

# 2026 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

Four states fully implemented new Roadmap policies to strengthen their prenatal-to-3 system of care in the last year — Delaware, Maine, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania.

### Number of Implemented Effective Roadmap Policies by State

|            |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |           |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|
| 4 out of 4 | CA | CO | CT | DC | ME | MA | NJ | NY | OR | RI | WA | 11 States |
| 3 out of 4 | DE | HI | IL | MD | MI | MN | MT | NE | NM | VT | VA | 11 States |
| 2 out of 4 | AK | AZ | AR | IN | IA | MO | NV | OH | PA | SD |    | 10 States |
| 1 out of 4 | FL | ID | KS | KY | LA | NH | NC | ND | OK | UT | WV | 11 States |
| 0 out of 4 | AL | GA | MS | SC | TN | TX | WI | WY |    |    |    | 8 States  |

 State newly implemented at least one effective policy since October 1, 2025

### Explore North Dakota's Roadmap.

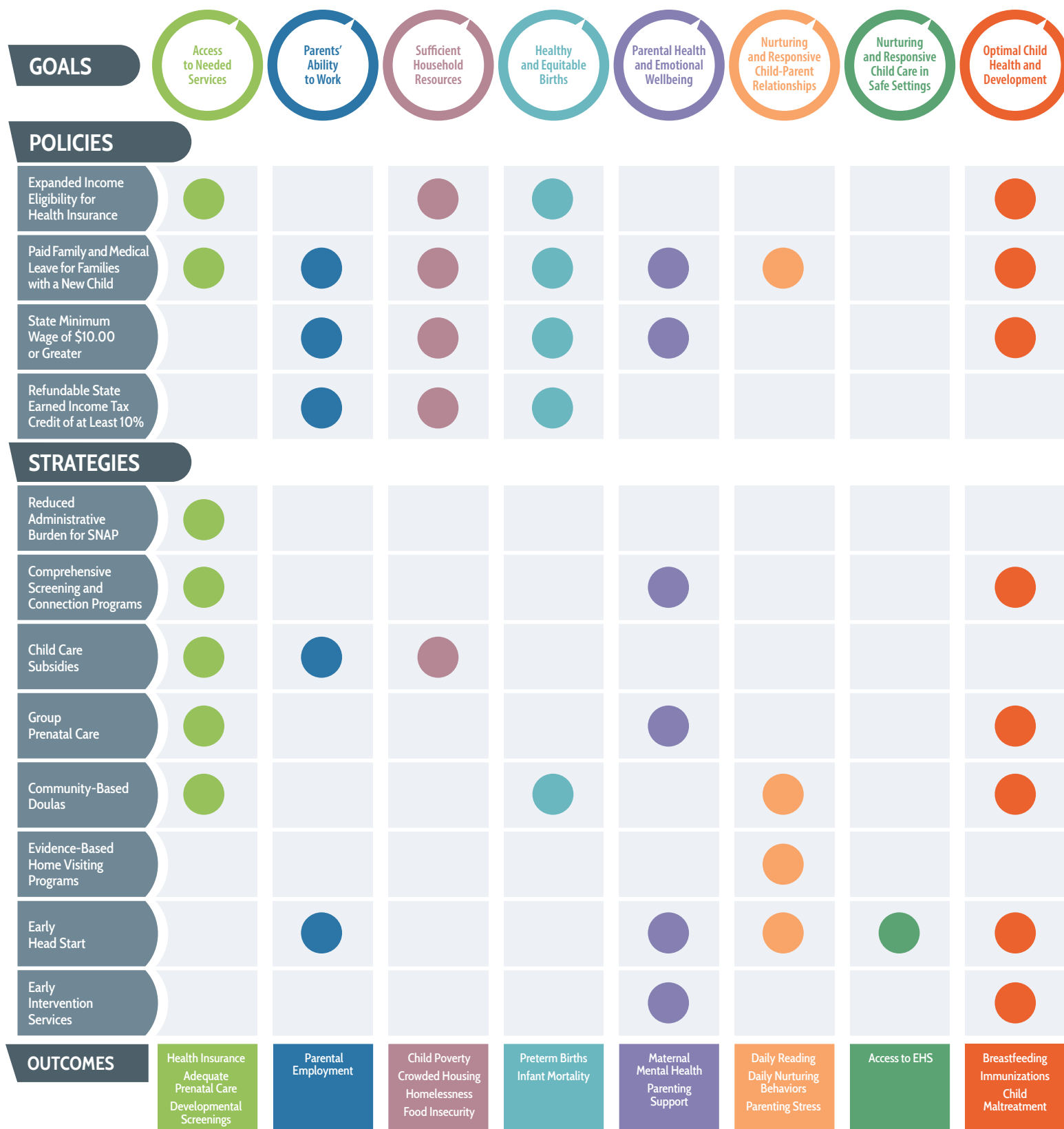
[pn3policy.org/roadmap/nd](https://pn3policy.org/roadmap/nd)

Contact us to inquire about our state services at [pn3center@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:pn3center@vanderbilt.edu) or submit a request for our services online at [pn3policy.org/state-services](https://pn3policy.org/state-services).



# Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

Align Policy Goals with Effective Policy Solutions Proven to Impact Outcomes



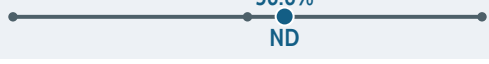
# 2026 North Dakota Roadmap Summary

NORTH DAKOTA

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

| Effective Roadmap Policy                                                             |                                                             | 2026 Policy Snapshot                                                                                                                                                |                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <div><div></div></div> Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance to 138%      | 138%<br>of the FPL                                          | North Dakota has expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act; thus, parents earning up to 138% of the FPL are eligible for Medicaid coverage in ND. |                                                      |
| Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child                          | 0<br>weeks                                                  | North Dakota does not have a statewide paid family and medical leave program.                                                                                       |                                                      |
| State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater                                             | \$7.25<br>per hour                                          | The current state minimum wage in North Dakota is \$7.25, as designated by state statute.                                                                           |                                                      |
| Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10%                            | No<br>EITC                                                  | North Dakota does not have a refundable state EITC.                                                                                                                 |                                                      |
| <div><div></div> State has adopted and fully implemented the policy</div>            |                                                             | <div><div>+1</div> State has newly adopted and fully implemented the policy since October 1, 2025</div>                                                             |                                                      |
| Effective Roadmap Strategy                                                           |                                                             | 2026 Strategy Snapshot                                                                                                                                              |                                                      |
| Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP                                               | <div><div></div> 12-month Certification Period</div>        | <div><div></div> Simplified Income Reporting</div>                                                                                                                  | <div><div></div> Online Case Management</div>        |
| Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs                                      | <div><div></div> Statewide Goal</div>                       | <div><div></div> Medicaid Funding</div>                                                                                                                             | <div><div></div> State Funding</div>                 |
| Child Care Subsidies                                                                 | <div><div></div> Income Eligibility (85% SMI)</div>         | <div><div></div> Limit Family Copayments</div>                                                                                                                      | <div><div></div> Equitable Reimbursement Rates</div> |
| Group Prenatal Care                                                                  | <div><div></div> Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursement Rate</div> | <div><div></div> State Funding</div>                                                                                                                                |                                                      |
| Community-Based Doulas                                                               | <div><div></div> Medicaid Coverage</div>                    | <div><div></div> Fund Training and Credentialing</div>                                                                                                              |                                                      |
| Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs                                                | <div><div></div> Medicaid Funding</div>                     |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |
| Early Head Start                                                                     | <div><div></div> State Support</div>                        |                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                      |
| Early Intervention Services                                                          | <div><div></div> Very Low Birthweight Qualification</div>   | <div><div></div> At-Risk Qualification</div>                                                                                                                        | <div><div></div> Eliminate Family Fees</div>         |
| <div><div></div> State implemented all key policy levers</div>                       |                                                             | <div><div></div> State has met the criteria for the lever</div>                                                                                                     |                                                      |
| <div><div>NEW</div> State has met criteria for the lever since October 1, 2025</div> |                                                             | <div><div></div> State has not met the criteria for the lever</div>                                                                                                 |                                                      |

As of September 1, 2026. See Methods and Sources for additional information at <https://pn3policy.org/methods-and-sources/>

| Policy Goal                                          | Outcome Measure                                             | Worst State |                                                                                      | Best State   | Rank  |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|----|
| Access to Needed Services                            | % Low-Income Women Uninsured                                | 41.8%       |    | 14.1%*<br>ND | 1.5%  | 16 |
|                                                      | % Births to Women Not Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care      | 26.2%       |    | 14.0%<br>ND  | 6.6%  | 19 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Not Receiving Developmental Screening        | 75.2%       |    | 53.8%<br>ND  | 39.1% | 21 |
| Parents' Ability to Work                             | % Children < 3 Without Any Full-Time Working Parent         | 36.0%       |    | 18.5%*<br>ND | 14.6% | 4  |
| Sufficient Household Resources                       | % Children < 3 in Poverty                                   | 28.8%       |    | 11.8%<br>ND  | 8.4%  | 13 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Living in Crowded Households                 | 35.3%       |    | 17.0%*<br>ND | 6.1%  | 32 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Experiencing Homelessness                    | 9.1%        |    | 2.0%<br>ND   | 1.1%  | 14 |
|                                                      | % Households Reporting Child Food Insecurity                | 17.0%       |    | 8.2%*<br>ND  | 2.8%  | 36 |
| Healthy and Equitable Births                         | % Babies Born Preterm (< 37 Weeks)                          | 15.0%       |    | 9.4%<br>ND   | 7.9%  | 9  |
|                                                      | # of Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births                         | 9.7         |   | 5.9<br>ND    | 3.0   | 27 |
| Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing              | % Children < 3 Whose Mother Reports Fair/Poor Mental Health | 12.7%       |  | 7.2%<br>ND   | 3.3%  | 19 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Whose Parent Lacks Parenting Support         | 26.0%       |  | 10.4%<br>ND  | 5.4%  | 9  |
| Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships  | % Children < 3 Not Read to Daily                            | 74.1%       |  | 56.6%<br>ND  | 40.2% | 22 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Not Nurtured Daily                           | 50.2%       |  | 41.1%<br>ND  | 24.9% | 36 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Whose Parent Reports Not Coping Very Well    | 49.3%       |  | 37.0%<br>ND  | 29.6% | 26 |
| Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings | % Children Without Access to EHS                            | 95.9%       |  | 81.8%<br>ND  | 59.1% | 8  |
| Optimal Child Health and Development                 | % Children Whose Mother Reported Never Breastfeeding        | 29.3%       |  | 11.9%<br>ND  | 6.0%  | 21 |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Not Up to Date on Immunizations              | 44.6%       |  | 32.9%<br>ND  | 14.9% | 42 |
|                                                      | Maltreatment Rate per 1,000 Children < 3                    | 27.4        |  | 8.8<br>ND    | 1.8   | 18 |

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.