



# TEXAS PRENATAL TO THREE (PN-3) COLLABORATIVE

## 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

### Our Vision

Our vision is for all Texas children to begin life with a strong foundation, have equitable access to health and early learning supports in their homes and their communities, and that early childhood systems are aligned, coordinated, and well-funded to ensure young children and their families are healthy and thriving.

### Our Mission

The early years of childhood have a profound impact on a child's health and wellbeing. From the prenatal stage to age three, this critical time of brain development sets the foundation for a child's lifelong learning and success as well as the future of our state. Recognizing that families want and need effective state policies, the Texas Prenatal to Three Collaborative works with state leaders to advance smart policies that enhance efforts across the state and ensure that Texas infants, toddlers, and their families are off to the strongest start.

### Healthy Beginnings

- Implement Medicaid coverage for 12 months postpartum to promote healthy mothers and babies during the first critical year of a baby's life.
- Invest in and revitalize the state's health education and application assistance efforts so that more families get help enrolling their eligible infants and toddlers in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Update the state's eligibility and enrollment system to remove unintended barriers - including investments in 2-1-1 (option 2) call centers and the YourTexasBenefits website and app - which are the tools that Texas families use to sign up their children for Medicaid or CHIP.
- Adopt Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) - which is used in Louisiana, South Carolina, and Iowa, among others - so that children eligible for Medicaid or CHIP have a faster, simplified process for enrolling in health coverage.

For more information, please contact Diana Forester, [dforester@txchildren.org](mailto:dforester@txchildren.org) and Alec Mendoza at [amendoza@txchildren.org](mailto:amendoza@txchildren.org).

## Supported Families

- Scale and expand universal postpartum home visitation programs for newborn caregivers to improve maternal and child health outcomes.
- Increase funding for Texas Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) to address chronic underfunding, which has led to a drop in enrolled children in prior years, challenges maintaining staffing levels, and reduced funding per child for this critical program that helps infants and toddlers with disabilities get life-changing therapies.
- Enhance navigation services for families, such as the state resource and referral system (211 Texas) and Help Me Grow, and their ability to serve as a front door, connector and data resource to communities to better support families with young children.

For more information, please contact Brittney Taylor-Ross, [brittney@texprotects.org](mailto:brittney@texprotects.org) or, on ECI, Alec Mendoza, [amendoza@txchildren.org](mailto:amendoza@txchildren.org).

## Early Care and Education

- Help Parents Get Back to Work with Affordable High Quality Child Care through mixed delivery methods focused on infants and toddlers.
- Support the infant and toddler childcare workforce to increase availability and support for low-income working families.
- Invest in the Infrastructure of Child Care in Texas to ensure access to high quality infant and toddler care and a well-compensated workforce.

For more information, please contact Mandi Kimball, [mkimball@childrenatrisk.org](mailto:mkimball@childrenatrisk.org).

## Cross Cutting Priorities: Equity

- Require the Sunset Advisory Commission to assess the agency's efforts to reduce racial disparities when under review.
- Support efforts to reinstate the Office of Minority Health Statistics and Engagement which the state eliminated in 2017.