

**prenatal-to-3
policy** IMPACT CENTER
RESEARCH FOR ACTION AND OUTCOMES

PN3 Monthly
NEWSLETTER

We aim to accelerate states' implementation of evidence-based policies that help all children thrive from the start.

Did You Know?

Every state has increased its investment in at least one effective Roadmap policy since the release of our [2020 Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap](#), but the choices they made vary considerably. Over the last five years, their choices have led to widening resource gaps, as demonstrated by our [Policy Impact Calculator](#) which compares the level of resources available to a family of three based on each state's policy choices. In our latest brief, learn about the results of differences in state policy investments by reading about Colorado and Idaho, the states with the highest and lowest levels of resources in 2024.

[Read more!](#)

A Tale of Two States

The Impact of
State Policy Choices
on Family Resources

What We're Doing

[In-Depth with Experts: Two-Generational Health During the Perinatal Period](#)

Our director, Dr. Cynthia Osborne, recently spoke on a [podcast](#) hosted by The McSilver Institute. The episode discussed how to embrace two-generational health (child and caregiver) from pregnancy into early childhood, and how this approach can create better outcomes for families and prepare children for a lifetime of well-being.

[State Child Tax Credits: A Promising Policy to Improve Child Outcomes](#) Our newly released [research brief](#) discusses how preliminary research shows that state child tax credits are a promising policy to improve child and family outcomes, including increasing families' resources and reducing child maltreatment rates.

State Policy Lever Checklist: State Child Tax Credit

Our recently released [Policy Lever Checklist](#) provides guidance on optimizing state child tax credits, covering program characteristics, eligibility, and administration, to ensure equitable access for eligible families. Research shows that higher income improves children's wellbeing by meeting basic needs and reducing parental stress, and state child tax credits can boost family resources.

What We're Reading

Recruit and Retain More TX Child Care Educators

This [research brief](#), written by David Feigen at Texans Care for Children, summarizes bills SB 462 and HB 3807 in Texas. The shortage of qualified staff is reducing child care availability, forcing programs to serve fewer children and making it difficult for parents to find the care they need. SB 462 and HB 3807 aim to address this issue by adding child care workers to the priority list for child care scholarships, thus helping these educators secure care for their own children. The Senate committee has approved the bill, and the House committee held a successful hearing, which is expected to improve access to highquality child care by aiding staff recruitment and retention.

[Analyzing the Impact of Potential Medicaid Cuts: Overview of a Toolkit for States](#) Congress is planning \$880 billion in savings over the next decade, mainly through Medicaid cuts, and states are assessing the impacts on their budgets and Medicaid coverage. A new [toolkit](#) by Manatt Health and Princeton University's State Health and Value Strategies helps states estimate these impacts, showing potential massive coverage losses and increased state spending if federal support decreases. Key proposed changes include reducing federal match rates, removing minimum match rates, and imposing spending caps on Medicaid expansion beneficiaries.

Tax Credits Can Increase Child Care Usage and Enable More Mothers to Work

New [research](#) from the W.E. Upjohn Institute reveals that tax credits like the Child and Dependent Care Credit (CDCC) significantly reduce child care costs and boost parental employment, especially for mothers. The research shows that a \$100 increase in CDCC generosity increases paid child care participation by 0.6 percentage points among single mothers and 2.2 percentage points among married mothers. This suggests that more generous credits encourage families to utilize formal child care options.

Nurture Connection Early Relational Health Survey

Nurture Connection, a national network, is conducting a short [survey](#) to gather input on advancing Early Relational Health (ERH) and promoting strong early relationships for healthier communities. The survey aims to collect information on the evolution of awareness, policy, and practice related to ERH, as well as the impact of Nurture Connection's efforts in this area. By participating, respondents will help identify new growth opportunities and guide the future direction of Nurture Connection's initiatives in the early childhood field.

An Unseen Reality: Infant and Toddler Homelessness

Thrive from the Start, in partnership with Zero to Three, SchoolHouse Connection, Prevent Child Abuse America, and Housing Is, has a [collection](#) of resources about homelessness and its impact on expectant parents, infants, toddlers, and their families. Discover strategies for integrating stable housing, health services, and early childhood support to build a unified, holistic system that ensures all families have the foundation to thrive.

What We're Hearing

Webinar: When It's Too Hot to Play, Sleep, or Learn: Supporting Children and Caregivers in a Warming World

The Build Initiative is hosting a [webinar](#) on May 8 at 2:00 PM EDT that will explore creating healthy, equitable environments and responsive systems to support child and family

development amidst climate challenges. Extreme heat, driven by climate change, poses significant developmental and health risks for young children and caregivers, especially in under-resourced communities.

Webinar: The PN-3 Sector's Role in Upstream Child Welfare Prevention

Our Policy Director, Abby Lane, is speaking on a [webinar](#) on May 14 at 2:00 PM EDT. Lane, along with others from the Build Initiative, Chapin Hall, NM Secretary of Early Childhood Education and Care, and JUST-US Partnerships, will discuss policies and interventions that prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement by addressing families' social, economic, and caregiving needs. The event will feature a panel discussion with system leaders and individuals with lived experience, focusing on the implementation and real-world impact of these preventative measures.

Meet Our Team



Kiralfy is a Senior Communications Specialist at the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center, where she collaborates closely with creative experts, researchers, and policy analysts to implement impactful communication strategies that inform and inspire. With seven years of experience in communications and media production, she maintains a strong focus on clarity and audience connection—transforming complex ideas into accessible, engaging content across digital and traditional platforms. Kiralfy earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Media Production from Clayton State University and possesses certifications in Design Operations Management and Leadership and Team Management from the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA). She is based in Atlanta, Georgia where she enjoys spending time with her son, cooking, exercising, and diving into fun DIY projects.

Join our team!

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