



Perinatal Substance Use Collaboration and Policy Action Map

The [Perinatal Substance Use Collaboration and Policy Action Map](#) was developed by the Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) with funding from the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) and Perigee Fund. **The action map and its companion resources are designed for anyone working to improve supports, services, and outcomes for families affected by perinatal substance use, regardless of their role or level of experience.** Together, these resources provide an overview of the systems that shape family experiences and highlight collaborative actions that can help build a system in which families are not only engaged but also holistically supported and able to thrive.

WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Communities across the country have made meaningful progress in expanding treatment, strengthening recovery supports, and improving outcomes for families affected by perinatal substance use. At the same time, families continue to navigate fragmented systems that often operate independently despite sharing common goals. The need for coordinated, family-centered approaches is clear. The [Perinatal Substance Use Collaboration and Policy Action Map](#) helps partners understand how their work connects to the broader system and identify opportunities for collaboration and systems change.



Action Map Development



CONVENE CROSS-SECTOR EXPERTS:

AMCHP brought together more than 20 experts to engage in systems mapping activities that identified characteristics of an ideal perinatal substance use system and the resources needed to get there. Participants reflected government, advocacy, direct services, research, health, and other relevant sectors.



DATA COLLECTION AND SYNTHESIS:

Data from stakeholder surveys, convening notes, grey literature, and existing research were synthesized to identify sector-specific actions and broader policy and collaboration levers to improve conditions for families.



STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK:

Draft materials were refined through two virtual feedback sessions with 22 partners and 18 feedback surveys.



CENTER FAMILY PERSPECTIVES:

AMCHP consulted with individuals with personal experience of perinatal substance use to ensure that action map recommendations aligned with the visions of those most impacted.

Action Map Resources

GETTING STARTED WITH THE COLLABORATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

This resource is a “quick start” guide to the collaboration recommendations and includes each recommendation and suggestions on ways you could implement them in your role.

REFERENCES AND ADDITIONAL LEARNING:

This resource is intended to support further learning and implementation of the collaboration recommendations.

PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

This resource summarizes all the policies included in the Perinatal Substance Use Collaboration and Policy Action Map and organizes them by the policy level at which action can occur.

POLICY OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIFFERENT SECTORS:

These quick reference resources show what policies in the Action Map are most relevant to specific sectors.

→ PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE COLLABORATION AND POLICY ACTION MAP

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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
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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.

→ PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE COLLABORATION AND POLICY ACTION MAP

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Getting Started with the Collaboration Recommendations

The following 10 collaboration recommendations identify practical ways that people working in the perinatal substance use field can work better together.

They were developed through a literature review and analyzing data from a national convening of cross-sector subject matter experts. The interactive [Perinatal Substance Use Collaboration & Policy Action Map](#) explains more about how the recommendations were developed and includes more detailed information for each recommendation including: what it means, why it matters in perinatal substance use systems, common challenges, what the recommendation looks like in practice, where to start, and how to measure it. **This resource provides a summary of the 10 recommendations and actionable ways you can consider implementing them in your role.**



Explore the Map

Explore the **interactive map** at your own pace, or use **presentation mode** for a guided, step-by-step tour of its key features.

Our team is available to support you in using this resource to advance collaboration and systems change. If you would like support navigating the map, applying its insights to your own context, or facilitating conversations with partners using the map, please reach out to us at PSUDActionMap@amchp.org.

Key Questions

1. What does an ideal perinatal substance use system look like?

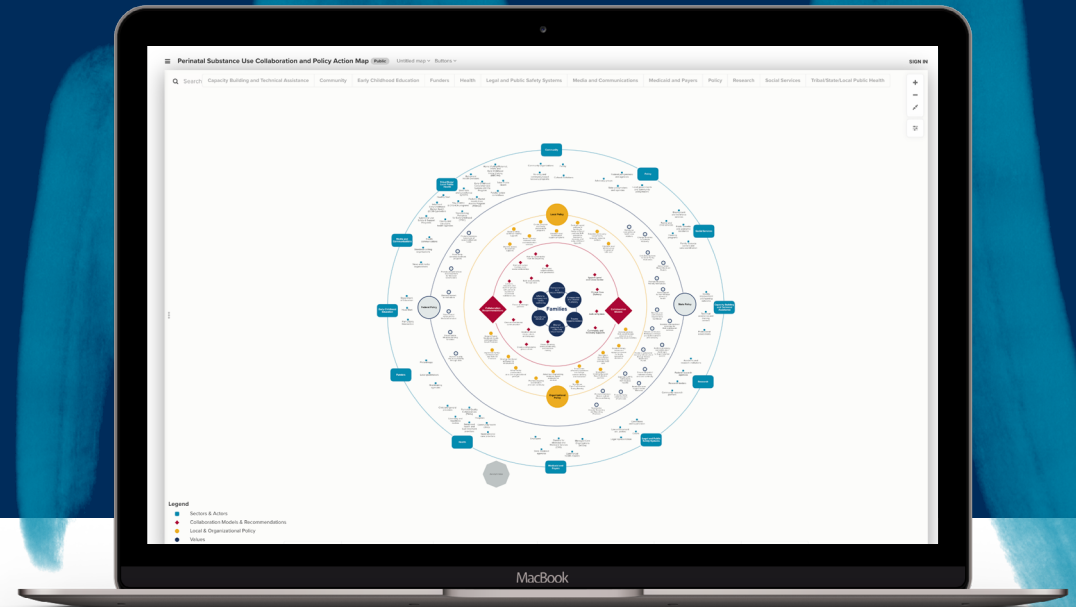
The map describes six shared values that define a system where families affected by perinatal substance use are supported, respected, and able to thrive.

- Transparency and accountability
- Compassion and shared humanity
- Trauma responsiveness
- Shared purpose and collective responsibility
- Abundance mindset
- Lifelong recovery and family wellbeing

2. How can we work together to get there?

Ten collaboration recommendations are included in the map to provide anyone, regardless of role or sector, with the tools needed to collaborate effectively. The map also highlights existing, evidence-based collaboration models that have been effective across four areas: clinical care delivery, judicial system, community and recovery supports, and system-wide approaches.

This guide to Getting Started with the Collaboration Recommendations provides a summary of the 10 recommendations and actionable ways you can consider implementing them in whatever role you play in the perinatal substance use system.



3. What policy changes can move the system forward?

The map describes policy recommendations that can be implemented at the organizational, local, state, or federal level to build more responsive systems.

The Summary of Policy Recommendations provides a more detailed overview and organizes the recommendations into five policy domains:

- Sustainable financing and investment
- System quality, accountability, and capacity
- Integrated, family-centered care
- Family stability and preservation
- Legal and policy reform

4. Who has a role to play, and what can they do?

Users can explore the map to better understand the sectors and system actors that shape the experiences of families affected by perinatal substance use. Each description outlines both the actor's current role within the system and its role in an ideal state, offering a vision for how each can contribute to a more coordinated, family-centered system.

Looking Ahead

This map is intended to serve as a starting point for understanding the perinatal substance use system and envisioning what it could become. Our hope is that it can inform, inspire, and provide a foundation for individuals and organizations to work together to build a better system for families.

As policies evolve, new evidence emerges, and communities develop innovative approaches, the resource should continue to grow alongside the field.

The future of perinatal substance use systems will be shaped not by any one policy or organization, but by the willingness of partners across sectors to learn from one another, align their efforts, and take collective action on behalf of families. We hope this resource serves as both a guide and an invitation to join that work.



Partners

- Academy for Perinatal Harm Reduction
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- Barton Child Law and Policy Center
- Brazelton Touchpoints Center
- CDC Foundation
- Center for Health Care Strategies
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Child Trends
- Children and Family Futures
- Community Health Acceleration Partnership
- Cook County Health
- Emory University Rollins School of Public Health
- Friends Research Institute
- KFF Health News
- MaineCare
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Meghann Perry Group
- Moms in Recovery
- National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Agency Directors
- National Association of State Health Policy
- PCC Community Wellness
- Philadelphia Department of Health
- Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health
- Pregnancy Justice
- R Street Institute
- Renewal House
- Swedish Health Services
- Team Lily (University of California San Francisco)
- UNC Gillings School of Public Health
- UNC Horizons
- Washington State Department of Health
- Zero To Three

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