



## 2020 Legislative Priority Positions

Minnesota's Prenatal to Three Coalition strives to ensure all children will have healthy births and supportive mothers, fathers, families and communities with resources to develop, grow, and flourish without being defined by one's income, race, ethnicity or zip code. We believe targeted policy and legislative opportunities aimed at those who experience racial, economic and geographic disparities will ensure the first days and years of life include quality experiences for infants, toddlers and families with young children.

Policies and resources that complement and integrate what we know about the developing human brain, which begins before birth and continues into adulthood, is key. Early experiences literally shape how the brain gets built and occur within the context of relationships and families. Minnesota's future prosperity depends on the wellbeing of all families and children. When every child has access to resources and high quality experiences they are more likely to reach their full potential.

### High Quality Childcare

High quality childcare – whether it takes place in a childcare center, with a family child care provider or with friends, family, or neighbors – should provide developmental experiences that are interactive and stimulating to help infants and toddlers build the strong foundation needed for future success in school and the workforce.

#### Priority Legislative Strategies

1. Increase Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates for providers to the federally recommended 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the most recent market for infants, toddlers and all eligible children. Increasing reimbursement rates helps increase stability and reduces the need to change providers based on costs.
2. Expand early learning scholarships to include income eligibility for all infants and toddlers in order to provide families' access to high quality learning opportunities through a mixed delivery system – and increase resources to ensure more children and families have access to quality opportunities. Raising the scholarship cap to 75% for 4 star programs and 50% of market rate for 3 star programs will help families sustain quality care and reduce the need to change providers based on costs.
3. Support a new Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) provider grant program to encourage training, quality learning and development opportunities for children cared for by FFN caregivers.

The interplay of these different funding streams is critical to supporting families access and sustain high quality, culturally meaningful child care that support their families as they work and/or further their education.

### Support Strong Families

Every family wants to provide their children the best start. Starting prenatally and focusing on strategies that strengthen family bonding and opportunities to address health and wellness will position families for success.

#### Priority Legislative Strategies

1. Provide Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) through a statewide insurance plan in order to provide families a strong start and ensure continuity in the work force.
2. Increase access to culturally responsive, trauma-informed prenatal, primary, specialty, mental health and oral health care for infants, toddlers and families with young children across Minnesota.



## 2020 Administrative Priority Positions

Administrative policies and resources that complement legislative actions are critical to positioning families for long-term success and allow for additional flexibility. Identifying strategies that support strong families and high quality child care, regardless of where the care occurs or who is providing it, is critical to providing children a healthy start.

### **Support Strong Families**

Based on data from Minnesota's needs assessment for the Pre-School Development Block Grant, families want public agencies to identify strategies to share data across programs to reduce duplication and time to spent applying for different types of funding support for similar programming. This may include a common intake process or form for use across various early childhood programs and services.

#### **Priority Administrative Strategy**

Support the development of a common intake form to reduce time families spend seeking services and increase coordination and efficiency across early childhood programs and services.

### **High Quality Childcare**

High quality childcare – whether it takes place in a childcare center, with a family child care provider or with friends, family, or neighbors – should provide developmental experiences that are interactive and stimulating to help infants and toddlers build the strong foundation needed for future success in school and the workforce.

#### **Priority Administrative Strategy**

Encourage the State of Minnesota to use the new PDG grant to support quality and capacity building among Family, Friend and Neighbor care.