

Texas Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Collaborative

Policy leaders are increasingly recognizing that the early years—particularly the period from the prenatal stage to the age of 3—are some of the most important for children, setting the foundation for future success. To assure Texas infants, toddlers, and their families get off to the strongest start, TexProtects, Texans Care for Children, and Children at Risk are leading a collaborative effort to implement a cross-sector prenatal-to-three strategic agenda that aligns with and enhances efforts across the state.

This new statewide coalition, the Texas Prenatal to Three (PN-3) Collaborative, seeks to increase access to high-quality services for low-income infants, toddlers, and families, and includes partners from **more than 100 organizations across the state.**

Vision

- All Texas children are born healthy and have equitable access to health and early learning supports in their homes and their communities.
- Early childhood systems are aligned, coordinated, and well-funded to ensure young children and their families are healthy and thriving.

Mission

The PN-3 Collaborative has developed a policy agenda and will implement an action plan for Texas that will ensure over 300,000 more young Texas children, ages birth-3, and their families, benefit from effective and well-funded programs that promote healthy beginnings, supported families, and quality early care and learning experiences **by 2026.**

Policy goals

The policy agenda is focused on the three areas described below and is intended to build on and align with existing efforts and initiatives.

Healthy Beginnings

Goal: Increase the quality of and access to prenatal and postpartum health services for low-income mothers and health services for low-income infants and toddlers by:

- Enhancing maternal health by extending Medicaid to 12 months postpartum.
- Connecting infants and toddlers to health care through continuous, 12-month coverage in Children's Medicaid.
- Strengthening outreach and enrollment efforts to increase the number of infants and toddlers enrolled in Children's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Increasing the number of mothers delivering infants in hospitals equipped with Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) maternal health and safety bundles that provide training and equipment to hospitals to address maternal health complications.
- Increasing the number of new mothers receiving behavioral health services in the postpartum year through the Healthy Texas Women program.
- Increasing the number of mothers, infants, and toddlers served through team-based models for prenatal care and pediatric health, such as CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting.



Supported Families

Goal: Increase the number of low-income infants, toddlers, and families who are screened and successfully connected to necessary services by:

- Developing regionally based centralized intake and referral systems and enhancing statewide intake and referral systems to connect families to an array of early childhood resources & supports.
- Increasing parent and provider understanding of healthy child development and support services available for families with young children.
- Increasing detection & intervention efforts and connecting medical providers to grid of resources for families.
- Increasing the capacity of home-based support services and other resources for families, including home visiting, Early Childhood Intervention, and community-based programs.

Quality Early Childhood Education & Care

Goal: Increase access to high quality child care programs serving low-income infants and toddlers by:

- Increasing access to high-quality child care for low-income children with working parents by enhancing Texas Rising Star (TRS), the state's quality rating and improvement system, and promoting strategies including shared services, school readiness partnerships, Early Head Start, and engaging home-based child-care providers.
- Strengthening the Early Childhood Education (ECE) workforce through additional professional development, scholarships, apprenticeships, professional networks, and other strategies.

Learn More

We welcome your involvement! Please contact the following people with questions or to indicate your interest in becoming involved:

Healthy Beginnings:

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Supported Families:

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Early Childhood Education & Care:

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Local (City or County) Efforts:

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General Information & Partnership:

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