

Ten Years, Hundreds of Policies, Millions of Families

Transforming the System of Care for the Earliest Years

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026



Today's Objectives

Celebrate the impact of policy changes on MILLIONS of families across the country.

Learn more about how states accomplished these big wins, looking forward to the years ahead.



A Healthy Start Leads to Lifetime Wellbeing



Safe, stable, stimulating, nurturing interactions between an infant and a parent or caregiver **promote optimal brain and body development**



Our health and wellbeing prenatally and in the first 3 years of life **affect all future learning, behavior, and health**



The absence of a comprehensive system of support can **compromise a child's ability to learn and grow throughout life**

Effective State Policy Solutions for a Healthy Start

Child & Parent Health



Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance



Comprehensive Screening and Connection Programs



Group Prenatal Care



Community-Based Doulas



Early Intervention Services



Perinatal Telehealth Services

Economic & Family Supports



Paid Family and Medical Leave



State Minimum Wage



State Tax Credits



Reduced Administrative Burden for SNAP



Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs



Cash Transfers

Early Care & Learning



Early Head Start



Child Care Subsidies



Shared Book Reading Programs



Emergent Literacy Coaching Programs



Child Care Workforce Retention Incentives

Ten Years: Transforming a System of Care for the Earliest Years

2016 - 2026

A Decade of State Policy
Action in Review



Hundreds of Policies: Transforming a System of Care for the Earliest Years

Child & Parent Health

+9
States

Medicaid Expansion

+50
States

Postpartum
Medicaid Extension

+28
States

Medicaid Coverage
and Reimbursement
for Doula Services

Economic & Family Supports

+12
States

Paid Family and
Medical Leave

+27
States

State Minimum Wage

+10
States

State Earned Income
Tax Credits

+16
States

State Child Tax Credits

Early Care & Learning

+24
States

Increased Income
Eligibility for Subsidies

+40
States

Reduced Subsidy
Copays

+50
States

Increased Provider
Reimbursement Rates

Millions of Families: Transforming the System of Care for the Earliest Years

The impact of state policy progress over the last decade is significant.

2.2
million

People across the nine states that **expanded Medicaid** since 2016 who became eligible for health insurance

1
million

Births covered by Medicaid in states implementing **Medicaid coverage of doula services**

1
million

Babies born in states that have implemented a **paid family and medical leave** program

11
million

Workers benefiting from an increase in their **state's minimum wage**

12
million

Families benefiting from an EITC in states with a **refundable EITC** of any value

Big Wins in Perinatal Health Policies

- ✓ Decrease Financial Burdens
- ✓ Support Parental Health
- ✓ Improve Birth Outcomes
- ✓ Promote Healthy Child Development

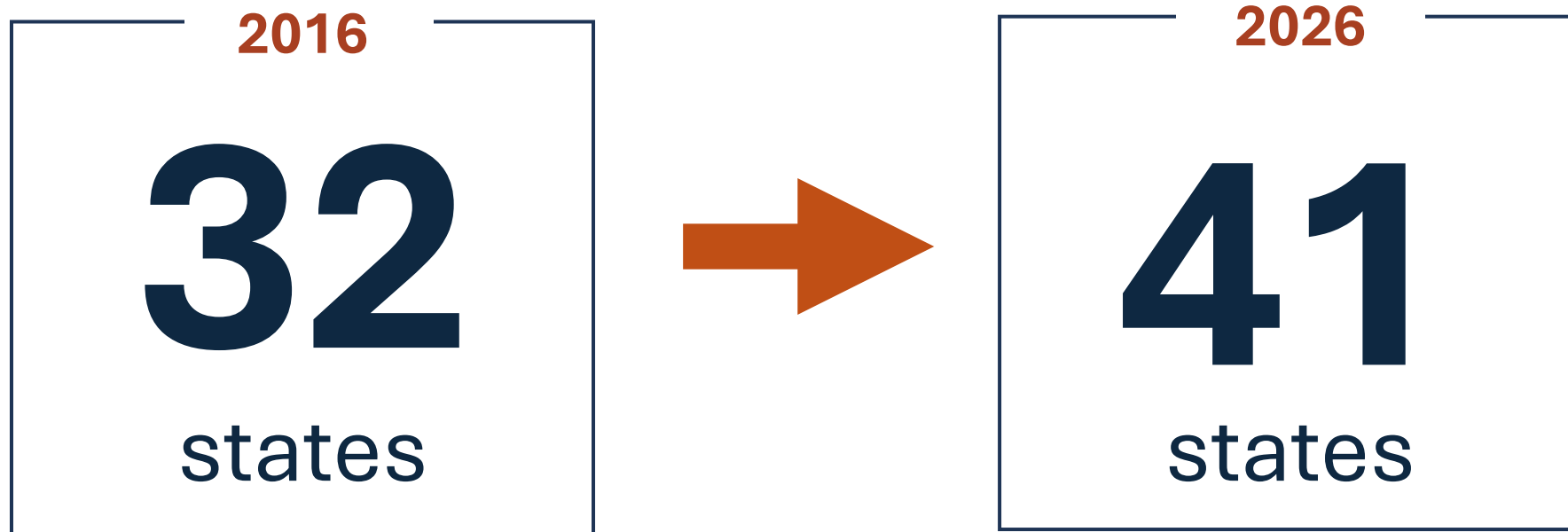


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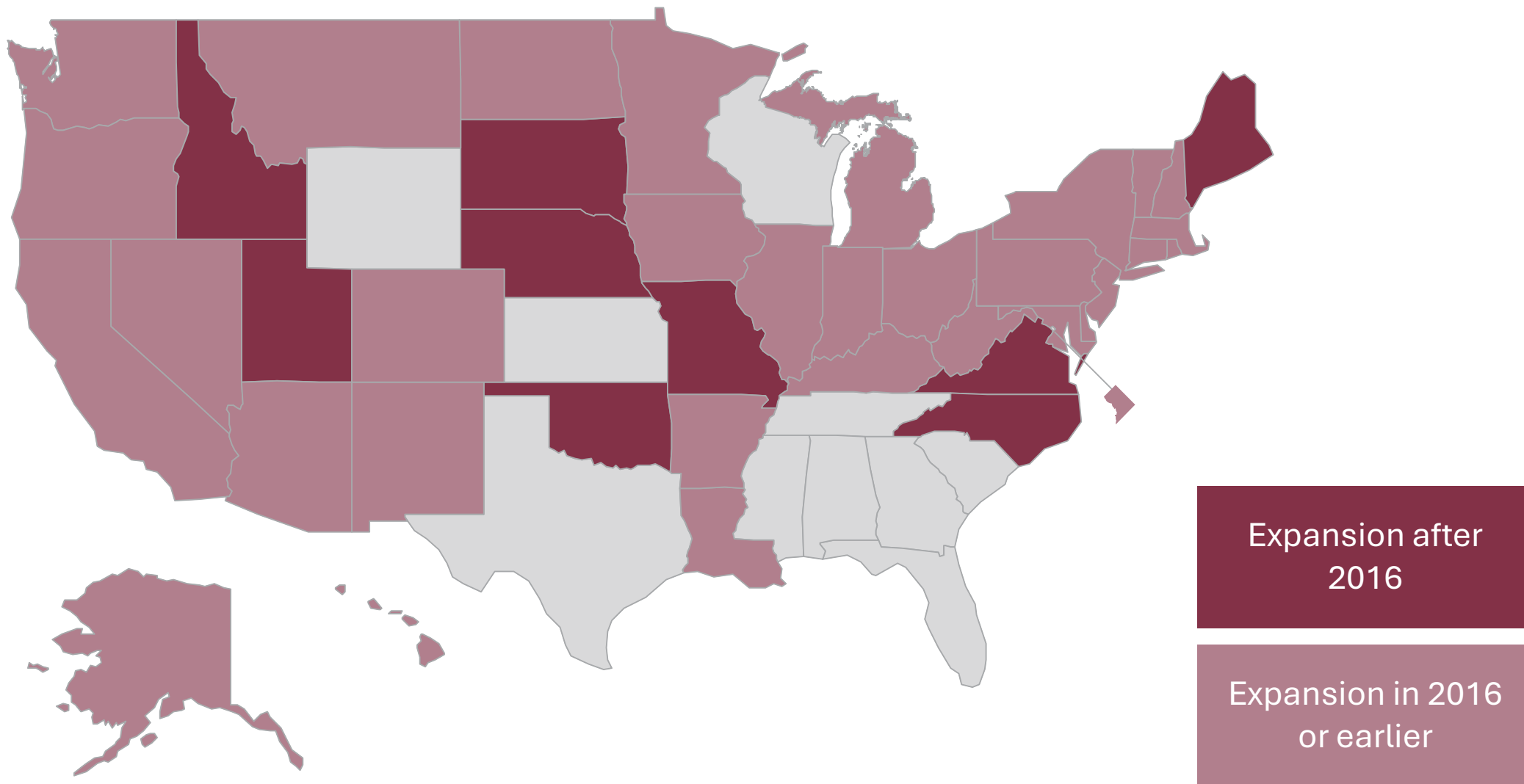
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Medicaid Expansion Over the Last 10 Years

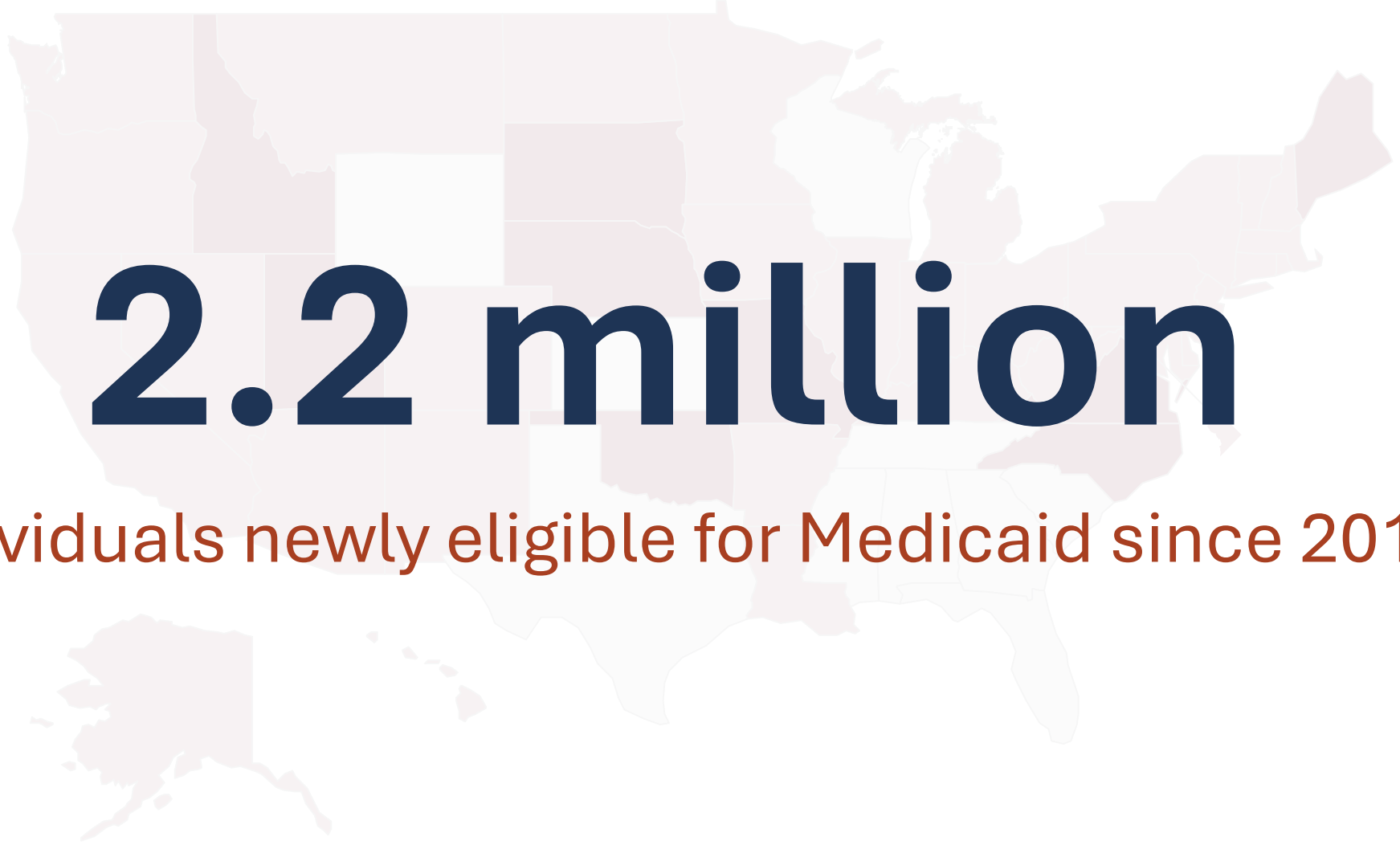


Number of States That Expanded Medicaid Under the ACA
(Affordable Care Act)

9 States Expanded Medicaid Under the ACA



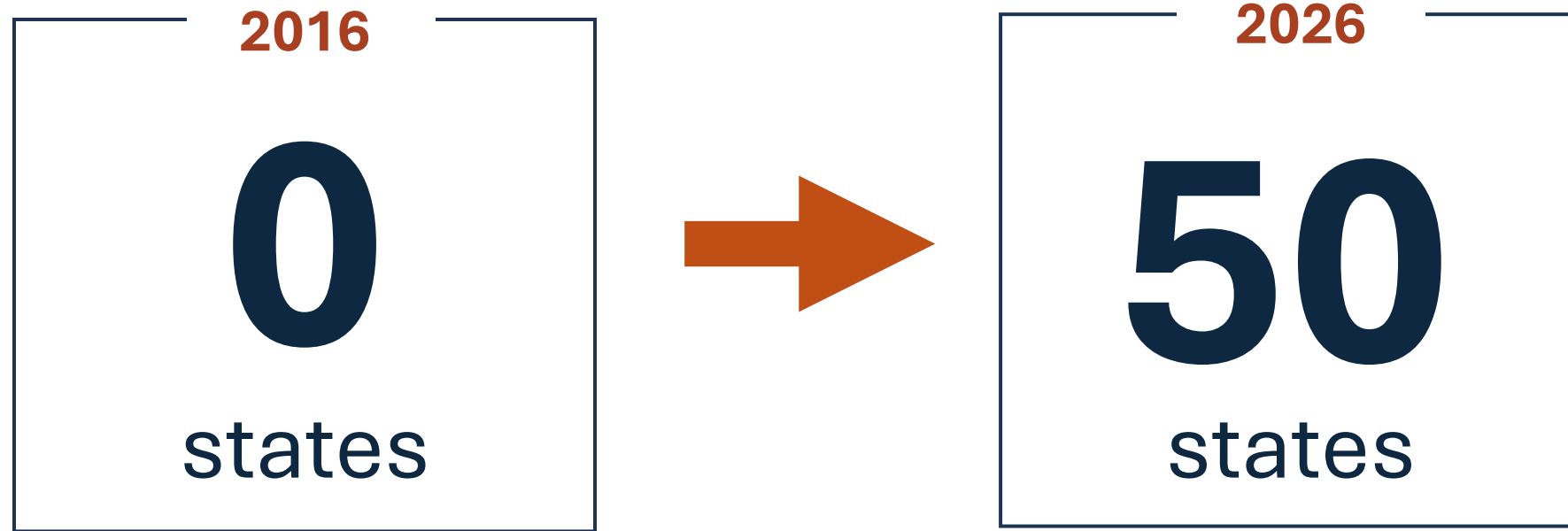
Millions Gained Health Insurance Coverage Under Expansion



2.2 million

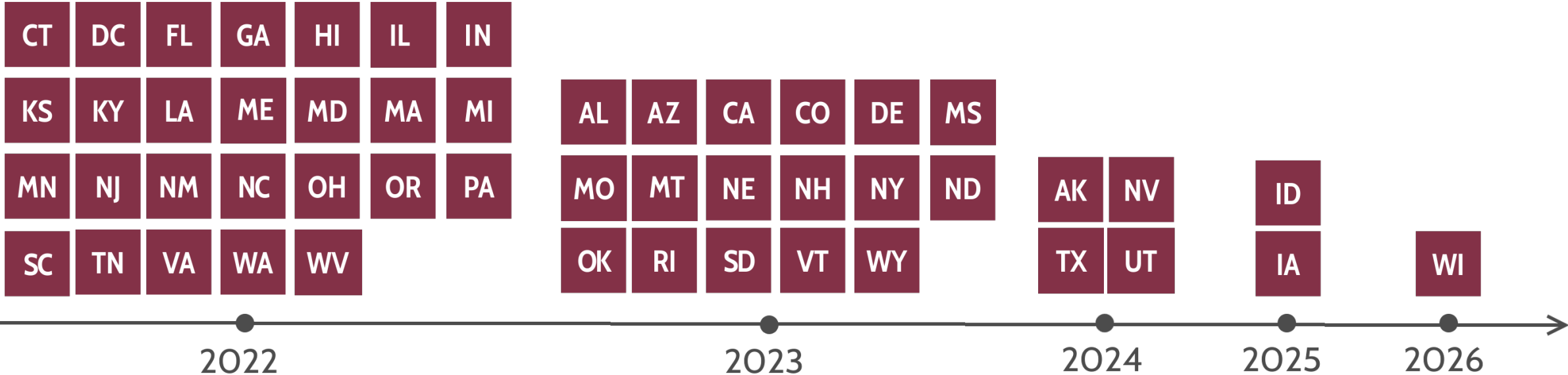
individuals newly eligible for Medicaid since 2016

Postpartum Medicaid Extension Over the Last 10 Years

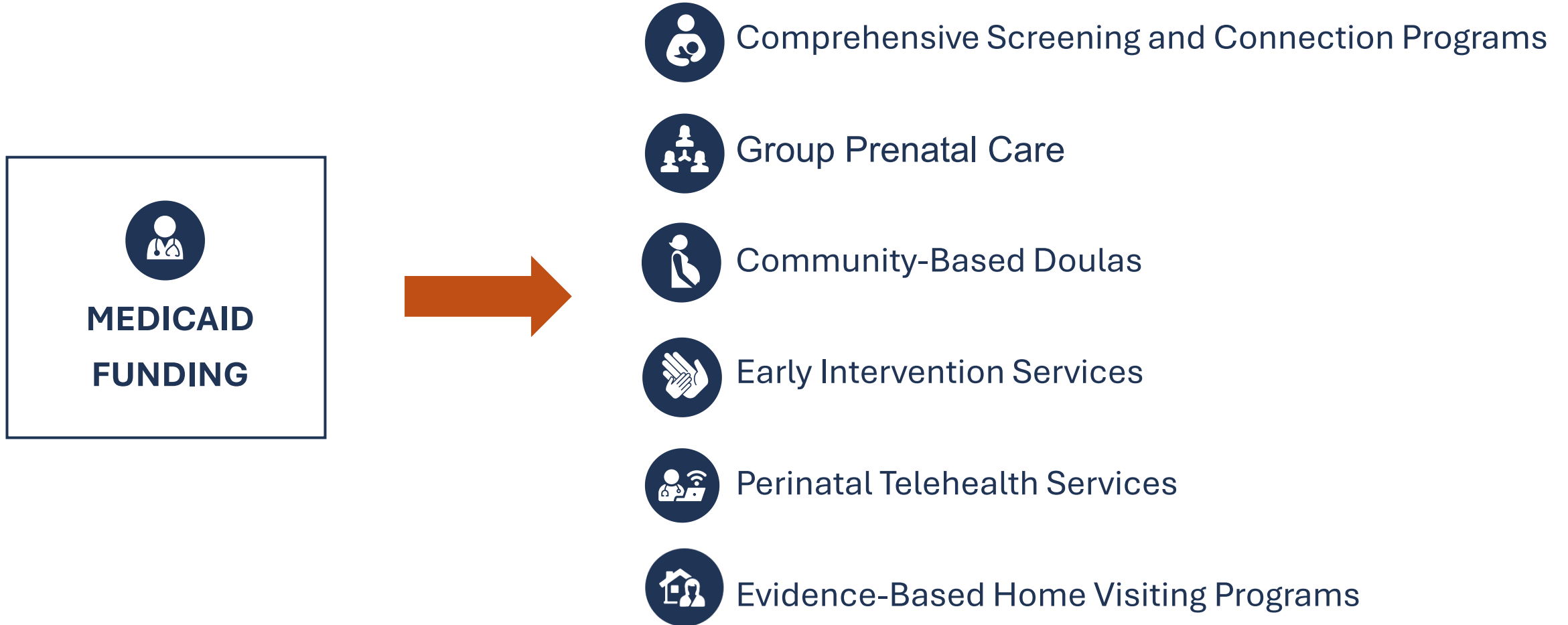


Number of States Extending Postpartum Medicaid Coverage Beyond 60 Days

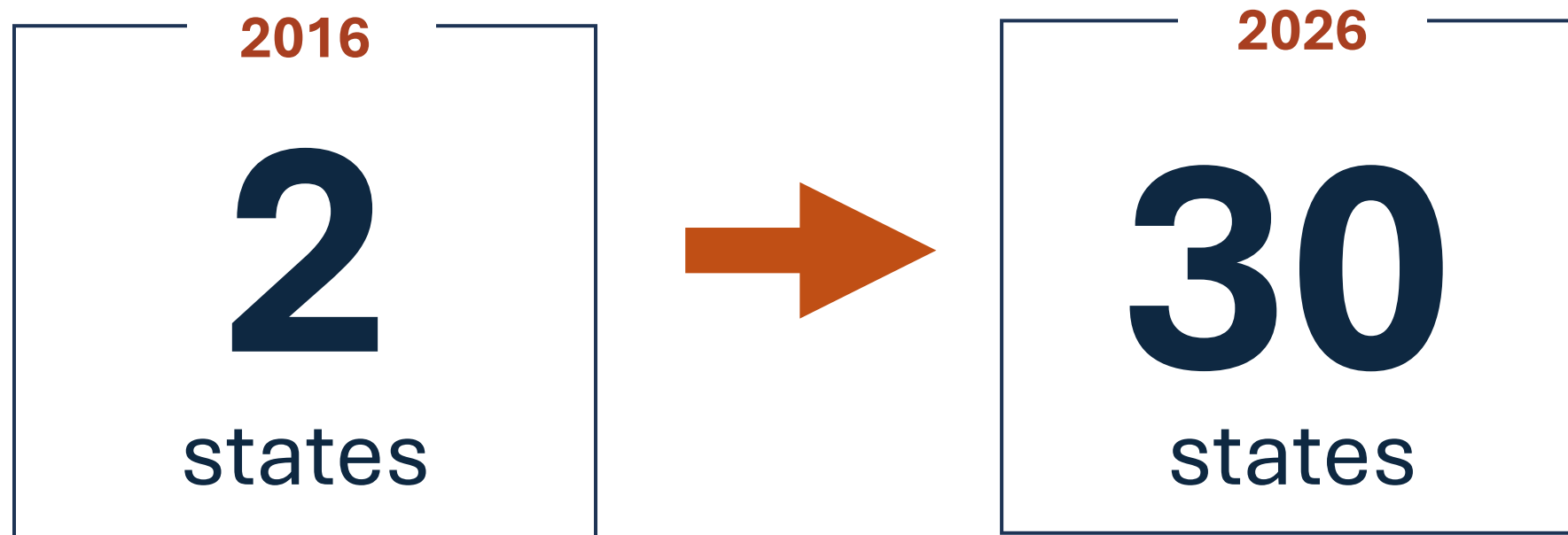
Every State Except Arkansas Extended Postpartum Medicaid Coverage



Medicaid Is a Vital Early Childhood Funding Source

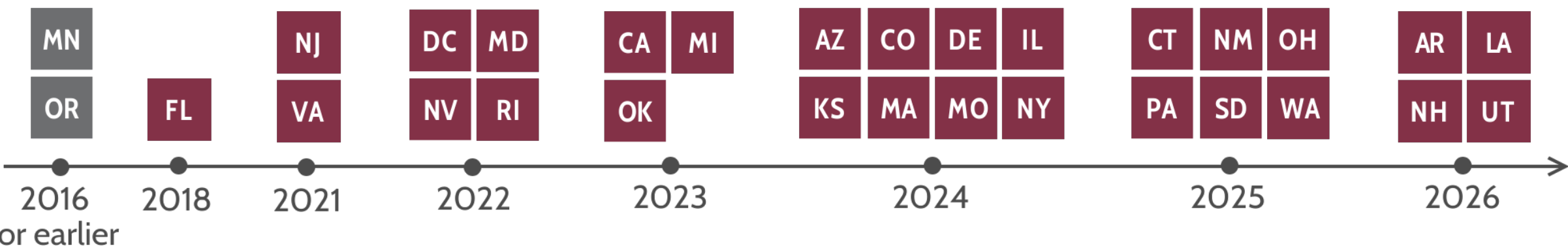


Community-Based Doulas Over the Last 10 Years



Number of States Covering and Reimbursing Doula Services Under Medicaid

28 States Implemented Medicaid Coverage for Doulas, 5 Pending

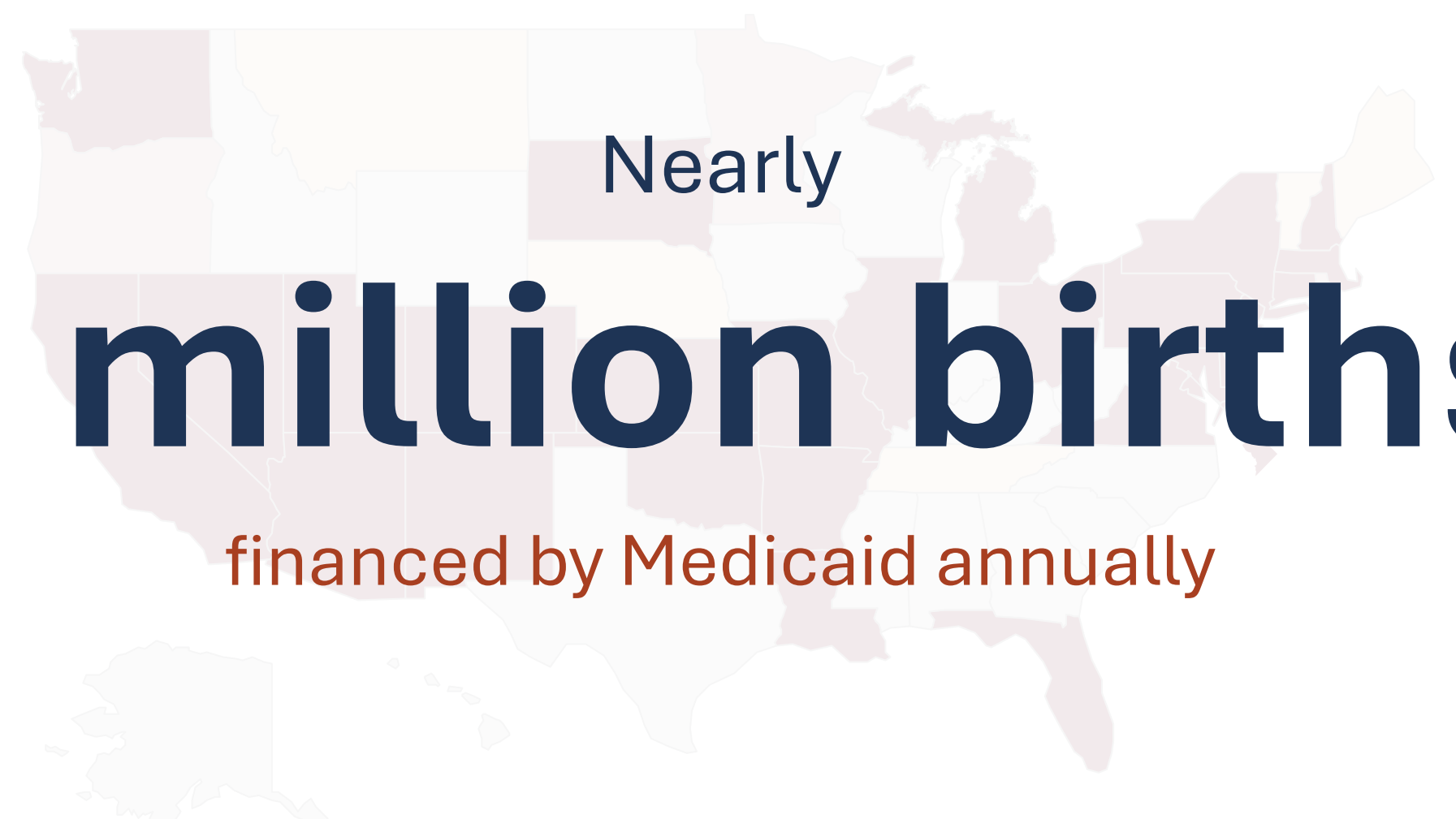


ME MT NE TN VT

Implementation is in progress; coverage expected in future years.

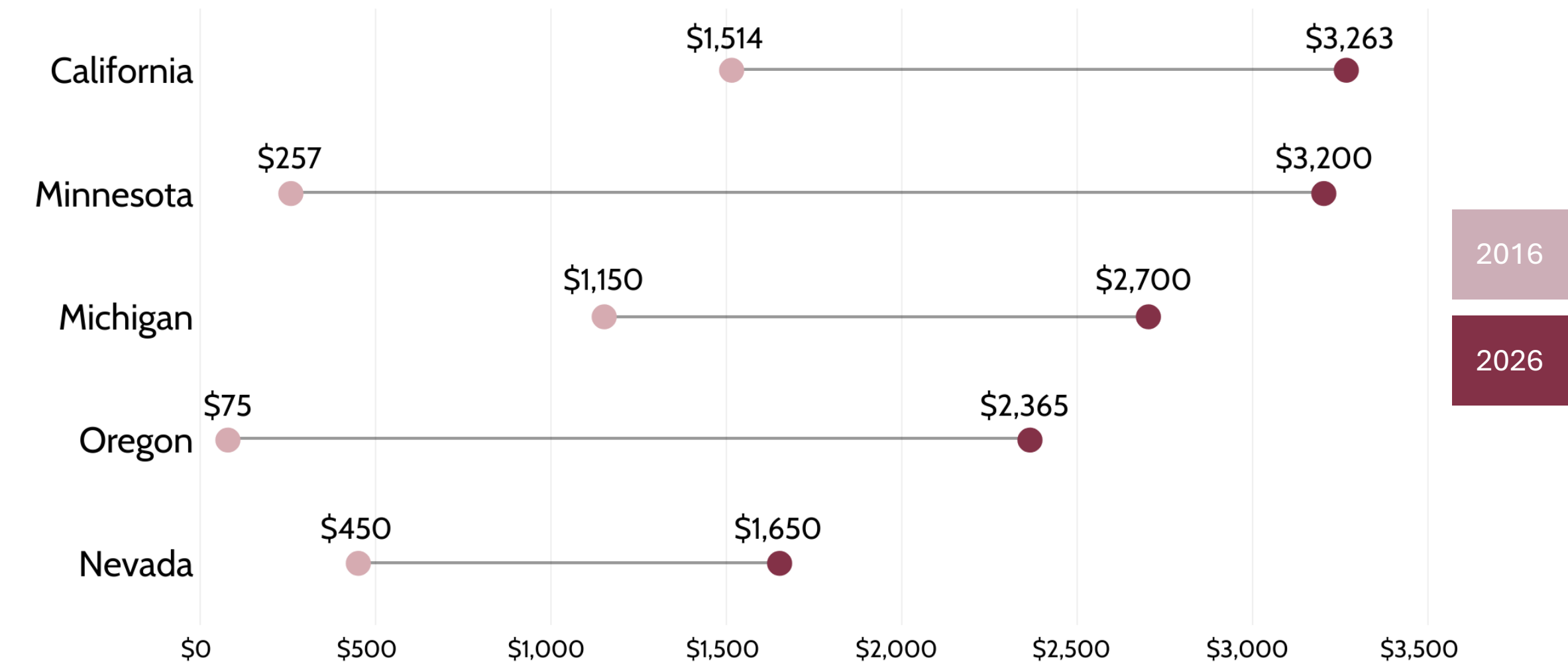
Implemented after 2016

Births Financed by Medicaid Can Now Benefit From Doula Services



Nearly
1 million births
financed by Medicaid annually

States Increased Doula Reimbursement Rates



Big Wins in Economic Support Policies

- ✓ Protect Earnings
- ✓ Promote Work
- ✓ Improve Parent and Child Health

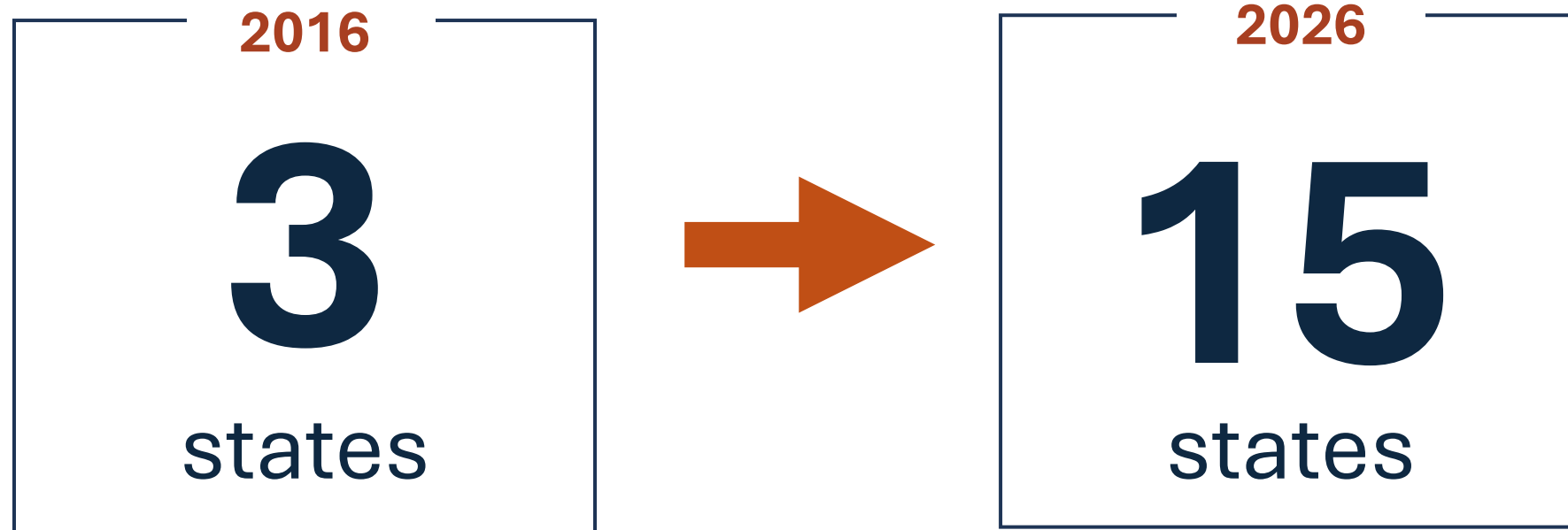


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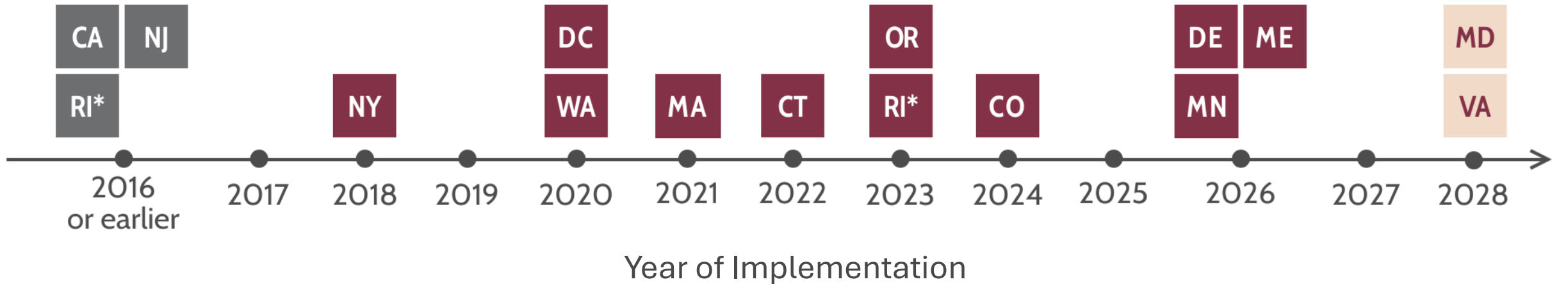
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Paid Family and Medical Leave Over the Last 10 Years



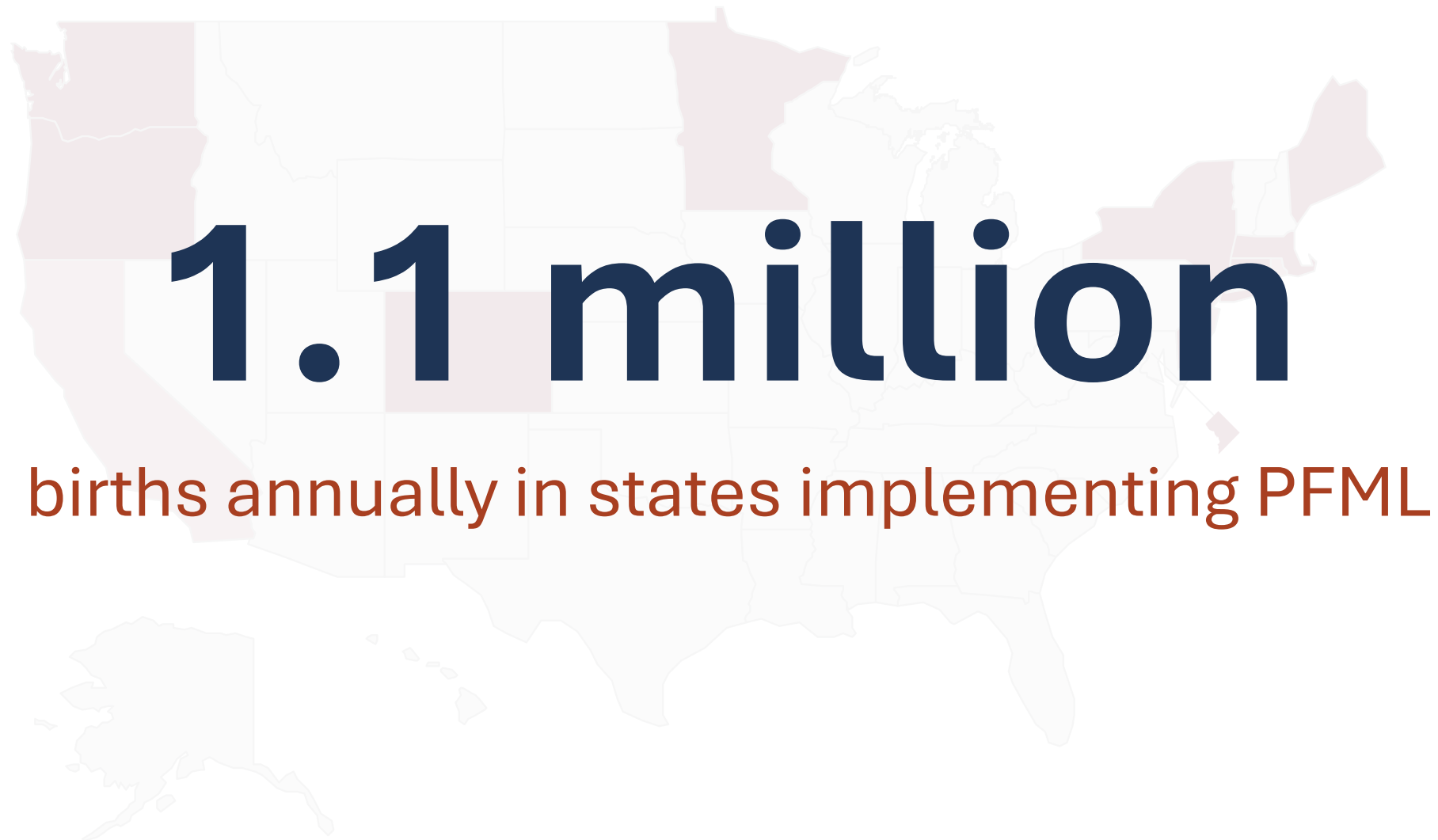
Number of States That Adopted a Statewide PFML Program

12 States Adopted Statewide PFML Since 2016



The first four states (California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and New York) to adopt a paid family leave program, did so by amending pre-existing Temporary Disability Insurance laws, which provide paid medical leave. The dates listed on the timeline above indicate the year paid *family* leave benefits became available to families in those states. *Rhode Island is listed twice because family leave was initially only 4 weeks of leave and crossed the Roadmap threshold of 6 weeks in 2023.

Over 1 Million Births Occur Annually in States With PFML



5 States Made PFML Programs More Generous

California



+2 weeks
↑ wage replacement

District of Columbia



+4 weeks

New Jersey



+6 weeks
↑ wage replacement

New York



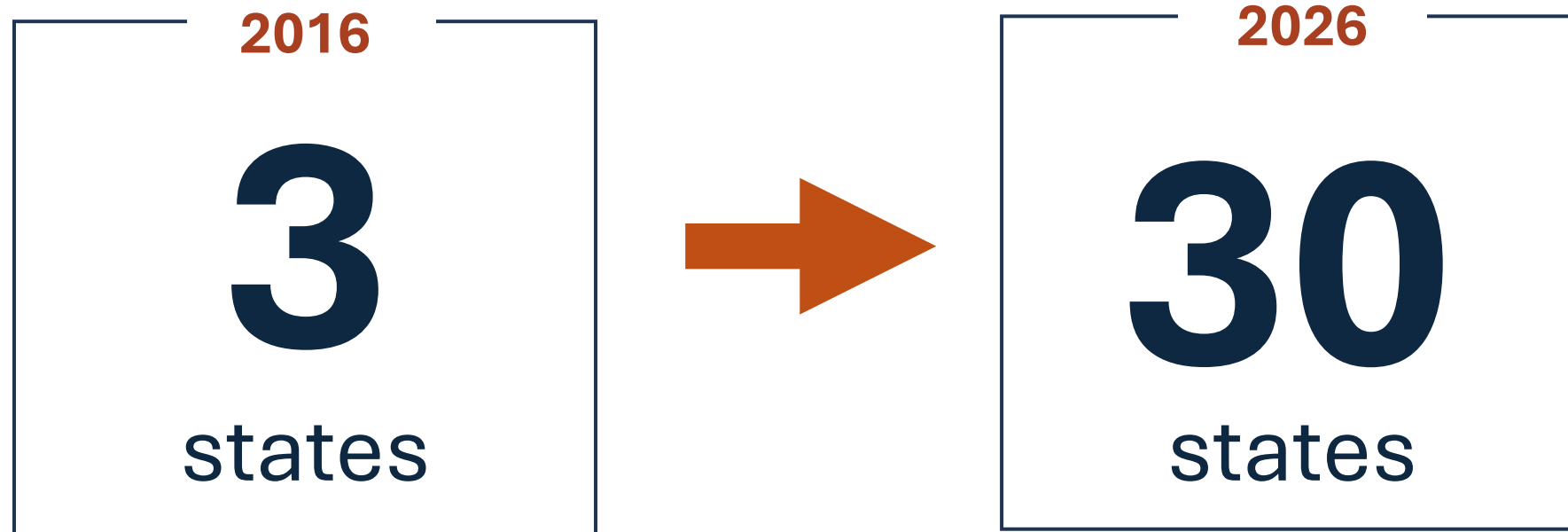
+4 weeks
↑ wage replacement

Rhode Island



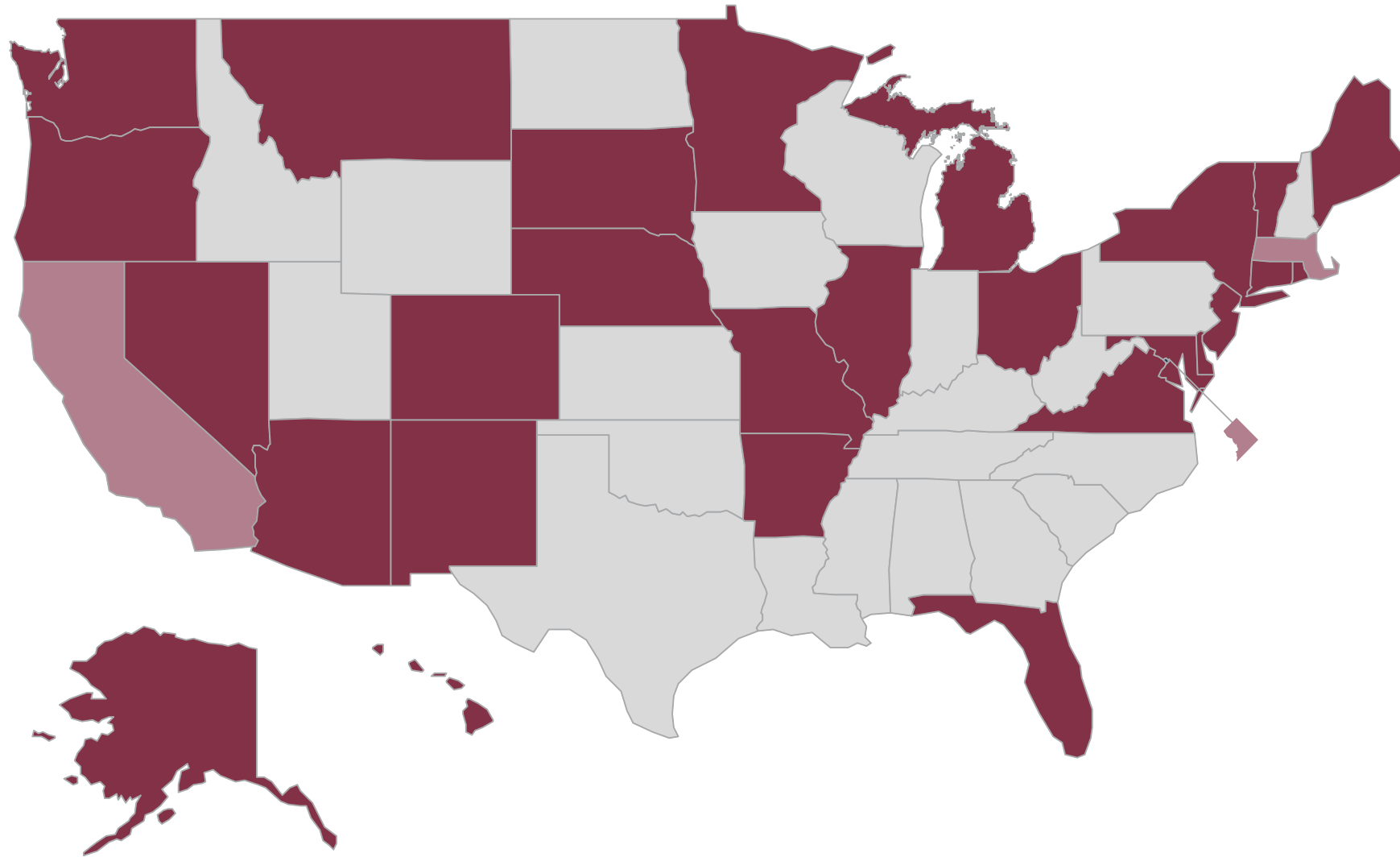
+4 weeks
↑ wage replacement

State Minimum Wage Over the Last 10 Years



Number of States That Have a State Minimum Wage of \$10 or Greater

27 States' Minimum Wages Increased to \$10 or Greater



\$10+ after 2016

\$10+ in 2016
or earlier

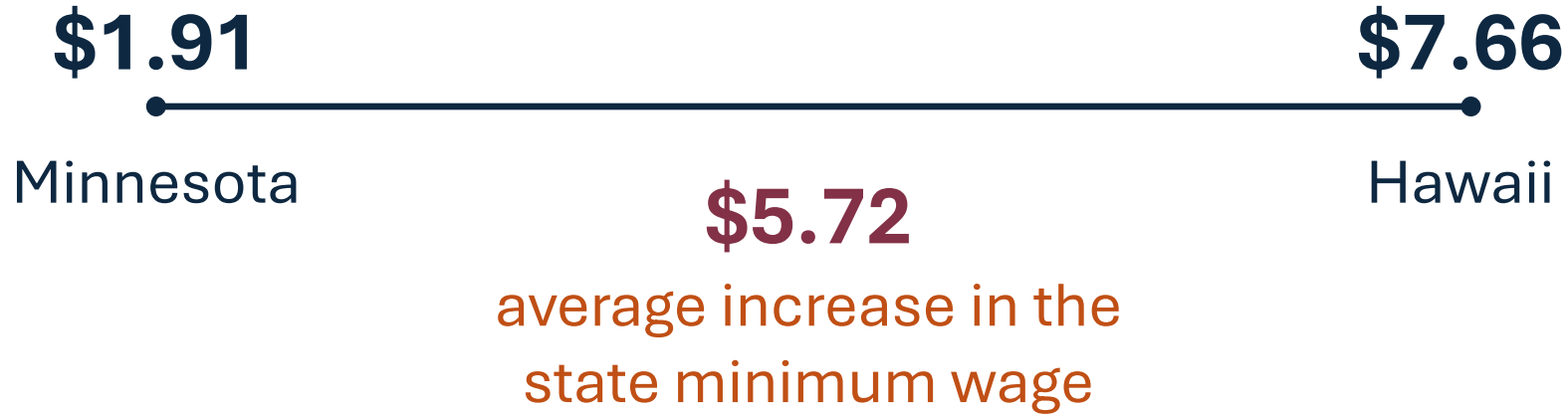
Millions Benefit From State Minimum Wage Increases



11 million

workers benefit annually

The Minimum Wage Gains Are Substantial in Many States



21 states have not increased their minimum wage since at least 2016 – all but one are at \$7.25/hr.

State Minimum Wage Increases Averaged \$5.72

\$5.72

per hour increase
in SMW since 2016



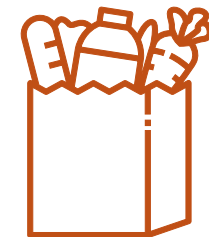
\$11,900

additional annual
income

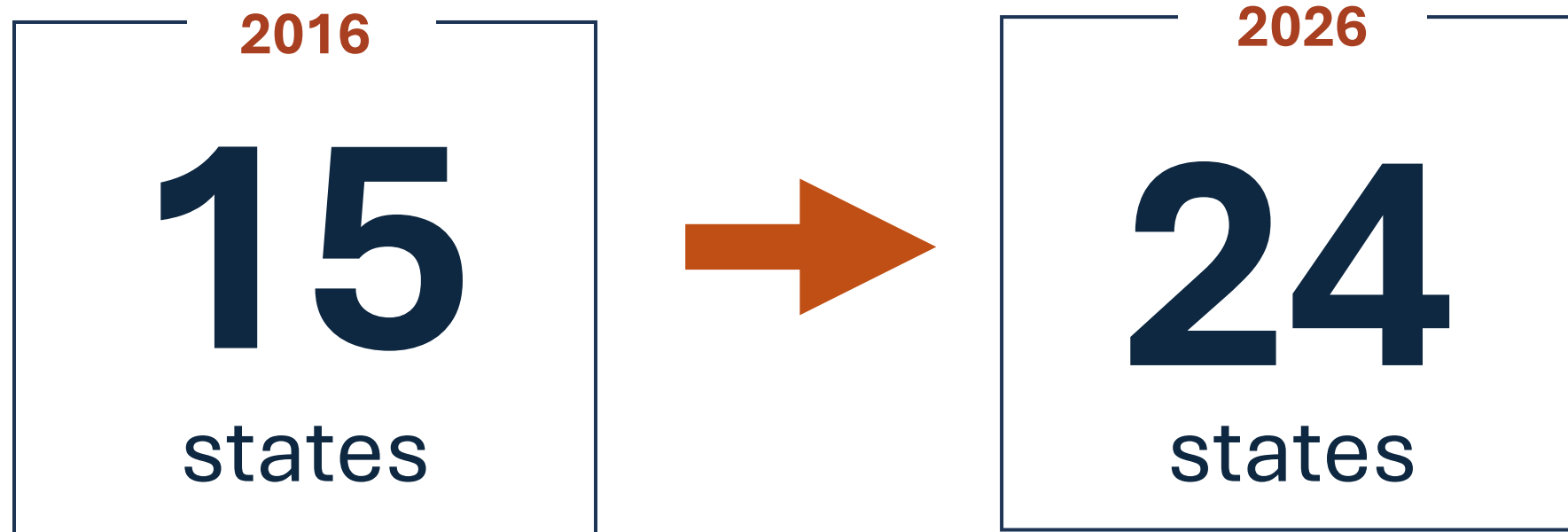


18

months of
groceries

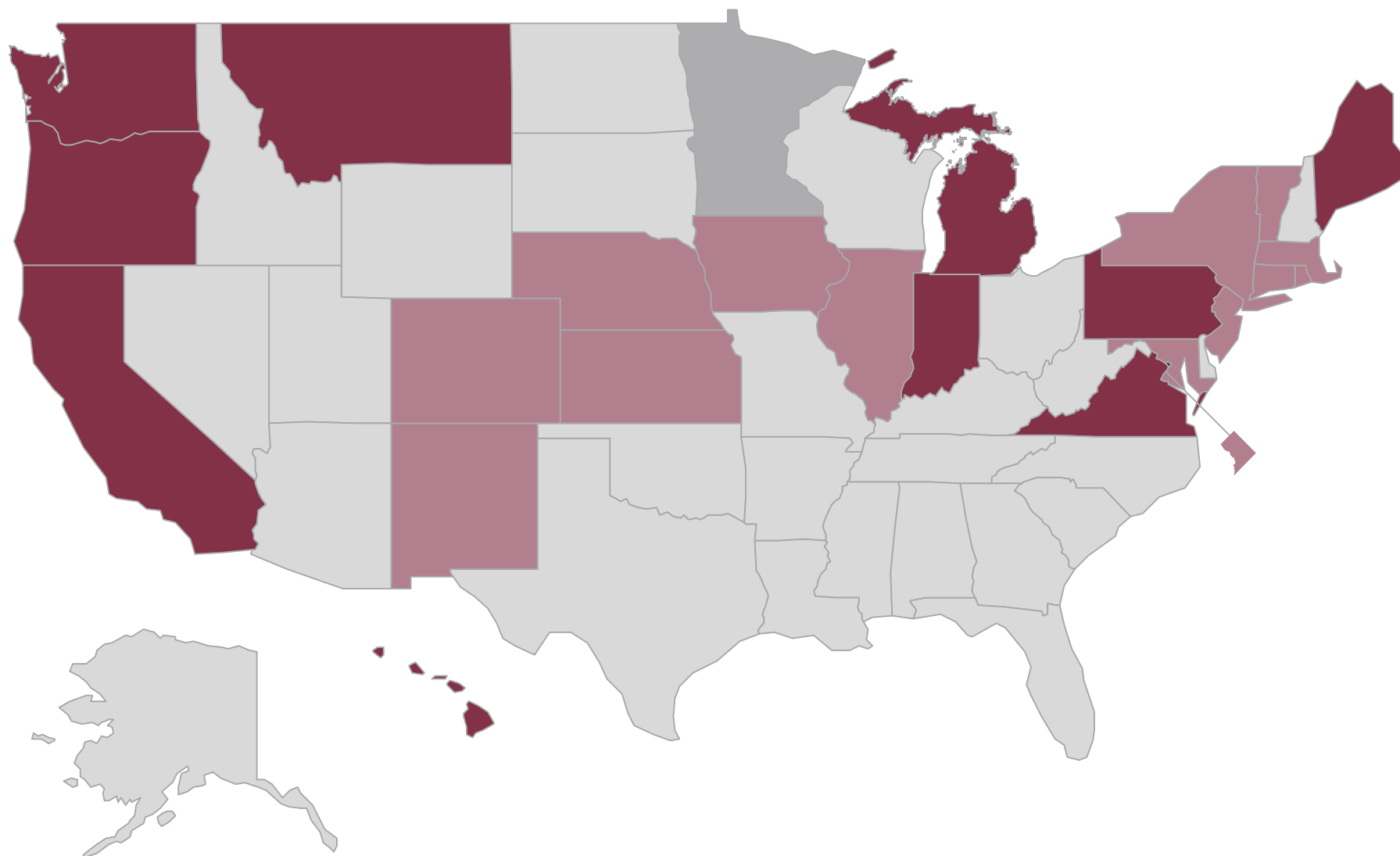


State Earned Income Tax Credits Over the Last 10 Years



Number of States With a State EITC Worth At Least 10% the Federal Credit

10 States Increased Their Refundable EITC to 10% of the Federal Credit



10%+ after 2016

10%+ in 2016
or earlier

*MN previously had a credit above 10% prior to reconfiguring family tax credits

States Passed the 10% Threshold in a Variety of Ways

Increased the Value of a Credit

Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Oregon

Made a Credit Refundable

Virginia

Expanded Income Eligibility

California

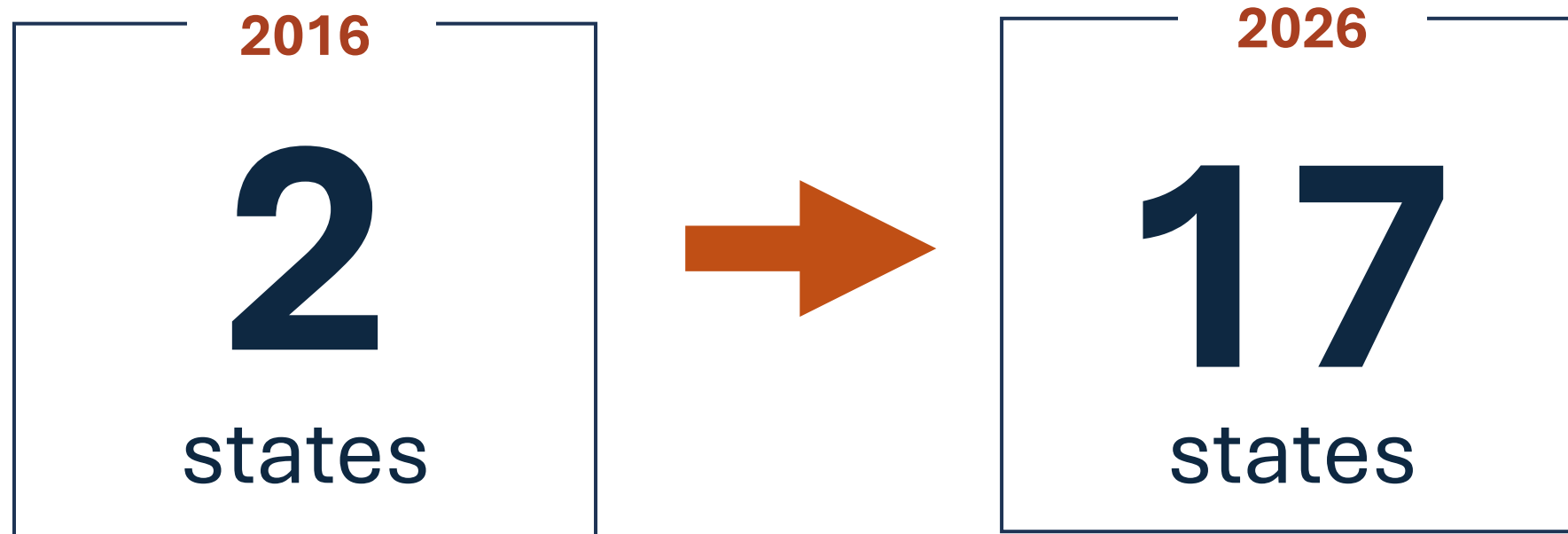
Enacted a New Credit

Hawaii, Montana, Pennsylvania,
Washington

State EITCs Support Millions of Families

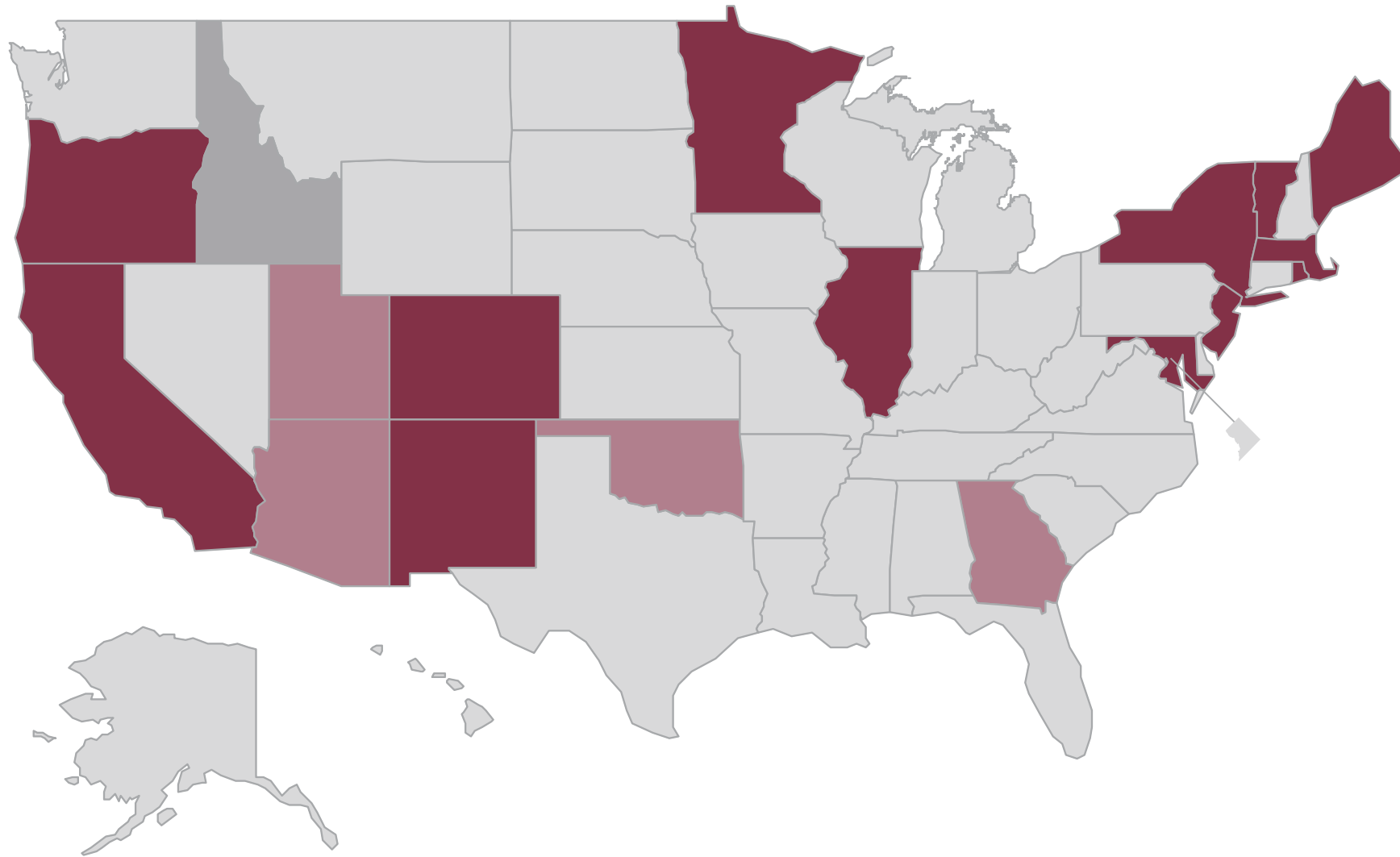


State Child Tax Credits Over the Last 10 Years



Number of States That Enacted a State Child Tax Credit

Most State CTCs Are Refundable



Refundable CTC

\$272
IL

\$1,800
MN

Nonrefundable CTC

*ID had a
nonrefundable EITC
for TY2018-25

Big Wins in Child Care Policy

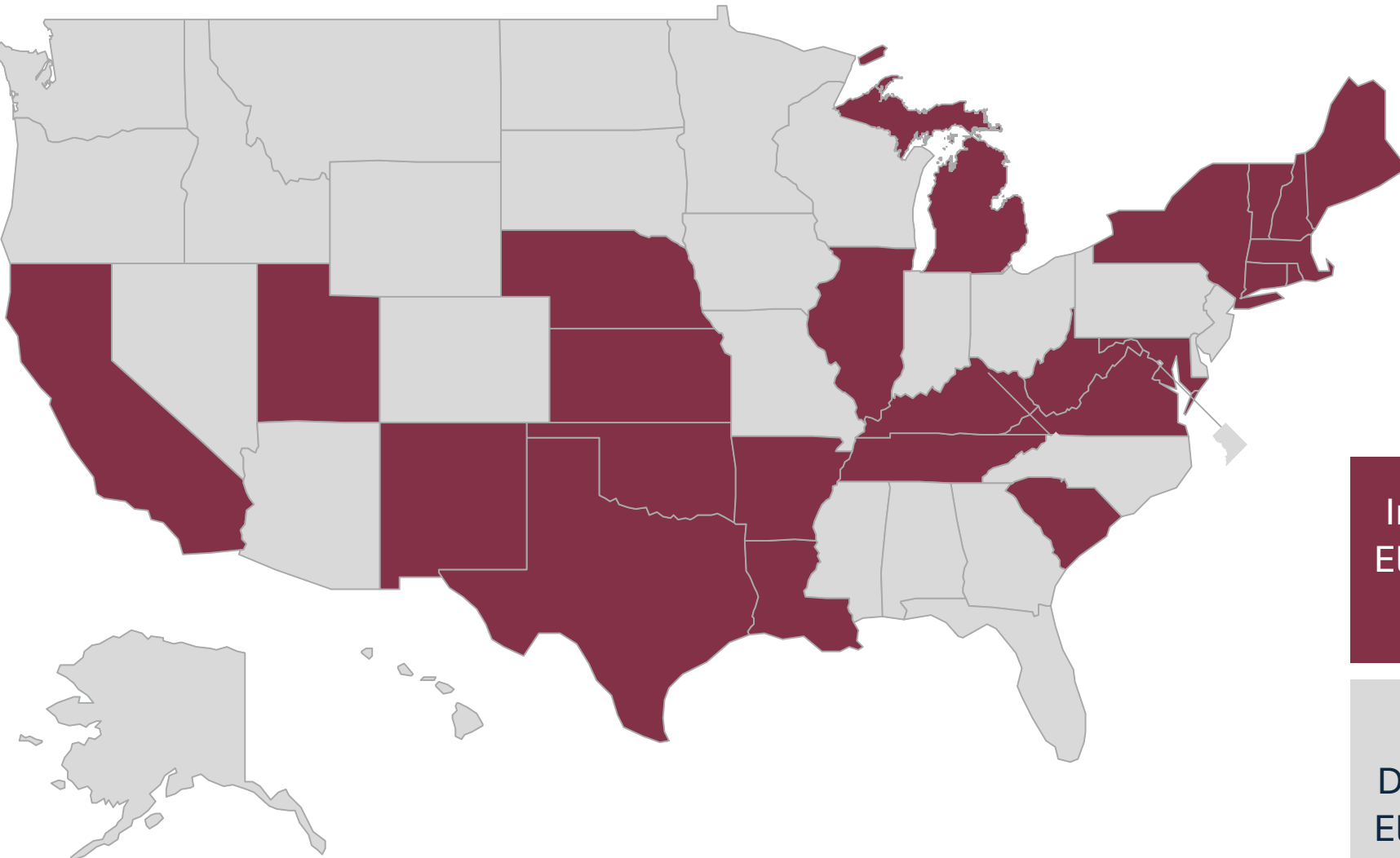
- ✓ Promotes Parental Work
- ✓ Protects and Increases Parents' Earnings
- ✓ Increases Provider Capacity
- ✓ Improves Workforce Retention



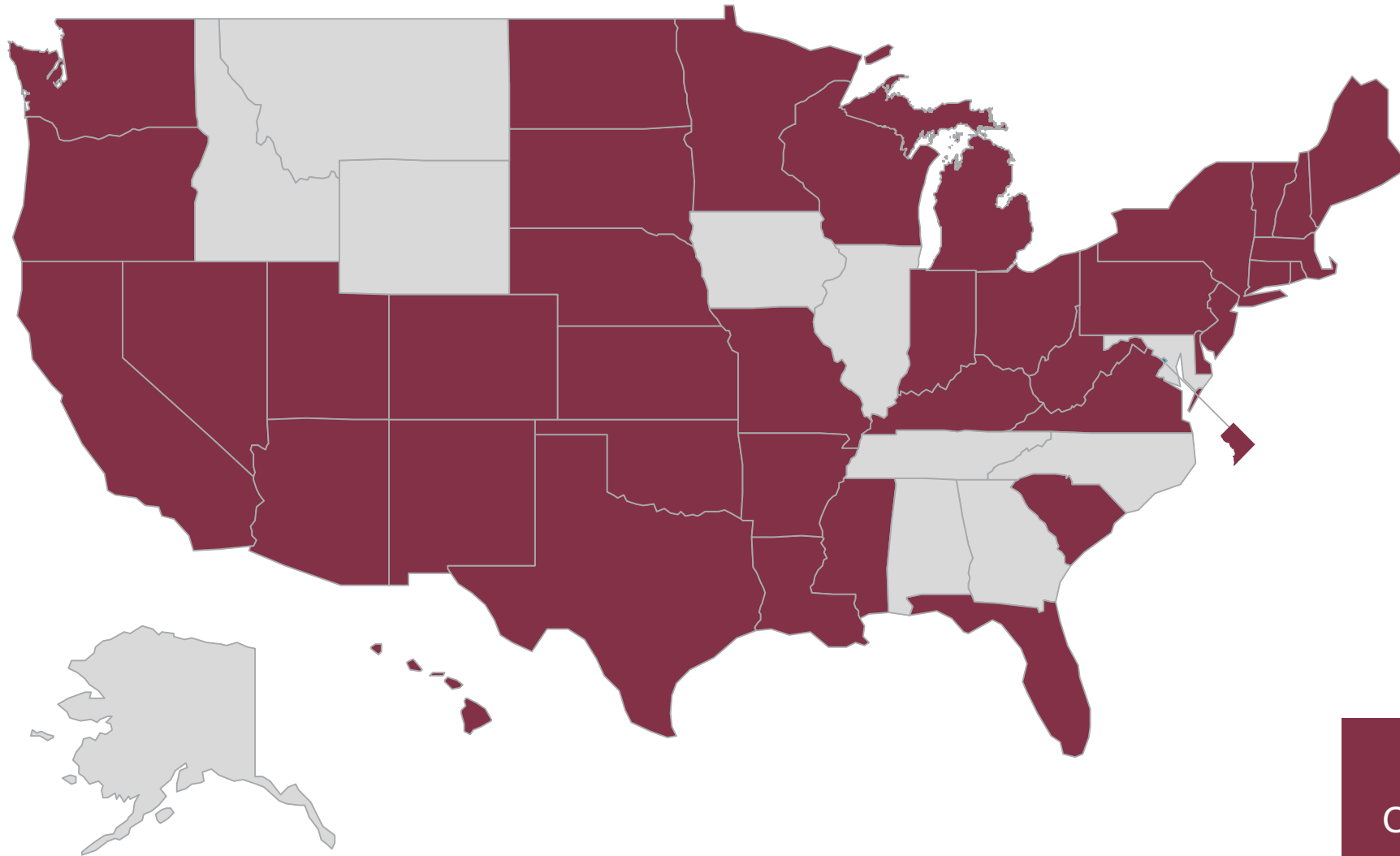
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40 States Reduced Out-of-Pocket Costs for Families



Reduced OOP Costs Since 2016

Nearly All States Increased Provider Reimbursement Rates

Only **Oklahoma** did not increase provider reimbursement rates when comparing 2016 to 2026.

6 states now use a cost model to set reimbursement rates, compared to only the **District of Columbia** in 2016.



States Identified Revenue Sources & Made Big Investments

Five states stand out for developing dedicated funding streams for child care subsidies.



Louisiana

Taxes on hemp-derived CBD products, land-based casinos, fantasy sports betting, and sports betting (2020)



Washington

Capital gains tax (2021)
High-income earner tax (2028)



Massachusetts

Tax on high-income earners (2022)



New Mexico

Oil and gas revenue (2022)



Vermont

State payroll contribution (2024)

Check Out Our New Report!



[https://pn3policy.org/reports/
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policies-millions-of-families/](https://pn3policy.org/reports/ten-years-hundreds-of-policies-millions-of-families/)

Colorado Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Policy	2016 to 2026		Progress Summary
 Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	138% of the FPL	 138% of the FPL	Colorado expanded Medicaid under the ACA in 2014.
 Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks	 12 weeks	Passed by ballot in 2020, Colorado fully implemented a 12-week paid family and medical leave program in 2024.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$8.31 per hour	 \$15.16 per hour	Colorado's minimum wage increased by \$6.85 per hour, resulting in a \$14,248 increase in annual earnings comparing 2016 to 2026.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	10% of the federal credit	 25% of the federal credit	The state EITC increased by 15 percentage points, although the credit may be as high as 50% of the federal credit, if state revenue allows.
 State met Roadmap threshold prior to October 1, 2016  State implemented a policy at or above the Roadmap threshold between October 1, 2016 and October 1, 2026			

Colorado Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Invested in Screening Programs

Began expanding Family Connects statewide

Leveraged Medicaid to Fund Perinatal Health

Medicaid funding supports doula services, evidence-based home visiting programs, and screening programs

Invested in Access to Early Care and Education and Providers

Reduced subsidy copays for families, increased reimbursement rates, implemented universal preschool

Consolidated Governance of Early Childhood Programs

Created the Department of Early Childhood in 2022

Louisiana Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Policy	2016 to 2026		Progress Summary
 Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	138% of the FPL	→ 138% of the FPL	Louisiana expanded Medicaid under the ACA in 2016.
 Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks	→ 0 weeks	Louisiana 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	→ \$7.25 per hour	Louisiana's minimum wage has not increased since 2009, when the federal minimum wage last increased.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	3.5% of the federal credit	↑ 5% of the federal credit	The refundable state EITC increased by 1.5 percentage points in tax year 2019.
 State met Roadmap threshold prior to October 1, 2016  State implemented a policy at or above the Roadmap threshold between October 1, 2016 and October 1, 2026			

Louisiana Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Invested in Child Care Subsidies

Increased income eligibility and provider reimbursement rates

Established a Dedicated Fund for Early Care and Learning

Taxes on CBD and betting support the Early Childhood Education Fund

Covered Doula Services Under Medicaid

Beginning in 2026, with reimbursement rates up to \$1,384

Expanded Access to Screening Programs

Began taking steps to expand Family Connects statewide

Ohio Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Policy	2016 to 2026		Progress Summary
 Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	138% of the FPL	→ 138% of the FPL	Ohio expanded Medicaid under the ACA in 2014.
 Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks	→ 0 weeks	Ohio 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	\$8.10 per hour	↑ \$11.00 per hour	Ohio's minimum wage increased by \$2.90 per hour, resulting in a \$6,032 increase in annual earnings comparing 2016 to 2026.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	10% of the federal credit	↑ 30% of the federal credit	Ohio created a nonrefundable EITC in tax year 2013 and increased to the current level in tax year 2019.
 State met Roadmap threshold prior to October 1, 2016  State implemented a policy at or above the Roadmap threshold between October 1, 2016 and October 1, 2026			

Ohio Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Leveraged Medicaid to Fund Perinatal Health

Medicaid funding supports doula services, group prenatal care, and evidence-based home visiting programs

Expanded Access to Screening Programs

Set a goal to expand Family Connects statewide and leverages Medicaid funding for HealthySteps

Increased Access to Child Care Subsidies

Increased income eligibility to allow more families to qualify

Consolidated Governance of Early Childhood Programs

Created the Department of Children and Youth in 2024

Virginia Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Policy	2016 to 2026		Progress Summary
 Expanded Income Eligibility for Health Insurance	0% of the FPL	 138% of the FPL	Virginia expanded Medicaid under the ACA in 2019.
 Paid Family and Medical Leave for Families with a New Child	0 weeks	 12 weeks	In 2026, Virginia enacted a 12-week paid family leave program that will be fully implemented in 2028. Virginia does have a paid family leave program for eligible state employees.
 State Minimum Wage of \$10.00 or Greater	\$7.25 per hour	 \$12.77 per hour	Virginia's minimum wage increased by \$5.52 per hour, resulting in a \$11,482 increase in annual earnings comparing 2016 to 2026. The state also enacted legislation to increase the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour in 2028.
 Refundable State Earned Income Tax Credit of at Least 10% of the Federal Credit	20% of the federal credit (nonrefundable)	 20% of the federal credit (refundable)	Virginia implemented a 20% refundable credit, in addition to the state's nonrefundable credit, thus increasing the credit value for families with low incomes.
 State met Roadmap threshold prior to October 1, 2016  State implemented a policy at or above the Roadmap threshold between October 1, 2016 and October 1, 2026			

Virginia Policy Change Over the Last 10 Years

Leveraged Medicaid to Fund Perinatal Health

Medicaid funding supports group prenatal care and doula services

Invested in Early Care and Learning Programs

Increased funding by hundreds of millions of dollars, increasing access

Consolidated Governance of Early Learning Programs

Moved programs under the Division of Early Childhood Care and Education in the Department of Education

Invested Broadly in Economic Security

Increased the minimum wage and tax credits and enacted PFML

PANEL: Learning From State Policy Wins Over the Last 10 Years



Gerry Cobb

Pritzker Children's Initiative
Director



Rachael Deane

Voices for Virginia's Children
Chief Executive Officer



Lynanne Gutierrez

Groundwork Ohio
President and Chief Executive Officer



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Chief Policy and Research Officer



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Louisiana Policy Institute for Children
Chief Executive Officer

Scan to view the **2026 Prenatal-to-3 Roadmap**



pn3policy.org/roadmap



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