



## 2020 Policy Platform

February 12, 2020

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.

Policy Issue Area	Legislative Position	Administrative Policy Position
<p><b>Child Care &amp; Early Learning Opportunities</b></p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>1. Increase Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursement rates for providers to meet recommended federal conformity to the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile of most current market rate for infants, toddler and all other eligible children.</b> Reimbursement rates through the Child Care Assistance Program are so low, child care providers cannot sustain their business and communities have fewer options for child care. This limits a family’s ability to work and support their family.</p> <p><b>2. Expand early learning scholarship to include income eligibility for all infants and toddlers.</b> in order to provide families’ access to high quality care and learning opportunities through a mixed delivery</p>	<p><b>1. Encourage State to utilize the Preschool Development Block Grant (PDG) grant to support quality care and quality improvement for Family, Friends, and Neighbor (FFN) care providers and providers who provide legally non-licensed care (LNL) through DHS and/or local and regional initiatives.</b></p> <p><b>2. Encourage State to utilize the Preschool Development Block Grant (PDG) grant to better coordinate care and early learning opportunities; including pilot programs to provide home visiting to Family, Friends &amp; Neighbors (FFN) care providers.</b></p>

<p>workforce.</p> <p>The interplay of a number of different funding streams is critical to supporting families access and sustain high quality child care that support their families as they work and/or further their education.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>3. Eliminate the wait list for all infants, toddlers, and all eligible children and families through Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).</b> The Child Care Assistance Program is the number one support to help eligible families with infants and toddlers pursue employment and/or education, and help ensure children are well cared for and prepared to enter school.</p> <p><b>4. Support state initiatives that focus on new financing strategies for early care and learning and address statewide needs for a qualified, diverse, supported and fairly compensated early childhood workforce.</b> The current finance strategies are broken and limit who enters the workforce and how long they remain in business, which adds to the lack of available quality child care and early learning opportunities across the state.</p> <p><b>5. Support state initiatives that encourage a coordinated, mixed delivery system of care for infants, toddlers and young children,</b> which may include Family Child Care, Center-based Care, and care provided by Family, Friends &amp; Neighbors (FFN).</p>	
<p><b>Support Strong Families</b> Every family wants to provide their children the best start. Starting prenatally and focusing on strategies that</p>	<p><b>1. Provide Paid Family &amp; Medical Leave</b> through a statewide insurance plan in order to provide families a strong start and ensure continuity in the work force. Providing families’ access to paid family and medical leave supports critical bonding opportunities</p>	<p><b>1. Increase resources to ensure food security</b> for infants, toddlers and families with young children.</p> <p><b>2. Encourage administrative solutions to increase flexibility in critical programs and address the</b></p>

<p>strengthen family bonding and opportunities to address health and wellness will position families for success.</p>	<p>between children and caregivers. Additionally, paid family &amp; medical leave can help mitigate the challenges families face finding care for infants and young children.</p> <p><b>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.</b> Access to culturally responsive, trauma-informed health and wellness services remains inconsistent, yet critical to helping stabilize families.</p> <p><b>3. Increase flexibility of state-funded Family Home Visiting</b> grant program to include evidence-informed and promising-practice programs so communities can best respond to the needs of families. Voluntary family home visiting services provided by a diverse group of professionals and paraprofessionals can increase a family’s knowledge and skills to support their child(ren) while receiving support to address their challenges and needs.</p>	<p><b>unintended consequences of the “Cliff Effect”</b> in MN Family Investment Program, Child Care Assistance Program &amp;/or Health Care.</p>
<p><b>Coordination &amp; Data Sharing</b></p>		<p><b>1. Support the development and administration of a Common Intake Form</b> to reduce time families spend seeking services and increase coordination and efficiency across early childhood programs and services.</p> <p><b>2. Support administrative strategies</b> to improve targeted data sharing, while protecting data privacy, to improve communication between screening, referral and service delivery using the state’s Preschool Development Grant (PDG).</p>