

# PRENATAL TO 3 WORKING GROUP LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL



## THIS BILL

First 5 Association of California proposes a bill to establish a statewide Prenatal to Three Workgroup to craft evidence-based and community-informed recommendations for a 10-year comprehensive, equity-focused prenatal to three system policy agenda.

## ISSUE

California has made important strides in supporting young children and their families. The Master Plan for Early Care and Education and Whole Child Screening Tool established by AB 2832 (2022) made great strides but were primarily focused on early childhood education and childcare leaving significant gaps.

Additionally, services are unequally provided throughout the state by a patchwork of providers. Some are Medi-Cal eligible, but lacking providers and others are administered by counties as resources are available.

There is room to tailor services to communities, while ensuring equity in the services available to children across the state.

It is time to focus on the needs of California's infants and toddlers and their families and address their needs comprehensively.

Policies also need to uplift family and community strengths and affirm their cultures and languages given that 75% of our state's 0-3 population are children of color.

## SOLUTION

This bill would help California move towards more effective, universal, and equity-focused systems and services for infants and toddlers.

The bill would establish a 12-person working group to review current policies and practices at the state and local level related to infants, toddlers, and their families and make recommendations for improvements at all levels. The working group's review and recommendations shall focus on the following:

- (1) Early childhood systems, including local First 5 infrastructure and needs.
- (2) Outlining additional recommendations for system building, including financing, data, and the needs of specific sub-populations of young children.
- (3) Working with state agencies to ensure alignment and partnership so that all of California's young children and their families can thrive.

The workgroup shall submit its recommendations to the Administration and to the Legislature by January 31, 2026.

## SUPPORT

First 5 Association of California

## CONTACT

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