensive screening and connection programs**. Families in the state have access to HealthySteps and gained access to Family Connects in 2022.



South Carolina increased the initial income eligibility limit for **child care subsidies** from 55% of the state median income in 2020 to 93% in 2024. The state also removed copayments for a family of 3 at 150% of the federal poverty level and increased reimbursement rates for infants in center-based care by 15% 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.



South Carolina continues to implement key policy levers to **reduce administrative burden for SNAP** - offering simplified reporting for all families and online case management services.



South Carolina continues to offer an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement of \$30 per patient, per visit, for up to 10 visits, and an additional one-time retention reimbursement of \$175 after the fifth visit per patient to incentivize **group prenatal care**.



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



South Carolina took little action to provide additional supports for **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 SOUTH CAROLINA'S ROADMAP
pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-5-yrs/SC



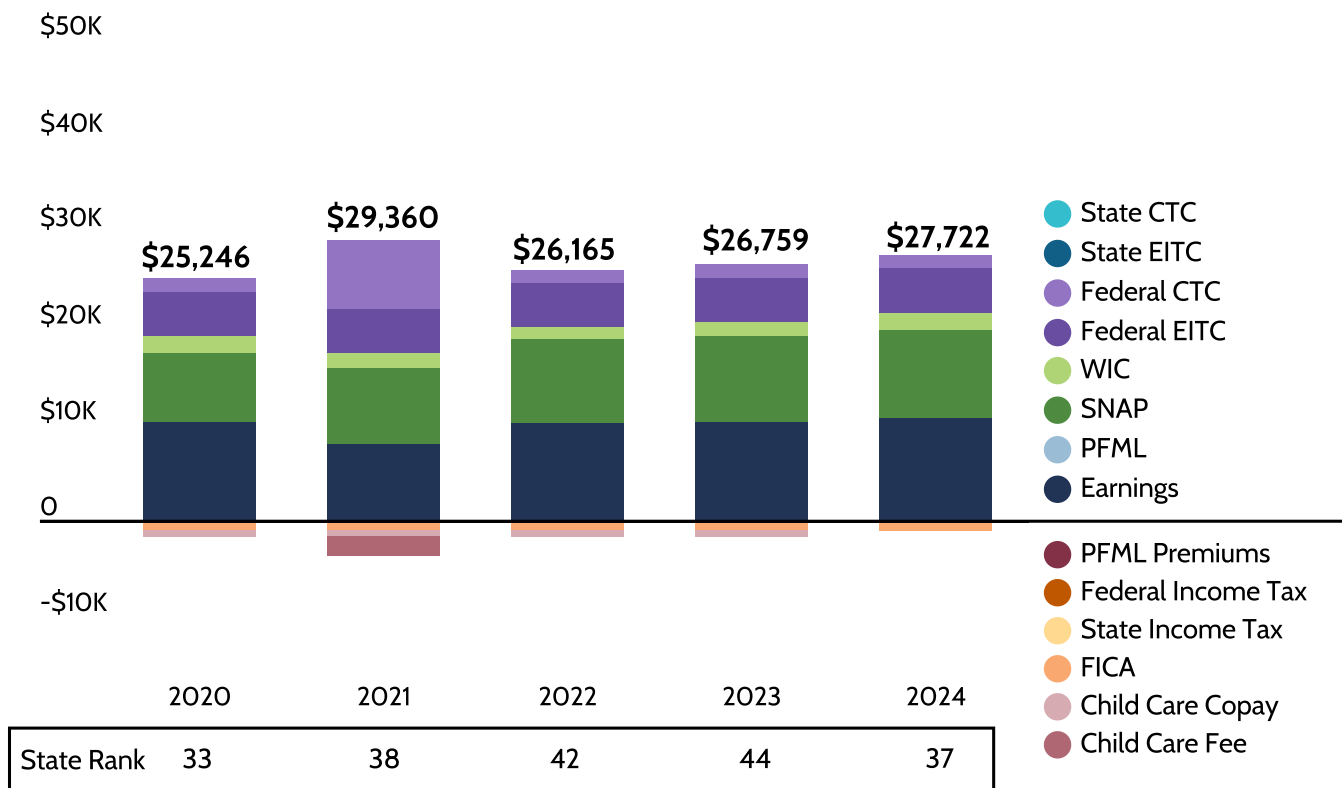
State policy choices do not operate in isolation from one another. Instead, they interact with each other and federal policies to create a system of support for children and families that varies significantly state-by-state. Our Policy Impact Calculator demonstrates this variation and illustrates the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

In South Carolina, a parent earning the minimum wage with two children has \$27,722 in total resources available to them in 2024, up from \$25,246 in 2020.

- Change in total resources due to state policies: + \$546
- Change in total resources due to federal policies: + \$1,930

South Carolina'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.