



In 2020, Michigan received a multi-year grant from the Pritzker Children’s Initiative to advance a prenatal-to-three policy agenda that was developed with communities across the state. Think Babies Michigan is a collaborative of more than 2,300 members — leaders, experts, families, organizations and providers — working together to help make Michigan a top state to have and raise a baby.

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 2,300 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
Detroit Parent Network
Early Childhood Investment Corporation
First Steps Kent
Governor Whitmer's Office
Great Start Collaboratives
Great Start to Quality Resource Centers

Hope Starts Here – Detroit's Early Childhood Partnership
Intermediate School Districts
Inter-tribal Council
Kresge Foundation
Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children
Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health
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 Head Start Association
Michigan League for Public Policy
Mothering Justice
University of Michigan – C.S. Mott Children's Hospital

and numerous parent leaders from communities statewide.

The Collaborative is co-chaired by:

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

Christian Ko, Parent Leader, Oakland County;

Rachelle McKissick-Harris, Parent Leader, Kent County;

Denise Smith, Implementation Director, Hope Starts Here;

Monique Stanton, President and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy;

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 a critical, 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, Senior Director of Policy & Advocacy at ECIC at agwarren@ecic4kids.org to learn more.

Join here:



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.