PRENATAL-TO-THREE: A FRAMEWORK AND POLICY SOLUTIONS

MONDAY, JUNE 24 | 8:45-9:10 A.M.

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH FELLOWS PROGRAM | MEETING #2: POLICY SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS
SESSION GOALS

- NCSL Early Care and Education Project
- PN-3 Legislative Advisory Group
- Think Babies
- Senator Thomas Alexander, South Carolina
NCSL Early Care and Education

- Prenatal (with MCH)
- Home visiting
- Child care
- Preschool (with Education)
- Early childhood teacher workforce
- Funding
NCSL PN-3 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY GROUP
PN-3 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY GROUP

- Provide a neutral, bipartisan forum for dialogue around prenatal-to-three policy issues.
- Enhance the leadership capabilities of participating state legislators by increasing their knowledge of prenatal-to-three policy issues.
- Inform a broader legislative audience on prenatal-to-three policy issues through a legislative framework.

Thanks to the Pritzker Children’s Initiative.
Strong Beginnings, Successful Lives:
A Prenatal-to-Three Policy Framework for Legislators

**Strong Beginnings, Successful Lives**
- Increased School Readiness
- Improved Health Outcomes
- Reduced Crime
- Stronger Future Workforce

**HEALTHY BEGINNINGS**
- Access to Prenatal Care
- Breastfeeding Needs and Supports
- Public Awareness of Healthy Pregnancies

**EARLY LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CARE**
- High-Quality Early Care and Learning System
- Early Care and Education Professionals
- Developmental Screenings and Interventions

**FAMILY SUPPORTS**
- Family Economic Supports
- Parent Training and Education
- Streamlined Services and Resources
**Three Early Steps**

1. Ask your state maternal and child health director about opportunities to better support healthy development through your state’s prenatal care policies and programs in your state.
2. Find out more about your state’s rate of breastfeeding.
3. Gather information about the percentage of well-child visits in your state.

**Five Questions to Ask**

1. What percentage of women in my state have access to prenatal care?
2. What percentage of women in my state breastfeed for at least six months? One year?
3. Which hospitals in my state are “baby friendly?”
4. What percentage of babies in my state receive well-child visits?
5. How many pregnant and postpartum women and infants participate in WIC services in my state?
Helping Babies and Toddlers Thrive: A Look at Recent State Legislation

Why Babies?

With a million new neural connections forming every second, a baby’s brain grows and develops faster in the first year than at any other point in life. Positive and nurturing relationships with caregivers, high-quality early learning environments, and access to nutrition and other resources for healthy development by the foundation for lifelong success in school, relationships, work and beyond.

The Role of Legislators

State legislators play an important role in helping infants, toddlers, and their families thrive. Legislators inform and respond to state priorities, enact legislation, develop and approve budgets, leverage federal funding, provide independent oversight of state agencies, and establish committees and task forces to bring additional expertise and perspectives to state issues. As leaders in their communities, state legislators have a vested interest in not only promoting the health and success of their state’s future students and workforce, but also avoiding higher costs to the state down the road. In the long run, failing to support healthy development in infants and toddlers can lead to greater spending on health care, remedial education and other supports.

Working With State Legislators: A Guide for Infant-Toddler Professionals

State legislators take positions and voice legislation that affects infants and toddlers. Because of the many and complexity of the policy issues before them, state legislators often rely on their staffs, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), academic researchers, advocates, practitioners and community members to present information and analyze policies that address a need or respond to an opportunity in state-level federal funds. They also rely on experts in the field—people like you—for their trusted perspectives about the effects of laws and public funding of early childhood programs and services. These include child care, Early Head Start, paid family leave, home visits, early intervention and early childhood mental health.

STATE OF BABIES YEARBOOK 2019

NCSL
NCSL EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROJECT CONTACTS

Julie Poppe | Program Manager | (303) 856-1497 | julie.poppe@ncsl.org

Alison May | Policy Associate | (303) 856-1473 | alison.may@ncsl.org

Jennifer Palmer | Policy Associate | (303) 856-1351 | jennifer.palmer@ncsl.org
Senator Thomas Alexander, South Carolina
• PN-3 Legislative Advisory Group Member
• South Carolina home visiting