



# Our Countdown to Success for Kids

## 3... Ready to Thrive

*Infants and toddlers who are born healthy, grow and develop in healthy environments, and have access to quality healthcare services have better physical, emotional, and mental health throughout their lives.*

- Increase access to timely and comprehensive quality prenatal care and extend postpartum coverage for pregnant women and mothers covered by Medicaid.
- Ensure and expand coverage and access to high-quality healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP programs for infants, toddlers and their families.
- Support early identification, diagnosis and treatment for infants and toddlers to meet their mental health and developmental needs—including ensuring timely developmental screenings and early intervention services.
- Support access for infants, toddlers and pregnant women to nutrition support programs.
- Protect infants and toddlers from lead hazards where they live and learn.

## 2... Setting Families Up for Success

*Families are the first and most important teachers, playing a critical role in a child's development during the first three years of life. When families have the resources and support to provide adequate care and enrichment during the earliest years, children can grow and thrive.*

- Empower parents of infants and toddlers by increasing access to Help Me Grow voluntary evidence-based home visiting services, Early Head Start and other parent support services.
- Reduce the incidence and impact of trauma among infants and toddlers by increasing access to programs that build resilience and mitigate its impact.
- Stabilize families so that there are fewer infants and toddlers engaged in the foster care system and ensure that babies in state custody, living in foster or kinship placements, experience developmentally appropriate supports, a continuum of care and supported transitions.
- Foster economic stability for families with infants and toddlers.
- Expand broadband access to connect families with infants and toddlers to their communities and services that support their health, education and economic stability.

## 1... Soaring to Kindergarten—and Beyond

*Babies are born learning. High-quality child care gives children the opportunity for social, emotional, and intellectual development to be ready for school. If ready for kindergarten, children are positioned for success in school and life.*

- Expand access to quality publicly funded child care for infants and toddlers by increasing eligibility to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Ensure that infants and toddlers have access to high-quality learning environments where programs meet their unique needs.
- Expand access to high-quality preschool and Head Start.
- Support a quality early education workforce that is highly qualified, well-compensated, and prepared to support the development of infants and toddlers.