



Right from the
Start

2025 Legislative & Budget Priorities

Early Care and Education Priorities

- **Remove child support enforcement** from the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Sustain and expand the **Child Care for Child Care Educators** program.
- **Pass the RI Early Educator Workforce Act** to sustain and strengthen workforce development and compensation programs, including allocating \$1M to continue the Child Care WAGE\$ program.
- **Pass the Child Care is Essential Act** to help families access affordable child care by meeting or exceeding federal benchmarks.
- **Establish prekindergarten implementation and expansion guidelines**, including a 30% infant-toddler funding set aside.
- **Sustain \$1.1M in infant-toddler funding allocated from prekindergarten expansion** in the early childhood categorical fund.
- **Pass the Revenue for Rhode Islanders Act** to restore \$46M+ cut from the Child Care Assistance Program.

Health and Development Priorities

- **Adopt continuous Medicaid coverage for infants and toddlers** under age 3.
- **Sustain the MomsPRN and PediPRN consultation programs** to help moms and children access needed mental health care.
- **Ensure access to pediatric care** by addressing the pediatric primary care shortage with competitive Medicaid rates and help with student loan repayment.
- **Fix both early childhood special education systems** by establishing an Early Childhood *IDEA* Task Force.
- **Secure and spend all available federal home visiting funds** and re-visit Medicaid strategy to support proven, multi-year, consistent, relationship-based programs.
- **Seek funding to establish an Infant and Early Childhood Mental hub** to train and support professionals providing mental health services to children under age 6.

Family Economic Security

- **Help families survive and thrive when on paid family and medical leave** by increasing wage replacement for TDI/TCI from 60% to 85%.
- **Help low-income working families by increasing Rhode Island's refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** from 16% to 20% of the federal credit.
- **Help families in deep poverty by increasing the RI Works benefit**, adding a cost-of-living adjustment, and allowing families to keep more child support.
- **Create a state Child Tax Credit** to help families with the high cost of living.