

LB773 Summary

- Removes the sunset on the Prenatal Plus program.
- Extends the Prenatal Plus program to cover 60 days postpartum.
- Ensures reporting on the efficacy of the program continues until 2034.

Nebraska's Prenatal Plus program offers services to improve the health of high-risk pregnant women receiving prenatal care through Medicaid and reduce the occurrence of preterm and low-weight births in Nebraska.

LB773 removes the sunset date of June 30, 2028 from the Prenatal Plus program, extends the program to cover 60 days postpartum and ensures reporting on the efficacy of the program continues until 2034.

Background

Nebraska's Prenatal Plus program was created in 2024 with passage of LB857, introduced by State Senator George Dungan (District 26). Modeled after a program in Colorado, the Nebraska program is offered exclusively to mothers at risk of an adverse birth outcome who are covered by Medicaid. Adverse birth outcomes can range from gestational diabetes or hypertension to a previous preterm birth.

Services offered through Prenatal Plus include at least six sessions of nutritional counseling, psychosocial counseling and breastfeeding support. The program also includes targeted case management for these mothers, allowing a staff member in a clinical setting to offer a resource connection for their patients.

To be eligible for Medicaid, a pregnant woman must have income equal to or less than 194% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). There is currently a federal match for all mothers covered for prenatal care by Medicaid. Nebraska contracts with managed care organizations to deliver care to pregnant women enrolled in the Medicaid program.

Why is the Prenatal Plus Program Important?

Babies born prematurely or with low birth weight face an increased risk of serious health challenges both at birth and throughout their lives, including developmental delays, potential hearing or vision impairments, and even death.

In 2023, 1 in 13 babies were low birthweight and 1 in 9 were born preterm.



The Prenatal Plus program offers health services for high-risk mothers receiving prenatal services through Medicaid. The program's primary goal is to improve mothers' health and reduce the occurrence of preterm and low-weight births in Nebraska.

Program Outcomes

The Nebraska Prenatal Plus Program Annual Report from December 2025, which covered only the first six months of the program, shows there were 68 individuals identified having received the targeted case management service. This means that 68 mothers during the first six months of 2025 received additional support from their clinical care team to prevent an adverse birth outcome.

The experience in other states shows we can expect continued positive outcomes. In Colorado, the Prenatal Plus Program consistently improved birth outcomes among high-risk mothers. In 2007, the low birth weight for infants born to Prenatal Plus program participants was 10.7%, compared with 13.8% expected for high-risk women who did not receive Prenatal Plus services. This is a 22.5% reduction in the expected rate.¹

By providing targeted case management, mental health support, nutrition guidance and other services, the Nebraska Prenatal Plus Program is already helping create optimal health conditions for high-risk mothers and their babies so they face fewer challenges associated with preterm or low birth weight births.



Potential Cost Savings

For every **\$1** spent on Prenatal Plus services, **\$2.48 is saved** in Medicaid costs annually.

Savings are estimated at **\$1,424 for each infant.**

In 2007, Prenatal Plus saved Medicaid an estimated **\$2.7 million** in health care costs.

“Over one-third of Nebraskans live in areas where critical workforce shortages in primary care, obstetrics, and behavioral health persist... Nebraska will leverage RHTP funds to address unique challenges, including...lack of maternal care in a State committed to family values...”

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Rural Health Transformation Program State Project Abstracts (December 2025)

Why LB773 is Needed

By removing the sunset date of June 30, 2028 from the Prenatal Plus program and extending the program to cover 60 days postpartum, we will be able to ensure this program continues to be available to more Nebraska mothers and children. The extension of program reporting requirements will help ensure the program is fulfilling its intended effect.

References

1 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (November 2008). Prenatal Plus Program 2007 Annual Report. Accessed January 17, 2024.

