

Illinois Prenatal to Three Initiative

1. What is the Illinois Prenatal to Three Initiative (PN3) in Illinois?

The Prenatal to Three Initiative (PN3) is the name for Illinois' opportunity to participate in a parallel process to the Initiative [Pritzker Children's Initiative](#) (PCI) planning states through the generosity of the Irving Harris, McCormick and Stone Foundations. PCI supports states to develop a strategic policy agenda and implementation plan focused on prioritizing the expansion of high quality services to low-income infants and toddlers and their families, beginning prenatal to three to get them on track for school success by age three. In Illinois, the policy agenda and implementation plan will seek to provide services to an additional 25% of Illinois' infant/toddler population (50,000 infants and toddlers) by 2023, and an additional 50% of low-income infant/toddler population by 2025 (100,000 low-income infants and toddlers). While Illinois could not be funded directly by PCI, Illinois will be able to engage in all of the technical assistance and peer learning opportunities available. Fortunately, Illinois has long been a leader in prioritizing infants and toddlers, and this work will build from the work that already exists.

The proposed policy agenda and implementation plan will be completed in January 2020.

The two main areas of focus as defined under PCI are:

- a. Increase in the number of families with children prenatal to age three who are connected to essential health, development and social emotional support services (e.g. home visiting, health and developmental screenings, and referrals to a range of health and support services, prenatal care, expanded EI services, high quality child care).
- b. Increase in the number of low-income infants and toddlers receiving affordable, high-quality care. This may include but is not limited to strategies for increasing the number of high-quality child care opportunities for low-income toddlers, improved quality of existing child care for infants and toddlers and expanded workforce compensation for teachers in infant and toddler child care programs.

2. How will the PN3 Initiative fit with the other current Illinois early childhood systems initiatives?

It is important that the PN3 work be coordinated closely with other key statewide early childhood systems initiative to ensure that we create comprehensive and coherent plans for Illinois' early childhood system. For example, the policy agenda and strategies developed for PN3 will be coordinated with the needs assessment and strategic planning work happening under **Illinois' Preschool Development Grant – Birth to Five**, which contains considerable emphasis on infants and toddlers.

3. How will the PN3 Initiative be structured?

The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development and the Ounce of Prevention Fund will lead a process that engages a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that the proposed policy agenda and implementation plan reflects the needs of children and families throughout Illinois. The process will include a series of meetings with a core planning and coalition team and multiple opportunities for engagement throughout the state:

- A. Core Planning Team: Provide strategic and content input on the planning for the policy agenda priorities and workflow, the community and family engagement strategies, the final report and other key decision points.
- B. Coalition Team: Provide input and feedback on the proposed priorities for the policy agenda and implementation plan, and support broader stakeholder engagement in the process, including existing coalitions and councils and community and family engagement.
- C. Committees and Councils: Support development of policy and implementation plan in areas of expertise and engage stakeholders including communities and families.

If you would like more information or to get involved, please contact Karen Berman at advocacy@theounce.org.