



Nebraska's Prenatal-to-Age-3 Plan

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Prenatal-to-Age-3 Policy Goals

Creating a strong network for infants and toddlers

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In 2019, Nebraska joined a national effort to advance state-level public policies that promote healthy development of young children prenatal-to-age-3. This effort involves national partners such as the Pritzker Children's Initiative (PCI), the National Coalition for Infants and Toddlers (NCIT), the Prenatal-to-Three Policy Impact Center and others. In Nebraska, this initiative is informed by partners through a Prenatal-To-Three (PN-3) Coalition representing state agencies, nonprofit and philanthropic groups, advocates, providers of PN-3 services, early childhood professionals, parents and families.

First Five Nebraska has coordinated input from these partners and stakeholders to inform a viable policy agenda that addresses the most urgent needs of children prenatal to age 3 in our state. Based on that input, the following objectives were identified:

- Increase availability of affordable, high-quality child care for infants and toddlers from income-eligible families across diverse settings, assuring equitable participation of families, children and providers of diverse race/ethnicity/language.
- Increase number of income-eligible families with children prenatal to age 3 who are connected to essential and high-quality health, development and social-emotional support services, assuring equitable participation of families, children and providers of diverse race/ethnicity/language.
- Address equitability, sustainability, accountability and alignment in early childhood systems and infrastructure, assuring equitable participation of families, children and providers of diverse race/ethnicity/language.

Building on the success of that initial grant, PCI awarded Nebraska a Movement Building Grant which supports PCI's North Star: Every child is thriving and flourishing by age three. Every family has access to the resources and supports they need to help their children thrive. PCI's Impact Goals include:

- By 2027, 100% of families with children in the U.S. live in states and communities in which significant new public resources have been invested in PN-3 supports.
- By 2027, 100% of families with children PN-3 that live in historically underinvested communities in PCI-funded "system" states are connected to resources they want and need so their families can thrive and with significant progress toward this goal being made by PCI-funded "movement" states.

First Five Nebraska aspires to influence policies to equitably expand high-quality services to infants and toddlers, especially from income-eligible families, with a target goal of a 25% increase (15,500) by end of 2023 and a long-term goal of a 50% increase (30,050).

Nebraska's PN-3 Coalition of stakeholders were involved in developing this Movement Building (MB) plan. The MB grant supports development and implementation of the prenatal to age three system in the state of Nebraska and runs through December 2025. Nebraska's goals include targeted strategies to three prioritized historically underserved and marginalized communities (Grand Island, Lexington and North and South Omaha) and are:

- All families are able to access affordable high-quality infant and toddler early care and education.
- Every family with young children is offered an evidence-based home visit.
- All Medicaid-eligible birthing people are able to receive adequate postpartum coverage for up to a year.
- PN-3 plan will evolve as state and local and family leaders learn more as to the needs of families and what is feasible to achieve.
- Family leader will participate in the PN-3 Family Leadership National Learning and Advisory Community.
- PN-3 Coalition is strong, sustainable, and representative of the racial, economic and geographic diversity of the state particularly including the voices of lived experience connected to historically underinvested communities.

To support the MB goals, FFN has made Community Voice Partnerships Mini Grants available to those three prioritized communities. These one-time capacity-building Community Voice Partnerships Mini Grants (CVPMGs) are intended to:

- Address local capacity needs, convene families with young children and providers of services needed to support families and children to thrive by age 3, and identify and prioritize barriers to accessing services.
- Develop and launch a sustainable Action Plan to address barriers.
- Support grassroots organizing to develop sustainable, continuous feedback loops to assist policy influencers, such as FFN, and decision-makers better understand barriers families and providers experience in accessing and providing services, and to work together to implement potential solutions. These continuous feedback loops are instrumental in advancing the goals of the PCI Movement Building grant. See Continuous Feedback Loop Model for more information on this process.
- Leverage the leadership, experience and connectedness of local Policy Leadership Academy alumni.



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