



**ENSURING
PENNSYLVANIA
FAMILIES
CAN THRIVE**

**HEALTHY STARTS.
STRONG FAMILIES.
A THRIVING PENNSYLVANIA.**



THE PROBLEMS



GAPS IN HEALTH COVERAGE AND CARE

Families may experience interruptions in coverage, difficulty enrolling in programs, or limited access to providers, especially during pregnancy and early childhood.



FRAGMENTED SUPPORTS FOR FAMILIES

Services like home visiting, behavioral health, nutrition assistance, housing support, and early intervention are often not coordinated, making it harder for families to get the right help at the right time.



ECONOMIC STRAIN ON PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Rising costs, lack of paid leave, and limited direct financial supports make it harder for families to meet basic needs while caring for young children.

Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated policy agenda that strengthens access to care, connects families to comprehensive supports, and improves economic stability during the earliest years of a child's life.



THE SOLUTIONS



Success will be measured through fewer coverage disruptions, increased enrollment in health and nutrition programs, wider access to coordinated family supports, and greater economic stability for expectant parents and families with young children. Thriving PA will work with executive and legislative leaders to advance policies that deliver these outcomes.



ACCESS TO CARE

A healthy baby begins with a healthy pregnancy. All parents should have access to the health resources they need to give birth and Pennsylvania's children should be insured as early as possible to have the healthiest start possible.



Expand Medicaid Coverage

Advocate for continuous Medicaid coverage for children from birth to age six and urge DHS to improve automatic renewals for eligible families to minimize paperwork burdens.



Increase Enrollment

Launch statewide campaigns to educate families about free or low-cost health insurance options through Medicaid, CHIP, and Pennie™ and support additional investments in community navigators who can help families enroll in these programs.



Enhance Perinatal Care

Support the new statewide perinatal psychiatric access program and monitor progress of doula reimbursement through Medicaid.

A COORDINATED AND COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM

Babies do not come with a book of instructions, and children's needs change as they grow. Families deserve access to high-quality supports and services—including evidence-based home visiting, physical and mental health services, as well as nutrition and housing supports—that are coordinated, easy to navigate, and designed around their needs.



Strengthen Home Visiting Programs

Increase public investment in evidence-based home visiting programs and expand the Medicaid Maternal Home Visiting initiative.



Improve Access to Nutrition Supports

Collaborate with state officials to simplify WIC application processes and permanently implement telehealth policies. Monitor the state's commitment to transition to an online Smart Card system for WIC benefit redemption and chip-enabled EBT cards to secure SNAP benefits.



Support Housing Stability for Expectant Parents and Children

Urge increased investments in permanent housing options for expectant parents and families with young children, and support policies across early childhood programs that prioritize families experiencing homelessness.



FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

Economic security is one of the strongest predictors of long-term well-being. A family's ability to meet its basic needs is the foundation for healthy development and self sufficiency. Every family deserves equitable access to the resources they need to thrive.



Establish Tax Credits

Support efforts to create a state level Child Tax Credit to provide financial relief to families.



Implement Paid Leave

Advocate for a Statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave program to ensure families can care for loved ones without financial hardship.



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