

Excel by Eight Foundations Policy Agenda



The Excel by Eight Foundations Collaborative has developed an ambitious policy agenda. By 2025, our goal is to expand the number of pregnant women, infants, and toddlers receiving high-quality health and education services by more than 35,000 and close the gaps between all demographic subgroups. We will achieve this by increasing the number of pregnant women, infants, and toddlers:

- receiving screenings and supportive services that improve health and education outcomes;
- served by high-quality home visiting models; and
- enrolled in high-quality early childhood education programs.

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS

Increase the number of pregnant mothers, infants, and toddlers receiving screenings and supportive services that improve health and education outcomes

Sub-Goal	Policy	Infants/Toddlers Served by 2025
Provide reimbursable developmental screenings and increase the percentage of infants and toddlers receiving follow-up services and supports	Arkansas Medicaid require and reimburse for ASQ or Brigance screens at 9, 18, and 30 months and autism screen at 18 and 24 (or 30 months)	32,025
	Pilot Healthy Steps in 4-5 pediatric practices to measure the impact of coordination and expand statewide	22,875
	Infants and toddlers receive dyadic mental health services	TBD
Expand prenatal and perinatal support for mothers	UAMS Head Start launch Partners for a Healthy Baby home visiting for pregnant women	32
	Secure Medicaid reimbursement for maternal depression screening through well child visits	6,250
	Medicaid and/or Arkansas Works payers cover home visiting for prenatal and perinatal	TBD

Subtotal (minus screenings)

22,907

SUPPORTED FAMILIES

Increase the number of infants and toddlers served by high quality home visiting models

Sub-Goal	Policy	Infants/Toddlers Served by 2025
Expand or shift current models and funding streams to serve more infants and toddlers	Arkansas Home Visiting Network (AHVN) shift Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funded Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youth (HIPPY) slots for preschool age children to Parents as Teachers (PAT) or HIPPY slots for infants and toddlers	443
	AHVN and the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) at the Department of Human Services (DHS) expand SafeCare statewide	1,266
	UAMS launch Healthy Families America pilot with Marshallese families in Northwest Arkansas	24
	UAMS Head Start launch PAT for infants and toddlers	40
	Expand Following Babies Back Home statewide	TBD
Establish and expand universal newborn home visiting	Launch Family Connects in Union County and expand to Ashley, Faulkner, Garland, Jefferson, and Pulaski counties	4,860
Implement targeted home visiting for vulnerable families	Expand DCFS home visiting programs through Family First	370
	DCFS offer Nurturing Families to pregnant foster youth	15
Launch new home visiting models	Save the Children launch Early Steps to School Success	650

Subtotal

7,668

HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING

Increase the number of infants and toddlers in high quality early childhood education programs

Sub-Goal	Policy	Infants/Toddlers Served by 2025
Improve access to quality subsidized child care	Create Better Beginning Level 3 slots through Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grants	404
	Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) at DHS offer subsidy agreements for high quality infant and toddler slots	176
	DCCECE target funds from CCDBG appropriations increase to infants and toddlers	544
Improve quality by increasing education levels and incomes for the ECE workforce	Refundable tax credit for the ECE workforce to incentivize higher education attainment and increase incomes	3,527
	Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) provide counseling/scholarships to early childhood educators to obtain a college certificate or degree through T.E.A.C.H.	117
Improve quality care through family child care homes	University of Arkansas expand family child care home network and provide support to develop quality infant and toddler care	576

Subtotal

5,344

Grand Total

35,919