



Michigan is among 14 states to receive a multi-year action grant from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative to advance a prenatal-to-three policy agenda that was developed with the assistance of communities across the state. While the country grapples with a global pandemic, policies that dismantle structural and institutional inequities are critical. Ensuring that race, income or zip code does not determine a child’s destiny in Michigan is a top priority for Think Babies Michigan, formerly the Prenatal-to-Three (P-3) Policy Initiative.

Think Babies Michigan Policy Priorities: 2020-2025

1. Ensure that race, income or zip code does not determine a child’s destiny in Michigan.
2. Develop a statewide, cross-sector infant-toddler workforce strategy.
3. Expand enrollment in and access to high-quality child care, early intervention, home visiting and preventive care services.
4. Strengthen how families learn about and access programs and services.
5. Actively support efforts led by partners and allies that positively impact infants and toddlers and their families.

See the full policy agenda at www.ecic4kids.org/policy-thinkbabiesmi

How was the Policy Agenda developed?

Over 950 Michigan families, advocates, researchers, government officials and service providers came together over nine months to create Michigan’s Prenatal-to-Three Policy Agenda. Michigan aims to increase access and enrollment in high-quality services such as child care, home visiting, early intervention and postpartum care for low-income families with children 0-3.

*By 2023, increase enrollment by 25%
By 2025, increase enrollment by 50%
reaching an additional 83,000 children 0-3 living in low-income households by 2025*

Michigan will reach our enrollment targets in high-quality child care, home visiting, early intervention and preventative care if we implement the following strategies:

- Identify and elevate policy changes to require implicit bias training, disaggregate data by race/ethnicity and implement equitable funding formula allocations based on that data.
- Develop a cross-sector infant-toddler workforce strategy to fill shortages and reduce turnover.
- Expand enrollment in high-quality child care, early intervention, home visiting and preventative care services by maximizing federal funding, increasing state funding and improving eligibility.
- Strengthen how families learn about and access programs and services by streamlining applications, cross-training specialists and navigators, and funding initiatives to support families in learning about and choosing early childhood services.

Who Leads this Collaborative Effort?

Think Babies Michigan is now over 1,300 members strong. There are many family leaders and organizations across the state who contributed to Michigan's ability to compete and win this policy action grant. The Think Babies Michigan Collaborative is led by a Steering Committee of over 20 groups and numerous parents, including leaders from:

Clinton County RESA Office of Innovative Projects
Council of Michigan Foundations
Detroit Parent Network
Early Childhood Investment Corporation
Early Head Start – Childcare Partnerships
First Steps Kent
Flint Early Childhood Collaborative

Governor Whitmer's Office
Great Start Collaboratives
Great Start to Quality Resource Centers
Intermediate School Districts
Inter-tribal Council
Kresge Foundation
Michigan's Children
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health

Michigan Department of Education - Office of Great Start
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Michigan League for Public Policy
Nurse-Family Partnership
Public Sector Consultants
University of Michigan
Department of Psychiatry
W.K. Kellogg Foundation

and numerous parent leaders from communities statewide.

The Collaborative is co-chaired by:

Matt Gillard, Present and CEO of Michigan's Children;

Gilda Jacobs, President and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy;

Meredith Kennedy, member of the Asabike coalition of the Inter-Tribal Council, parent leader and behavioral health manager;

Denise Smith, Implementation Director, Hope Starts Here;

Quinn Wright, member of Great Start Wayne Parent Coalition, podcast contributor, parent leader and financial advisor;

Amy Zaagman, Executive Director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health;

and is staffed by the **Early Childhood Investment Corporation**

Why Prenatal-to-Three?

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.

How to Get Involved?

Join this growing coalition and help implement a policy agenda to expand services for babies, infants and toddlers. Visit www.ecic4kids.org/policy-thinkbabiesmi or contact Alicia Guevara Warren, Director of Statewide Policy Initiatives at ECIC at agwarren@ecic4kids.org to learn more.

We recognize the leaders across Michigan who are making tremendous strides on critical early childhood and maternal and child health issues. Through this initiative, we will align and support existing efforts, honoring that many leaders in Michigan have already made incredible progress. This initiative will focus on identifying gaps, without duplicating efforts, and supporting better alignment with existing efforts underway in local communities and at the state level.

Think Babies Michigan is a collaborative prenatal-to-three policy initiative of families and other early childhood stakeholders partnering to make Michigan a top state to have a baby and raise a child. For more information visit www.ecic4kids.org/policy-thinkbabiesmi.