

## 2026 Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

### Methods and Sources

### Effective Strategies

## GROUP PRENATAL CARE

### What is group prenatal care and why is it important?

All references for this section are provided in the Notes and Sources section at the bottom of each webpage. Additionally, search the [Prenatal-to-3 Policy Clearinghouse](#) for an ongoing inventory of rigorous evidence reviews, including more information on group prenatal care.

### What impact does group prenatal care have?

The following studies meet standards of strong causal evidence to demonstrate the impacts of group prenatal care for the health and wellbeing of young children and their families:

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- F. Kennedy, H.P., Farrell, T., Paden, R., Hill, S., Jolivet, R.R., Cooper, B.A., & Rising, S.S. (2011). A randomized clinical trial of group prenatal care in two military settings. *Military Medicine*, 176(10), 1169-1177. [dx.doi.org/10.7205/MILMED-D-10-00394](https://doi.org/10.7205/MILMED-D-10-00394)

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- H. Klerman, L.V., Ramey, S.L., Goldenberg, R.L., Marbury, S., Hou, J., & Cliver, S.P. (2001). A randomized trial of augmented prenatal care for multiple-risk, Medicaid eligible African American women. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(1), 105-111. [dx.doi.org/10.2105/ajph.91.1.105](https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.91.1.105)
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- K. Chen, Y., Crockett, A. H., Britt, J. L., Zhang, L., Nianogo, R. A., Qian, T., Nan, B., & Chen, L. (2023). Group vs individual prenatal care and gestational diabetes outcomes: A secondary analysis of a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Network Open*, 6(8), e2330763. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2023.30763>
- L. Keenan-Devlin, L., Miller, G. E., Ernst, L. M., Freedman, A., Smart, B., Britt, J. L., Singh, L., Crockett, A. H., & Borders, A. (2023). Inflammatory markers in serum and placenta in a randomized controlled trial of group prenatal care. *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology MFM*, 5(12), 101200. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajogmf.2023.101200>
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- N. Kettrey, H. H., Davis, A. J., Britt, J. L., & Crockett, A. H. (2024). Study N: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Effects of Group Prenatal Care On Identification of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial of CenteringPregnancy. *Journal of Family Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-024-00695-y>

### What are the key policy levers to implement group prenatal care?

In the absence of an evidence-based state policy lever to ensure the services effectively provide children and families the support they need, we present several choices that states can make to more effectively implement group prenatal care. We identified two key policy levers that states can implement to more effectively provide group prenatal care services in their state. The two key policy levers include:

- Provide an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate to incentivize group prenatal care and
- Invest funding to pilot or scale up group prenatal care in the state.

Data regarding enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rates and state investment in group prenatal care were obtained from state Medicaid Manuals, state agency websites and reports, and direct outreach to Centering Healthcare Institute, Inc.

We also performed an electronic search using Quorum State between August 15, 2025 and August 15, 2026 to assess legislative progress pertaining to group prenatal care. The main search strategy used combinations of keywords for group prenatal care (group prenatal care OR centeringpregnancy OR centering pregnancy OR enhanced prenatal OR Medicaid WITHIN 10 OF group prenatal care services OR bundled payments WITHIN 20 OF maternity OR perinatal care WITHIN 20 OF group OR centeringparenting OR centering parenting OR prenatal WITHIN 10 OF group setting OR pregnant WITHIN 5 OF group setting OR bundled payments WITHIN 10 OF global). Research staff conducted searches, analyzed results for

relevant state legislation, and summarized the progress states made toward supporting and implementing group prenatal care services. This component of legislative progress did not impact a state's rating, but rather is described in the narrative.

This section also contains the sources for the information presented in the individual state Roadmaps.

## Measure 1: State support for group prenatal care

### Definition:

Yes/No the state supports group prenatal care through one of two types of financial support and/or one type of non-financial support.

### Notes:

1. The two types of financial support include:
  - a. State Medicaid or a contracted managed care organization (MCO) provides enhanced reimbursement rates for group prenatal care services
  - b. State uses grant or discretionary funding to support incentives with enhanced reimbursement payment models or to pilot/scale up a GPNC model in the state
2. A state is considered to have provided non-financial support for group prenatal care if it officially recognizes GPNC as an effective strategy for improving maternal and child health outcomes
3. State support data are as of May 1, 2026.

### Sources:

| State      | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| State                | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| State         | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| State         | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| State          | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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| State          | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| State     | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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### How does group prenatal care vary across states?

Data were collected for one measure to assess how states vary in their implementation of group prenatal care. The datasets, calculations, and sources referenced for each state are listed below.

#### Measure 2: CenteringPregnancy Group Prenatal Care Sites

##### Definition:

The number of CenteringPregnancy group prenatal care sites in the state (as of 2026)

##### Source:

D. Patel, Centering Healthcare Institute Inc., personal communication, May 22, 2026.