

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 the United States Roadmap.

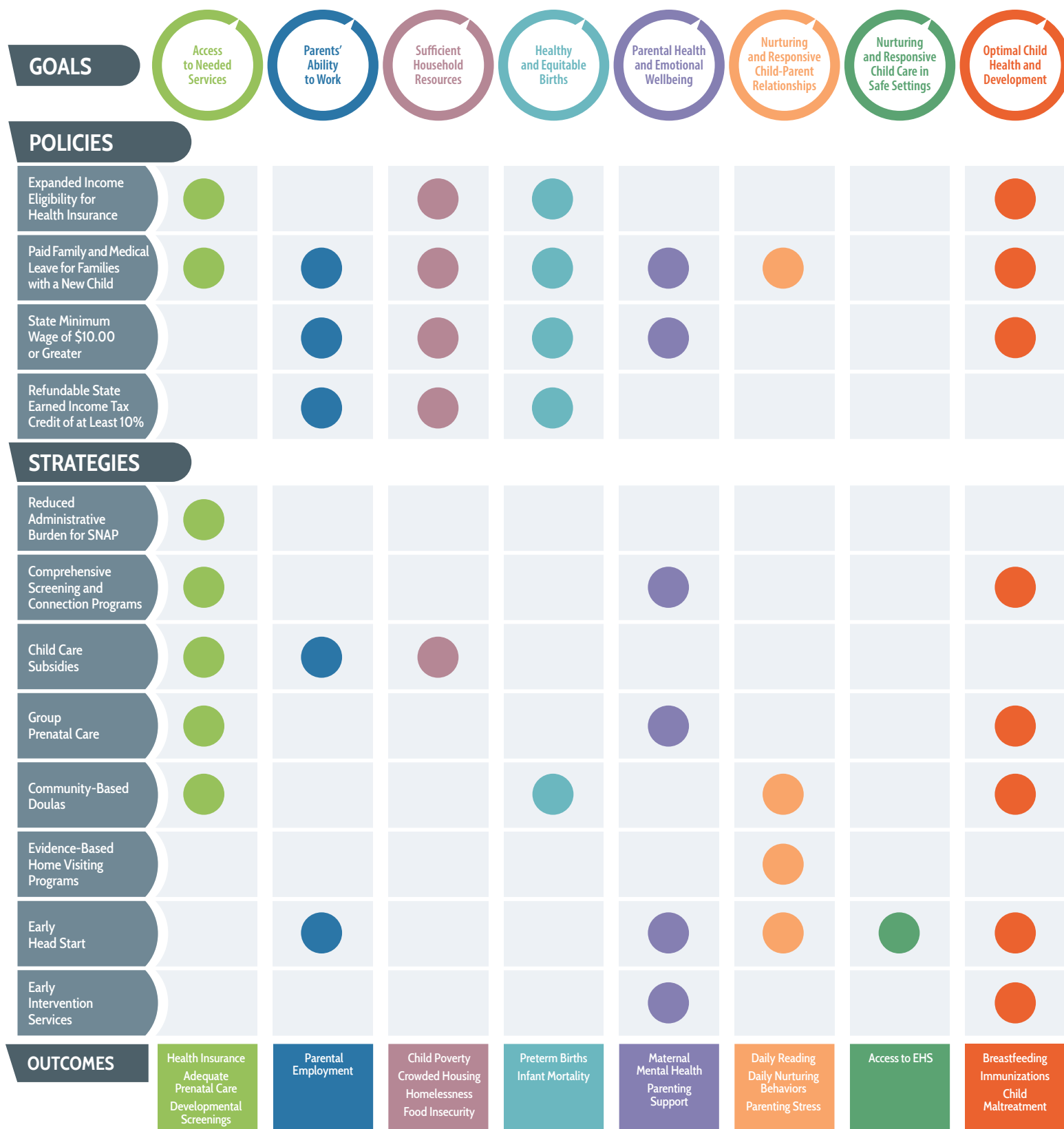
pn3policy.org/roadmap/us

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



2026 United States Roadmap Summary

UNITED STATES

Explore a summary of the United States progress implementing effective policies and strategies.

Number of States Fully Implementing Policy		2026 Progress Summary		
Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	41	No states newly implemented Medicaid expansion.		
Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	13	Delaware, Maine, and Minnesota all fully implemented paid family and medical leave programs of at least 6 weeks for all parents with a new child. Additionally, families in Rhode Island now have access to 8 weeks of paid family leave (up from 7 weeks in 2025).		
State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	30	No states newly implemented a state minimum wage of \$10.00 or greater, however, the minimum wage increased in 24 states in the last year.		
Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	24	In November 2025, Pennsylvania enacted and implemented a new refundable state EITC of 10% of the federal credit, beginning tax year 2025.		
Number of States Implementing All Key Policy Levers		Number of States Implementing Each Individual Key Policy Lever		
Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP	11	17 12-Month Certification Period	35 Simplified Income Reporting	44 Online Case Management
Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs	6	7 Statewide Goal	26 Medicaid Funding	25 State Funding
Child Care Subsidies	7	18 Income Eligibility (85% SMI)	35 Limit Family Copayments	19 Equitable Reimbursement Rates
Group Prenatal Care	3	11 Enhanced Medicaid Reimbursement Rate	5 State Funding	
Community-Based Doulas	12	30 Medicaid Coverage	14 Fund Training and Credentialing	
Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs	19	19 Medicaid Funding		
Early Head Start	19	19 State Support		
Early Intervention Services	4	21 Very Low Birthweight Qualification	6 At-Risk Qualification	35 Eliminate Family Fees

Policy Goal	Outcome Measure	Worst State		Best State	Rank
Access to Needed Services	% Low-Income Women Uninsured	41.8%	17.2% Median State	1.5%	
	% Births to Women Not Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care	26.2%	14.9% Median State	6.6%	
	% Children < 3 Not Receiving Developmental Screening	75.2%	56.2% Median State	39.1%	
Parents' Ability to Work	% Children < 3 Without Any Full-Time Working Parent	36.0%	23.5% Median State	14.6%	
Sufficient Household Resources	% Children < 3 in Poverty	28.8%	15.1% Median State	8.4%	
	% Children < 3 Living in Crowded Households	35.3%	15.2% Median State	6.1%	
	% Children < 3 Experiencing Homelessness	9.1%	2.5% Median State	1.1%	
	% Households Reporting Child Food Insecurity	17.0%	7.1% Median State	2.8%	
Healthy and Equitable Births	% Babies Born Preterm (< 37 Weeks)	15.0%	10.3% Median State	7.9%	
	# of Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births	9.7	5.7 Median State	3.0	
Parental Health and Emotional Wellbeing	% Children < 3 Whose Mother Reports Fair/Poor Mental Health	12.7%	7.9% Median State	3.3%	
	% Children < 3 Whose Parent Lacks Parenting Support	26.0%	12.7% Median State	5.4%	
Nurturing and Responsive Child-Parent Relationships	% Children < 3 Not Read to Daily	74.1%	57.1% Median State	40.2%	
	% Children < 3 Not Nurtured Daily	50.2%	38.8% Median State	24.9%	
	% Children < 3 Whose Parent Reports Not Coping Very Well	49.3%	37.0% Median State	29.6%	
Nurturing and Responsive Child Care in Safe Settings	% Children Without Access to EHS	95.9%	87.6% Median State	59.1%	
Optimal Child Health and Development	% Children Whose Mother Reported Never Breastfeeding	29.3%	12.7% Median State	6.0%	
	% Children < 3 Not Up to Date on Immunizations	44.6%	28.6% Median State	14.9%	
	Maltreatment Rate per 1,000 Children < 3	27.4	12.6 Median State	1.8	

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.