

# 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 Tennessee's Roadmap.

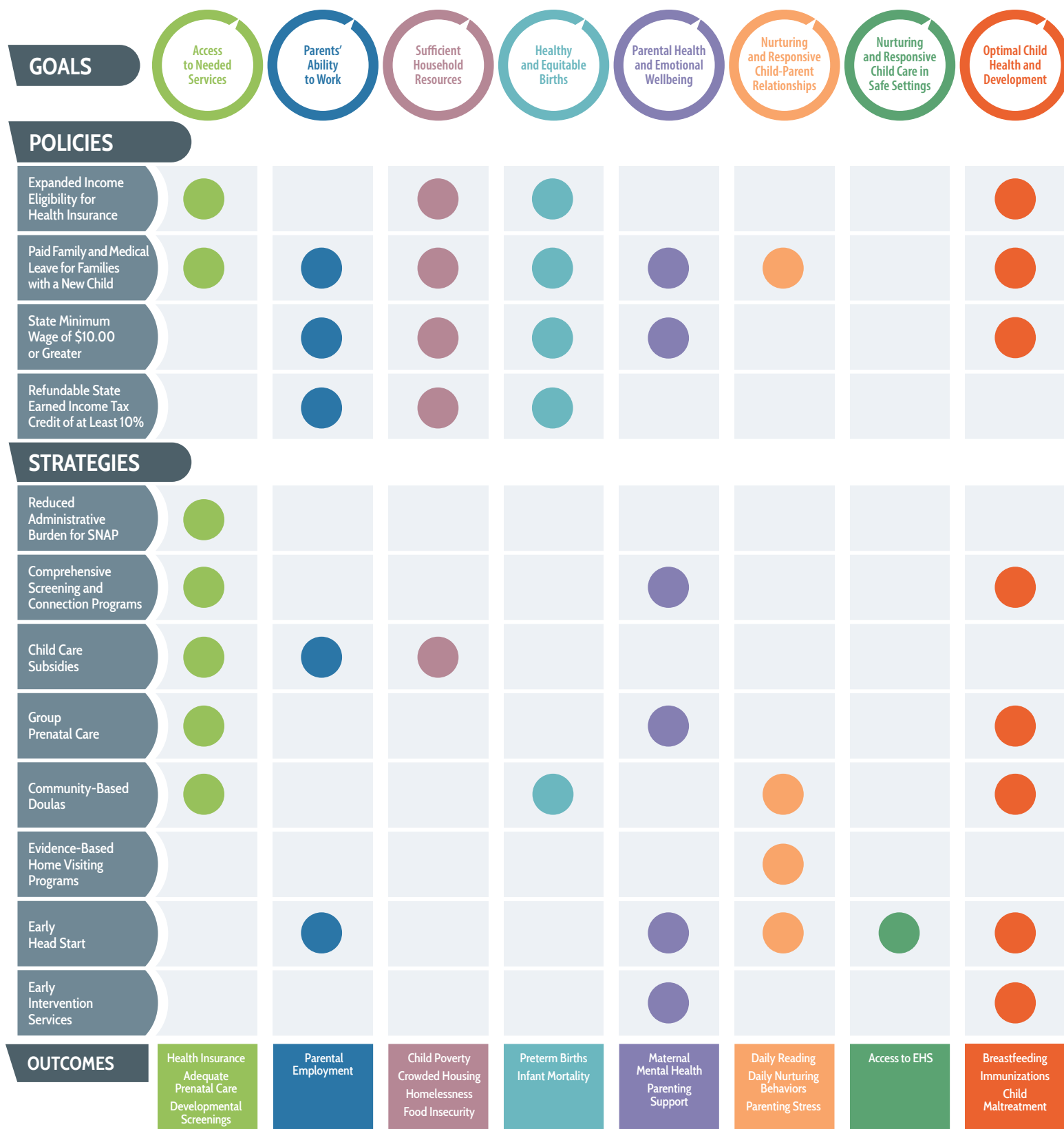
[pn3policy.org/roadmap/tn](https://pn3policy.org/roadmap/tn)

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 Tennessee Roadmap Summary

TENNESSEE

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

| Effective Roadmap Policy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                             | 2026 Policy Snapshot                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance to 138%                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 105%<br>of the FPL                                                                                                                                          | Tennessee has not expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act; thus, only parents earning up to 105% of the FPL are eligible for Medicaid coverage in TN.              |
| Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 0<br>weeks                                                                                                                                                  | Tennessee 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<br>per hour                                                                                                                                          | The current state minimum wage in Tennessee is \$7.25. Because state statutes do not specify a state minimum wage, the minimum wage defaults to the federal minimum.                   |
| Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10%                                                                                                                                                                                                     | No<br>EITC                                                                                                                                                  | Tennessee does not have a state EITC, and the state does not have an income tax, which is the typical mechanism used to finance and provide administrative structure for a state EITC. |
| <div> <div>✓</div> State has adopted and fully implemented the policy           <div> <div>+1</div> State has newly adopted and fully implemented the policy since October 1, 2025             </div> </div>                                                  |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Effective Roadmap Strategy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                             | 2026 Strategy Snapshot                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="radio"/> 12-month Certification Period                                                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> Simplified Income Reporting <input checked="" type="radio"/> Online Case Management                                                                              |
| Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="radio"/> Statewide Goal                                                                                                                        | <input type="radio"/> Medicaid Funding <input type="radio"/> State Funding                                                                                                             |
| Child Care Subsidies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Income Eligibility (85% SMI)                                                                                               | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Limit Family Copayments <input type="radio"/> Equitable Reimbursement Rates                                                                           |
| Group Prenatal Care                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <input type="radio"/> Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursement Rate                                                                                                  | <input type="radio"/> State Funding                                                                                                                                                    |
| Community-Based Doulas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="radio"/> Medicaid Coverage                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Fund Training and Credentialing                                                                                                                                  |
| Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> Medicaid Funding                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Early Head Start                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="radio"/> State Support                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Early Intervention Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="radio"/> Very Low Birthweight Qualification <input type="radio"/> At-Risk Qualification <input checked="" type="radio"/> Eliminate Family Fees |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <div> <div>★</div> State implemented all key policy levers           <div> <div>✓</div> State has met the criteria for the lever             <div> <div>NEW</div> State has met criteria for the lever since October 1, 2025             </div> </div> </div> |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <div> <div>○</div> State has not met the criteria for the lever         </div>                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| Policy Goal                                          | Outcome Measure                                             | Worst State |             | Best State | Rank |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------|
| Access to Needed Services                            | % Low-Income Women Uninsured                                | 41.8%       | 25.8%<br>TN | 1.5%       | 44   |
|                                                      | % Births to Women Not Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care      | 26.2%       | 17.7%<br>TN | 6.6%       | 40   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Not Receiving Developmental Screening        | 75.2%       | 48.2%<br>TN | 39.1%      | 12   |
| Parents' Ability to Work                             | % Children < 3 Without Any Full-Time Working Parent         | 36.0%       | 25.6%<br>TN | 14.6%      | 36   |
| Sufficient Household Resources                       | % Children < 3 in Poverty                                   | 28.8%       | 17.5%<br>TN | 8.4%       | 34   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Living in Crowded Households                 | 35.3%       | 15.0%<br>TN | 6.1%       | 21   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Experiencing Homelessness                    | 9.1%        | 2.6%<br>TN  | 1.1%       | 29   |
|                                                      | % Households Reporting Child Food Insecurity                | 17.0%       | 7.3%<br>TN  | 2.8%       | 29   |
| Healthy and Equitable Births                         | % Babies Born Preterm (< 37 Weeks)                          | 15.0%       | 10.9%<br>TN | 7.9%       | 34   |
|                                                      | # of Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births                         | 9.7         | 6.4<br>TN   | 3.0        | 37   |
| Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing              | % Children < 3 Whose Mother Reports Fair/Poor Mental Health | 12.7%       | 5.8%<br>TN  | 3.3%       | 11   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Whose Parent Lacks Parenting Support         | 26.0%       | 10.1%<br>TN | 5.4%       | 8    |
| Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships  | % Children < 3 Not Read to Daily                            | 74.1%       | 53.0%<br>TN | 40.2%      | 12   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Not Nurtured Daily                           | 50.2%       | 35.1%<br>TN | 24.9%      | 11   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Whose Parent Reports Not Coping Very Well    | 49.3%       | 30.0%<br>TN | 29.6%      | 3    |
| Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings | % Children Without Access to EHS                            | 95.9%       | 94.3%<br>TN | 59.1%      | 49   |
| Optimal Child Health and Development                 | % Children Whose Mother Reported Never Breastfeeding        | 29.3%       | 20.5%<br>TN | 6.0%       | 44   |
|                                                      | % Children < 3 Not Up to Date on Immunizations              | 44.6%       | 30.9%<br>TN | 14.9%      | 35   |
|                                                      | Maltreatment Rate per 1,000 Children < 3                    | 27.4        | 16.1<br>TN  | 1.8        | 32   |

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.