



Healthy Births & Thriving Families

 PRIORITY

 LEGISLATIVE POLICY

 ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Ensure all families have access to paid family leave after the birth or adoption of a child.



- Extend Family Medical Leave Act provisions to those employed less than one year and to employers with less than 50 employees, both which are current provisions in the proposed Job Protection Act of 2023
- Include paid family leave in federal maternal health legislation



- What are the benefits of paid family leave for employers and states?

Make newborn support programs free for all families, with access to longer-term home visiting programs as needed/desired.



- Make newborn support services reimbursable through Medicaid and/or medical insurance
- Embed Universal Newborn Support Systems (UNSS) into all introduced maternal health equity legislation
- Reauthorize and grow an array of federal funding sources (Family First Prevention Services Act, Medicaid and Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting [MIECHV] program) to support home visiting



- Integrate UNSS information and entry points into both mother and baby health care visits
- Clarify how states can leverage other funding sources for UNSS and home visiting
- Ensure funding levels and guidance that allow states and programs to blend and braid federal funding sources for home visiting
- Implement listening and learning opportunities that gather knowledge from families and home visitors to inform implementation of MIECHV and planning for reauthorization



- How do we make UNSS free and available to all families, with access to home visiting as needed?
- How do we grow political will for this?
- What are the most effective and equitable measures for understanding when home visiting programs are needed?

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Support communities in designing their own programs to support new parents and their infants and toddlers.



- Expand funding and research opportunities for community-led home visiting models, adaptations and practices that promote continued innovation and centering of families' needs



- Support needs assessments in communities to identify existing programming and unmet needs
- Query community-led home visiting programs and models about funding and technical assistance that would allow them to better support their community
- Support hiring and training of staff from within communities where services are being provided



- Which existing home visiting models best support cultural responsiveness?
- What are best practices for community-designed home visiting programs?

Make it easier for families to have the financial resources they need to thrive.



- Reinstate the Expanded Child Tax Credit
- Update methods for determining federal poverty guidelines
- Incentivize states to serve and streamline enrollment processes for all eligible families to access federal financial assistance and basic needs supports, while limiting state ability to restrict access



- What barriers do parents and providers say are keeping them from achieving economic security?
- What impacts did the Child Tax Credit have on parents and providers within Start Early's network?