

# 2025-2026 Policy Priorities



**HEALTHY  
MOMS.  
STRONG  
BABIES.**

## Improving maternal and infant health for all US families

March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies. We advocate for women, infants, children, and families across a wide range of issues at the federal, state, and local level. March of Dimes will champion the policies below to improve health equity, reduce preterm birth, and prevent maternal mortality.

### Increase access to quality healthcare

March of Dimes advocates for access to quality, high-value, private and public health insurance and programs providing integrated healthcare services.

- **Access to midwives and doulas**
- **Access to mental health services**
- **Expand the number of women and children with health insurance**
- **Access to quality telehealth services**
- **Access to accredited birth centers**

### Support healthy women and babies

March of Dimes supports a broad range of policies and programs to promote health, improve health equity, prevent disease, further patient safety, and prevent infant mortality. We advocate for a comprehensive national response to high maternal mortality and morbidity rates, especially among women of color who face health disparities.

- **Workplace policies for families**
- **Address social drivers of health**
- **Expand maternal home visitation programs**
- **Support vaccine and immunization policies**

### Improve research and surveillance

March of Dimes advocates for innovative medical research and robust health surveillance programs, which are essential to discovering ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat maternal and child health conditions, track occurrence, and promote health equity.

- **Maternal and Infant Mortality Review**
- **Perinatal Quality Collaboratives**
- **Reduce and eliminate incidence of preterm birth**



## Increase access to quality healthcare

Promote policies that reduce the number of women of childbearing age who are underinsured or uninsured by:

- Expanding coverage of public and private insurances—including access to Medicaid;
- Extending Medicaid coverage for moms after childbirth to 12 months;
- Raising parental income eligibility levels under Medicaid; and
- Establish presumptive eligibility for maternal care while Medicaid eligibility is determined.

Support expanded access to midwifery care for women who desire services by further integrating midwives into maternity care, removing restrictive laws and regulations that prevent full practice authority, and supporting funding for certified nurse midwifery and certified midwifery workforce development.


Support critical efforts to address and improve maternal mental health through comprehensive insurance coverage, universal screening, referral and treatment coordination, consumer and provider education, data surveillance, and increased investment in growing the maternal mental healthcare provider workforce.

Increase access to evidence-based, quality telehealth services and technology, including remote blood pressure monitoring, and support alignment of reimbursement across payers. Ensure access through permanent telehealth laws that permit live, synchronized video; audio-only; and other evidence-based practices.

Enhance perinatal regionalization as a strategy to improve other maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Strengthen network requirements for the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Oppose harmful Medicaid block grant proposals, work requirements, and other barriers to coverage.



## Support healthy women and babies

Advocate for Medicaid and private insurance coverage for doula care services reimbursed at a living wage and workforce development to ensure sufficient network capacity.

Advocate for policies and programs to prevent and treat substance use, including opioids and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) surveillance programs, with a focus on the safety and care of pregnant women and infants.

Ensure coverage of immunizations and supporting efforts by federal agencies and Congress to address vaccine hesitancy and dispel misinformation about immunizations that endanger the public health.

Promote policies and practices that address social drivers of health to help reduce health inequities related to housing, transportation, environmental health, food insecurity, and access to nutritional foods—especially for women living in maternity care deserts or with other obstacles to receiving care.

Advance policies to support moms and reduce health disparities in the workplace such as parental leave, paid family leave, pregnancy accommodations, and breastfeeding promotion.

Encourage increased appropriations for the nation's public health infrastructure, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state, local, tribal, and territorial core public health infrastructure to ensure we're prepared for the next public health emergency.

Support authentic and standardized implicit bias training for healthcare providers and staff caring for women before, during, and after pregnancy, as well as training accountability and governance policies to enhance broader goal of achieving equity for moms and babies.

Fund and implement comprehensive maternal and childbirth education and public awareness of existing programs.



## Improve research and surveillance

Support agency funding for data collection on key maternal and child health priorities, including birth defects, preterm birth, cardiovascular risk, health disparities, maternal depression, and infant and maternal mortality such as:

- National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD); and
- Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (PMSS).

Support reliable permanent funding for Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRC), Community Action Teams (CAT), and Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Committees.

Invest in and strengthen Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (PQCs) to provide infrastructure that supports all US states and territories.

Support the enactment of requirements for states to report complete information to CDC's Pregnancy Mortality Surveillance System (PMSS).

Reform and fund programs to ensure common language for maternal mortality review and appropriate recording of pregnancy associated and related deaths.

Promote research to help pregnant and breastfeeding women and their healthcare providers know what medications are safe for them and their babies by advancing the recommendations of the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women.

Protect and enhance newborn screening, ensuring every state tests each newborn for all conditions on the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel (RUSP).