



Think Babies Michigan (TBMI)

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 2,500 members – leaders, experts, families, organizations and providers — working together to help make Michigan a top state to have and raise a baby.

More than 950 Michigan families, advocates, researchers, government officials, service providers and parents convened to create the original Think Babies Michigan 2020-2025 Policy Agenda in 2020, which has been updated and refined over the years with input from our growing coalition. Michigan is the only state in this national movement to intentionally prioritize having parents co-lead and co-design our policy agenda-setting process.

[See our full policy agenda](#)

Who Leads this Collaborative Effort?

TBMI is over 2,500 members strong. There are many family leaders and organizations across the state who contributed to Michigan’s ability to compete and win this policy grant. The coalition is led by an advisory Steering Committee and a Governance Board. The Steering Committee is made up of over 20 groups and numerous parents, including leaders from:

Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services	Great Start to Quality Resources Centers	Michigan Council for Maternal & Child Health
Clinton County RESA	Hispanic Center of West Michigan	MI Dept. of Education
C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital – U of M Medicine	IFF	MI Dept. of Health & Human Services
Detroit Parent Network	Intermediate School Districts	MI Dept. of Lifelong Education, Advancement, & Potential
Doula providers	The Kresge Foundation	Michigan Family Voices
Early Education businesses	Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children	Michigan Head Start Association
Early On Michigan Foundation	Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health	Michigan League for Public Policy
First Steps Kent	Michigan Association of United Ways	Mothering Justice
Great Start Collaboratives	Michigan’s Children	

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.thinkbabiesmi.org



The coalition's Governance Board includes:

- Danielle Atkinson, *National Executive Director & Founder, Mothering Justice*
- Celina Byrd, *Director of Early Childhood Strategy - Michigan, IFF*
- Matt Gillard, *President & CEO, Michigan's Children*
- Emily Laidlaw, *Deputy Director for Early Education, Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, & Potential (MiLEAP)*
- Malak Kabalan, *Public Health Coordinator, Arab Community Center for Economic & Social Services*
- Christian Ko, *Parent Leader*
- Rachelle McKissick-Harris, *Parent Leader*
- Alejandra Meza, *Director of Program Services, Hispanic Center of West Michigan*
- Catrina Rule, *Executive Chair, How YOU Birth*
- Monique Stanton, *President & CEO, Michigan League for Public Policy*
- Cara Sutcliffe, *Parent Leader*
- Carrie Tarry, *Director of the Division of Child & Adolescent Health, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS)*
- Chrissy Vines, *Parent Leader*
- Darika Williams, *Parent Leader*
- Amy Zaagman, *Executive Director, Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health*

The coalition is staffed and facilitated 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 infants and toddlers. Visit www.thinkbabiesmi.org or contact Kelly Walden, Policy & Outreach Associate at ECIC at kwalden@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.

Join Here:



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