

# Core Policies for Infants, Toddlers, and Families

CLASP and ZERO TO THREE's *Building Strong Foundations: Advancing Comprehensive Policies for Infants, Toddlers, and Families* project seeks to promote federal and state policies that comprehensively address the wellbeing of infants, toddlers, and families. In the first phase of *Building Strong Foundations*, ZERO TO THREE and CLASP identified 13 policies core to advancing infant-toddler wellbeing, recognizing that all babies need...



## Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, and Healthy Parents

- Low-income infants, toddlers, parents, and pregnant women should have **quality, affordable, publicly financed health insurance**.
- Infants, toddlers, parents, and pregnant women should receive appropriate **health screenings, preventive primary care, and medically necessary treatment services**.
- Infants, toddlers, and parents should receive appropriate **screening, diagnosis, and treatment services** to meet their **mental health needs**.
- Low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women should have access to **nutrition support programs**.



## Economically Stable Families

- Low-income parents of infants and toddlers should have access to **affordable education and training** to improve their employment opportunities.
- Families in poverty with infants and toddlers should get **cash assistance and refundable tax credits** to supplement their earnings.
- Parents with infants and toddlers should have **paid sick leave** from work when they are ill, when their child or a family member is ill, or to obtain preventive care for themselves or their families. Parents should have **paid family and medical leave** when a child is born, adopted, or newly fostered.
- Low-income families with infants and toddlers should have **affordable, safe, and stable housing**.



## Strong Parents

- Families of infants and toddlers should have access to a continuum of **parent support services and resources** to support their child's development.
- Infants and toddlers in the **child welfare system** should receive **developmentally appropriate supports** responsive to the needs of the child and family.



## High-Quality Child Care and Early Education Opportunities

- Low-income families with infants and toddlers should get **child care assistance** to afford safe, stable, high-quality child care that promotes children's development and parents' education, training, and work.
- Vulnerable infants, toddlers, pregnant women, and families should have access to **comprehensive early childhood services through Early Head Start**.
- Infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities should be **identified** and receive **early intervention services** in a timely manner.