

2025 Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap



A Roadmap to Strengthen Your State’s Prenatal-to-3 System of Care

Grounded in the science of the developing child and based on comprehensive reviews of the most rigorous evidence available, this Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap provides evidence-based policy solutions that foster the nurturing environments infants and toddlers need to thrive.

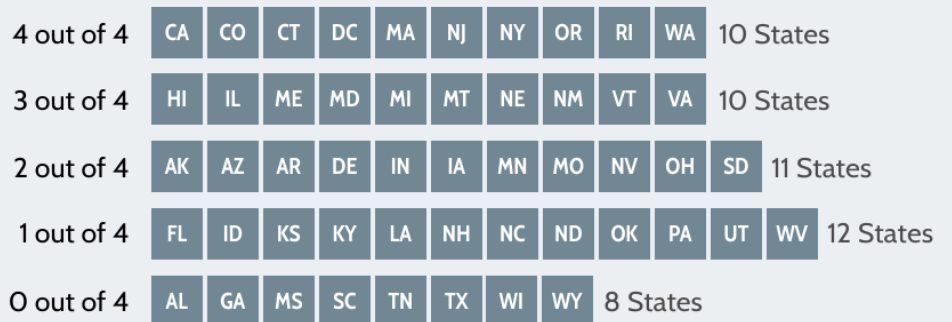
The annual Roadmap includes:

- Policy profiles that summarize the research and related impacts on child and family outcomes, and the progress states have made towards full and equitable implementation, and
- State profiles that track implementation of each effective Roadmap policy and strategy, and 19 child and family outcome measures that assess the wellbeing of its infants and toddlers.

Few States Are Doing It All, But Many Are Moving Forward

Although no states newly implemented effective Roadmap policies in the last year, many states made progress to improve access to effective policies and strategies.

Number of Implemented Effective Roadmap Policies by State



■ State newly implemented at least one effective policy since October 1, 2024.

Explore North Carolina’s Roadmap.

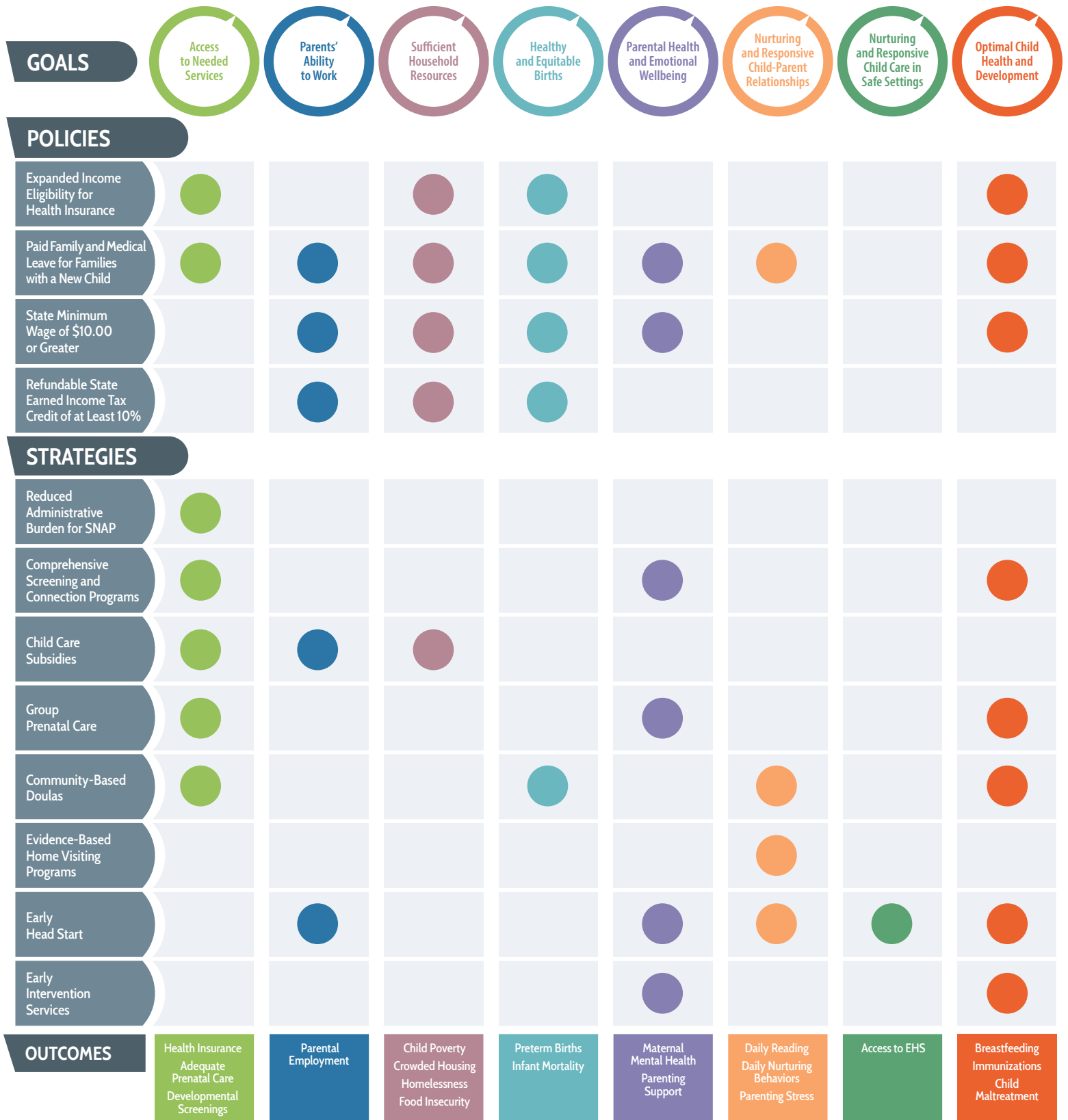
pn3policy.org/roadmap/nc

Contact us to inquire about our state services at pn3center@vanderbilt.edu or submit a request for our services online at pn3policy.org/state-services.



Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

Align Policy Goals with Effective Policy Solutions Proven to Impact Outcomes



2025 North Carolina Roadmap Summary

NORTH CAROLINA

Explore a summary of your state's progress implementing effective policies and strategies.

As of September 30, 2025. See Methods and Sources for additional information at <https://pn3policy.org/methods-and-sources/>

Effective Roadmap Policy		2025 Policy Snapshot	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance to 138%	138% of the FPL	North Carolina has expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act; thus, parents earning up to 138% of the FPL are eligible for Medicaid coverage in NC.
	Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks	North Carolina does not have a statewide paid family and medical leave program, but it does have a paid family leave program for eligible state employees.
	State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$7.25 per hour	North Carolina statute specifies either a \$6.15 minimum wage or the federal minimum, whichever is higher. As a result, the current state minimum wage defaults to the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour.
	Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10%	No EITC	North Carolina does not have a refundable state EITC.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State has adopted and fully implemented the policy		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State has newly adopted and fully implemented the policy since October 1, 2024		
Effective Roadmap Strategy		2025 Strategy Snapshot	
Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-month Certification Period	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simplified Income Reporting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online Case Management
Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Goal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Funding
Child Care Subsidies	<input type="checkbox"/> Income Eligibility (85% SMI)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limit Family Copayments	<input type="checkbox"/> Equitable Reimbursement Rates
Group Prenatal Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursement Rate	<input type="checkbox"/> State Funding	
Community-Based Doulas	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Coverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Training and Credentialing	
Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid Funding		
Early Head Start	<input type="checkbox"/> State Support		
Early Intervention Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Low Birthweight Qualification	<input type="checkbox"/> At-Risk Qualification	<input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate Family Fees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State implemented all key policy levers		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State has met the criteria for the lever		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State has met criteria for the lever since October 1, 2024		
<input type="checkbox"/>	State has not met the criteria for the lever		

Policy Goal	Outcome Measure	Worst State		Best State	Rank
Access to Needed Services	% Low-Income Women Uninsured	40.7%	22.6% NC	5.5%	41
	% Births to Women Not Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care	25.9%	18.0% NC	6.2%	41
	% Children < 3 Not Receiving Developmental Screening	71.8%	53.8% NC	41.3%	19
Parents' Ability to Work	% Children < 3 Without Any Full-Time Working Parent	33.0%	25.2% NC	12.3%	36
Sufficient Household Resources	% Children < 3 in Poverty	26.7%	17.9% NC	6.2%	38
	% Children < 3 Living in Crowded Households	35.3%	15.9% NC	7.6%	25
	% Children < 3 Experiencing Homelessness	9.1%	2.4% NC	1.1%	24
	% Households Reporting Child Food Insecurity	16.2%	5.2% NC	1.6%	20
Healthy and Equitable Births	% Babies Born Preterm (< 37 Weeks)	15.0%	10.7% NC	7.7%	31
	# of Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births	8.9	7.0 NC	2.9	41
Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing	% Children < 3 Whose Mother Reports Fair/Poor Mental Health	11.9%	10.2% NC	2.3%	44
	% Children < 3 Whose Parent Lacks Parenting Support	24.4%	19.7% NC	6.2%	46
Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships	% Children < 3 Not Read to Daily	71.2%	58.8% NC	38.6%	24
	% Children < 3 Not Nurtured Daily	49.9%	45.7% NC	27.7%	46
	% Children < 3 Whose Parent Reports Not Coping Very Well	44.1%	33.7% NC	27.1%	15
Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings	% Children Without Access to EHS	95.5%	92.0% NC	30.0%	44
Optimal Child Health and Development	% Children Whose Mother Reported Never Breastfeeding	30.3%	16.2% NC	6.9%	26
	% Children < 3 Not Up to Date on Immunizations	39.6%	23.2% NC	9.9%	7
	Maltreatment Rate per 1,000 Children < 3	28.1	16.4 NC	2.0	30

Data marked with a * should be interpreted with caution. For additional information regarding calculation details, data quality, and source data please refer to Methods and Sources.