

P3 Policy Priorities & Action Team Toolkit: Home Visiting

Can Michigan really help 41,750 more families with infants and toddlers get the early childhood services they need? With your voice, we can!

Thank you for taking action!

As an early childhood expert and a member of the Pritzker-funded Michigan Prenatal-to-Three Collaborative, you know that the first three years of a child's life are critical — a formative period that can lay the groundwork for the best possible outcomes throughout a child's life.

Across Michigan, tens of thousands of families with infants and toddlers are not able to access the high-quality programs, services and opportunities they need to raise healthy and thriving children. You can make a difference.

This **P3 Policy Priorities & Action Team Toolkit** will facilitate conversations on five infant-toddler policy priority areas. Together, we'll gather input, insight and ideas from as many parents, caregivers, providers, teachers, health care professionals, administrators, community leaders, advocates and agency directors as possible.

If you have questions or additional needs during this important and powerful process, please contact us: ta@ecic4kids.org | 855.790.4900. Additional resources and information can be found at ecic4kids.org/p3action.

Thank you for helping craft Michigan's Prenatal-to-Three policy agenda. Let's make Michigan the top state to have a baby and raise a child!

Taking action is as easy as 1, 2, 3 ...

Step 1: Host a discussion using the sample agendas and discussion questions in this toolkit, either in existing meetings or at a new gathering.

Step 2: Take notes on your group's ideas and submit them online at ecic4kids.org/p3action.

Step 3: Save the date for Jan. 23, 2020, when we release the final policy report. See how your voice made a difference and learn about steps you can take in 2020 to help Michigan achieve our collective goals.

Suggested Agendas

**If you have 30 minutes:**

- Review **Michigan by the Numbers** data.
- Facilitate three to five **Discussion Questions** with parents and/or providers.
- Take notes and report at www.ecic4kids.org/p3action.

**If you have 60 minutes:**

- Review **Michigan by the Numbers** data.
- Facilitate three to five **Discussion Questions** with parents and/or providers.
- Select three to five **Potential Policy Solutions** for reflection.
- Take notes and report at www.ecic4kids.org/p3action.

**If you have 90 minutes:**

- Review **Michigan by the Numbers** data.
- Facilitate five to eight **Discussion Questions** with parents and/or providers.
- Facilitate reflection on all **Potential Policy Solutions**.
- Take notes and report at www.ecic4kids.org/p3action.

Michigan by the Numbers: Home Visiting

In Michigan, there are currently

167,000 infants and toddlers

in families who live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.



34,000

families served.

23,838

infants and toddlers served.

13,579



pregnant people served.

(Source: Michigan Home Visiting Report FY17, MDHHS)

167,000

total infants and toddlers in families that currently qualify for and potentially need home visiting services.

THE GAP

143,000

infants and toddlers in families not currently receiving home visiting services.

What is Michigan's Home Visiting Program?

I didn't know someone could visit my home and help my new family ...

I wish I had had the encouragement from a professional ...

I felt nervous about having a visitor in my home ...

Michigan's Early Childhood Home Visiting programs provide voluntary, prevention-focused family support services in the homes of pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5. Early childhood home visiting programs connect trained professionals with vulnerable and at-risk mothers and families to nurture, support, coach, educate and offer encouragement with the goal that all children grow and develop in a safe and stimulating environment.

Early childhood home visiting programs are designed to provide support to parents and caregivers and to connect them to community resources and services. By concentrating on building trust with families, providers work to develop positive interactions focused on the importance of maternal health before, during and after pregnancy. Working in a one-on-one environment, providers encourage and assist families in caring for infants and building strong, healthy relationships with their toddlers and young children.

Michigan currently has eight evidence-based and promising models of home visiting available: Early Head Start, Family Spirit, Healthy Families America, Infant Mental Health, Maternal Infant Health Program, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and PALS.

(Source: <https://www.michigan.gov/homevisiting/>)

We want to increase the number of families enrolling in Michigan's Early Childhood Home Visiting programs.

The following questions are intended to be asked directly of parents and providers.

Submit your input at www.ecic4kids.org/p3action.

Questions for Parents:

1. Have you utilized home visiting services?
 - a. If yes, what was your experience?
 - i. Where did you learn about Michigan's Home Visiting options that are available to you?
 - b. If not, why not?
 - i. What would need to be different to make home visiting an early childhood service you would use?
2. What barriers, if any, made it difficult for you to access home visiting services?
3. If you have used home visiting services, did you feel that the service providers who worked with you were knowledgeable and respectful of your family culture?
4. From your perspective, what's working well in your community related to support of pregnant women and families with children ages 0-3?
5. Do you think that a home visit to all new mothers and babies is needed in your community?
 - a. Why or why not?

Questions for Providers:

1. What's working well with the home visiting system in your community?
 - a. What are your challenges?
2. Are you able to serve all families you identify as needing home visiting services?
 - a. If not, what do you do in those instances?
 - b. What would help you be able to best serve all eligible families?
3. Do you think families are connected to the home visiting model that best matches their needs?
 - a. Why or why not?
4. Are you experiencing any challenges related to the workforce?
 - a. Do you feel home visitors are compensated fairly?
 - b. Do you feel home visitors change jobs frequently?
5. Would your community be able to hire new home visitors if more home visiting funding was available?
6. What do you think it would take to stabilize the home visiting workforce?
7. Has your community developed local solutions, such as doing things to work around the system, local funding, etc., to help families who need home visiting services?
 - a. What are those?
8. Do you think a universal home visiting program available to all new moms and babies is needed in your community?
 - a. Why or why not?

The following questions are intended to spark a discussion with your groups.

These **Potential Policy Solutions** are the result of Michigan's Prenatal-to-Three Collaborative working sessions and need your expert experiences to make them as actionable and realistic as possible.

Things to think about and record:

- What are your reactions to these **Potential Policy Solutions**?
- How do each of these solutions make you feel?
- Would these address your challenges?
- If you had to prioritize the solutions, what order would you place them in?
- What holes would you poke in these potential solutions?
- What aren't we asking or thinking about?

Submit your input at www.ecic4kids.org/p3action.

Solution One

Improve referrals and expand parent choices.

Solution Two

Increase home visiting funding.

Solution Three

Increase earnings for the infant-toddler early childhood workforce.

Solution Four

Examine geographic and racial/ethnic disparities and cultural concerns that may deter or prevent families from enrolling in home visiting services.

Solution Five

Tell us your ideas! What policy solutions would you suggest?

Facilitators: Interested in more policy ideas and information?

Visit <https://www.ecic4kids.org/toolkits/>.

Contact Us: ta@ecic4kids.org | 855.790.4900

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