

Perinatal Substance Use Policy Recommendations

This resource organizes perinatal substance use policy recommendations by the level at which action can occur: federal, state, local, and organizational.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

The **policy opportunities** column identifies the different policy opportunities at each level. Each policy opportunity is tagged to show which of the five core focus areas the policy supports:

● **Sustainable Financing and Investment:** Ensuring sustained resources to support accessible, high-quality perinatal SUD care, services, and system infrastructure.

● **Integrated, Family-Centered Care:** Promoting coordinated care that addresses the needs of the whole family and is grounded in families' preferences, strengths, and expertise.

● **Legal and Policy Reform:** Removing legal and policy barriers that create harm or limit access to care while advancing policies that protect and support families.

● **Family Stability and Preservation:** Strengthening the conditions and supports that help families remain safe, stable, healthy, and together whenever possible.

● **System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity:** Building the workforce capacity, infrastructure, data, and accountability needed for a high-quality, responsive, and continuously improving system.

The sectors involved column highlights the sectors that have a role in advancing the policy or are affected by it. Visit the full [Perinatal Substance Use Policy and Collaboration Action Map](#) for additional context for each policy opportunity, including implementation considerations and examples of how policies are being put into practice across communities and states.

Federal Policies

Federal policies are laws, regulations, funding policies, and program requirements established by the federal government that shape how states and communities finance, organize, and deliver services.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Provide comprehensive SUD treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Policy ▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance
Eliminate barriers to methadone	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Policy ▪ Health ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Ensure stable Medicaid funding for states	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Policy ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Funders
Promote evidence-based use of opioid settlement funds	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Funders, Policy, Public Health, Community/Community Institutions, Research
Raise federal minimums for Medicaid services	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Policy ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Health
Improve quality and accountability through data	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Research ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Health ▪ Medicaid and Payers
Fund family-centered treatment programs	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Policy ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Funders ▪ Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance ▪ Research ▪ Community

State Policies

State policies are laws, regulations, funding strategies, and program requirements that state governments use to shape services, resources, and systems of support for families.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Reimburse nontraditional health care workers	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Community ▪ Policy
Adopt value-based Medicaid models	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Social Services ▪ Community ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Reimburse peer support under Medicaid	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Community ▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Address pharmacy and distribution challenges to buprenorphine access	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Health ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Policy ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Ensure continuous Medicaid coverage and SUD treatment after delivery	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Social Services
Promote family-centered Plans of Safe Care	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Social Services ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Health ▪ Community
Separate CAPTA notifications from neglect reports	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Policy ▪ Social Services ▪ Legal and Public Safety Systems ▪ Health

State Policies

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Establish standardized coverage for SUD stabilization services	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Health ▪ Policy
Create a sustainable recovery infrastructure through opioid settlement funds	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Funders ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Community ▪ Health
Promote recovery-friendly workplaces	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Community ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Social Services
Standardize hospital screening and reporting practices	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Health ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Policy
Ensure integrated maternal reentry and care continuity	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Legal and Public Safety Systems ▪ Social Services ▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Promote evidence-based judicial decision-making	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Legal and Public Safety Systems ▪ Research ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance
Remove prior authorization requirements for MOUD	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Health ▪ Policy
Link data systems to track family outcomes	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Research ▪ Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Medicaid and Payers

State Policies

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Change timelines to promote recovery	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Policy ▪ Legal and Public Safety Systems ▪ Social Services ▪ Research ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Early Childhood Education

Local Policies

Local policies are laws, regulations, funding strategies, and coordinated practices that local governments and jurisdictions use to shape community services, resources, and systems of support for families.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Establish local infrastructure for Plans of Safe Care	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Health ▪ Community
Expand family-centered housing supports	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Social Services ▪ Community ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Funders
Establish community-based family recovery resource centers	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Community ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Health
Improve access to essential supports	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Social Services ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Community
Invest in family-centered crisis and stabilization services	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Social Services
Dedicate opioid settlement funding to family-centered perinatal SUD prevention, treatment, recovery, and early childhood supports	Sustainable Financing and Investment	▪ Funders ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Early Childhood Education ▪ Health ▪ Social Services
Create diversion and family preservation programs	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Legal and Public Safety Systems ▪ Social Services ▪ Health ▪ Community

Local Policies

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Establish local reunification support programs	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Social Services ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Health ▪ Medicaid and Payers ▪ Funders ▪ Community ▪ Early Childhood Education ▪ Policy

Organizational Policies

Organizational policies are formal rules, practices, or standards established by an organization to guide how it operates, makes decisions, and delivers services.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Implement family-centered care and referral practices	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Community
Strengthen care coordination during reentry	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Social Services ▪ Health ▪ Legal and Public Safety Systems ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Expand family treatment courts and supportive court practices	Family Stability and Preservation	▪ Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Community
Strengthen community-level data collection and use	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Research ▪ Community
Adopt non-stigmatizing, evidence-based protocols for services	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Health ▪ Capacity Building and Technical Assistance ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Develop family-centered treatment policies	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Community
Incorporate affected populations into design, service delivery, and evaluation	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	▪ Community ▪ Health ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Research
Promote ongoing coordination and care continuity	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	▪ Health ▪ Social Services ▪ Tribal/State/Local Public Health ▪ Community

Organizational Policies

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POLICY FOCUS AREA	SECTORS INVOLVED
Develop intentional pathways for employment	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	- Community - Social Services - Tribal/State/Local Public Health
Strengthen accreditation standards for perinatal SUD care	System Quality, Accountability, and Capacity	- Tribal/State/Local Public Health - Research - Community
Adopt family preservation as a core organizational principle	Family Stability and Preservation	- Health - Social Services - Capacity Building and Technical Assistance - Tribal/State/Local Public Health - Community - Early Childhood Education - Research
Establish timely review and appeal processes for family separation decisions	Legal and Policy Reform	- Legal and Public Safety Systems - Policy - Social Services - Capacity Building and Technical Assistance - Tribal/State/Local Public Health - Medicaid and Payers - Research
Develop policies that accommodate pregnancy and parenting responsibilities	Integrated, Family-Centered Care	- Health - Social Services - Community

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