

Policy Opportunities for Public Health

This resource highlights the policies in the Perinatal Substance Use Collaboration & Policy Action Map that are most relevant to the Public Health sector. It is designed to help sector partners quickly identify where they can contribute to strengthening the perinatal substance use system.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

Within the policy opportunity column, use the POLICY LEVEL TAG to identify whether the policy is a federal, state, local, or organizational policy.

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| ■ Federal Policy | ■ Local Policy |
| ■ State Policy | ■ Organizational Policy |

The POLICY FOCUS AREA TAG can be used to identify 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 **potential partners column** identifies other system actors connected to each policy, helping you identify potential collaborators and opportunities for cross-sector action.



The **values advanced column** highlights which of the Action Map's core values each policy can help advance. These values reflect what people with personal experience of perinatal substance use identified as important in an ideal system.

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	VALUES ADVANCED
Provide comprehensive SUD treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	Medicaid Agencies, Behavioral Health Divisions, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health and SUD Treatment Providers, Clinicians/General Providers, Policymakers, Licensing and Regulatory Bodies, Private Payers, Public Health Associations	- Trauma Responsiveness - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing - Compassion and Shared Humanity
Reimburse nontraditional health care workers STATE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	Medicaid Agencies, Private Payers, Nontraditional Care Providers, Workforce Development/Training, Behavioral Health Divisions, Healthcare Organizations, Policymakers	- Abundance Mindset - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility
Adopt value-based Medicaid models STATE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	Medicaid Agencies, Policymakers, Behavioral Health Divisions, Private Payers, Healthcare Organizations, Think Tanks, Academia, Public Health Associations	- Transparency and Accountability - Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Fund support for non-medical drivers of health STATE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	Medicaid Agencies, Housing Programs, Other Social and Economic Supports, County And City Public Health Agencies, Behavioral Health Divisions, Private Payers, Community Organizations	- Abundance Mindset - Trauma Responsiveness - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Reimburse peer support under Medicaid STATE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	Medicaid Agencies, Behavioral Health and SUD Treatment Providers, Nontraditional Care Providers, Behavioral Health Divisions, Medicaid Agencies, Healthcare Organizations	- Compassion and Shared Humanity - Trauma Responsiveness - Abundance Mindset
Address pharmacy and distribution challenges to Buprenorphine access STATE INTEGRATED, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE	Clinicians/General Providers, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health and SUD Treatment Providers, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, Medicaid Agencies, Pharmaceutical Policy Actors, Professional Associations	- Trauma Responsiveness - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Eliminate barriers to methadone FEDERAL INTEGRATED, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE	Policymakers, Regulatory Agencies, Behavioral Health and SUD Treatment Providers, Healthcare Organizations, Medicaid Agencies, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, Advocacy Groups	- Trauma Responsiveness - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	VALUES ADVANCED
Ensure continuous Medicaid coverage and SUD treatment after delivery STATE INTEGRATED, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE	Medicaid Agencies, Title V MCH & CYSHCN Programs, Healthcare Organizations, Home Visiting/MIECHV, Behavioral Health Providers, County And City Public Health Agencies	▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility ▪ Trauma Responsiveness
Promote family-centered plans of safe care STATE INTEGRATED, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE	Family and Child Services, County And City Public Health Agencies, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health Providers, Home Visiting/MIECHV, Title V Programs, Tribal Governments	▪ Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility ▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Compassion and Shared Humanity
Promote evidence-based use of opioid settlement funds FEDERAL SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	Policymakers, Attorney General/Settlement Administrators (Implicit), County and City Public Health Agencies, Philanthropy And Foundations, Advocacy Groups, Family and Child Services	▪ Transparency and Accountability ▪ Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility
Create a sustainable recovery infrastructure through Opioid Settlement Funds STATE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	County and City Public Health Agencies, Behavioral Health Divisions, Community Organizations, Philanthropy and Foundations, Behavioral Health Providers, Housing Programs	▪ Abundance Mindset ▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility
Promote recovery-friendly workplaces STATE SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	Depts Of Employment, Workforce Development/Training, Community Organizations, Employers (Implicit), Advocacy Groups, Behavioral Health Providers	▪ Compassion and Shared Humanity ▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Abundance Mindset
Standardize hospital screening and reporting practices STATE SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	Healthcare Organizations, Clinicians/General Providers, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, PQCs, Professional Associations, Behavioral Health Divisions	▪ Transparency and Accountability ▪ Trauma Responsiveness
Ensure integrated maternal reentry and care continuity STATE INTEGRATED, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE	Family and Child Services, Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health Providers, Healthcare Organizations, Housing Programs, Medicaid Agencies	▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility ▪ Trauma Responsiveness

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	VALUES ADVANCED
Strengthen care coordination during reentry  	Family and Child Services, Behavioral Health Providers, Healthcare Organizations, Housing Programs, County Public Health Agencies, Community Organizations	- Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Strengthen community-level data collection and use  	State Data And Surveillance Systems, County and City Public Health Agencies, Academia, Title V Programs, Regulatory Agencies	- Transparency and Accountability - Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility
Link data systems to track family outcomes  	State Data and Surveillance Systems, Family and Child Services, Medicaid Agencies, Healthcare Organizations, Title V Programs	- Transparency and Accountability - Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Establish local infrastructure for plans of safe care  	County And City Public Health Agencies, Family and Child Services, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health Providers, Home Visiting/MIECHV	- Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Expand family-centered housing supports  	Housing Programs (HUD, CoCs), County and City Public Health Agencies, Community Organizations, Philanthropy and Foundations, Family and Child Services	- Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing - Trauma Responsiveness - Compassion and Shared Humanity
Establish community-based family recovery resource centers  	Community Organizations, Behavioral Health Providers, County and City Public Health Agencies, Philanthropy And Foundations, Family	- Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Improve access to essential supports  	County and City Public Health Agencies, Other Social And Economic Supports (TANF), Housing Programs, Community Organizations	- Abundance Mindset - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	VALUES ADVANCED
Invest in family-centered crisis and stabilization services LOCAL FAMILY STABILITY AND PRESERVATION	Behavioral Health Providers, Healthcare Organizations, Medicaid Agencies, County Public Health Agencies, Law Enforcement (Crisis Response), ECCS	- Trauma Responsiveness - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Dedicate opioid settlement funding to family-centered perinatal SUD prevention, treatment, recovery, and early childhood supports. LOCAL SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	County And City Public Health Agencies, Behavioral Health Divisions, Family and Child Services, ECCS, Community Organizations	- Abundance Mindset - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing - Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility
Adopt non-stigmatizing, evidence based protocols for services ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	Professional Associations, Healthcare Organizations, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, Public Health Associations, PQCs	- Compassion and Shared Humanity - Trauma Responsiveness
Incorporate affected populations into design, service delivery, and evaluation ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	Community, Family, Advocacy Groups, Community Organizations, Philanthropy and Foundations, Academia	- Transparency and Accountability - Compassion and Shared Humanity - Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility
Promote ongoing coordination and care continuity ORGANIZATIONAL INTEGRATED, FAMILY-CENTERED CARE	Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health Providers, Title V Programs, Home Visiting/MIECHV, County Public Health Agencies	- Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Develop intentional pathways for employment ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	Workforce Development/Training, Depts Of Employment, Community Organizations, Behavioral Health Providers, Philanthropy	- Abundance Mindset - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing - Compassion and Shared Humanity
Improve quality and accountability through data FEDERAL SYSTEM QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, & CAPACITY	State Data and Surveillance Systems, Academia, Medicaid Agencies, Public Health Associations, Regulatory Agencies	Transparency and Accountability

POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	VALUES ADVANCED
Fund family-centered treatment programs FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE FINANCING & INVESTMENT	Medicaid Agencies, Policymakers, Funders, Behavioral Health Divisions, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health and SUD Treatment Providers, Clinicians/General Providers (Non-Behavioral Health), Nontraditional Care Providers, Community Health Clinics (FQHCs), Tribal Governments (IHS), Title V MCH & CYSHCN Programs, Healthy Start, Home Visiting/MIECHV, IECMH Programs, Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Programs, Associations, Professional Associations, National Centers and TA providers, Academia, Think Tanks, Public Health Associations, Advocacy Groups, Family, Community, Philanthropy and Foundations	▪ Abundance Mindset ▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Compassion and Shared Humanity
Change timelines to promote recovery STATE FAMILY STABILITY AND PRESERVATION	Policymakers, Judicial And Law Enforcement, Family Treatment Courts, Family And Child Services, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, Behavioral Health Divisions, Medicaid Agencies, Public Health Associations, Professional Associations, Academia, Think Tanks, Advocacy Groups, Title V MCH & CYSHCN Programs, IECMH programs, Early Intervention (Part C), Head Start	▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Compassion and Shared Humanity ▪ Trauma Responsiveness
Establish local reunification support programs LOCAL FAMILY STABILITY AND PRESERVATION	County And City Public Health Agencies, Family and Child Services, Housing Programs (HUD, PHAs, CoCs), Behavioral Health Divisions, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health And Sud Treatment Providers, Community Health Clinics (FQHCs), Nontraditional Care Providers, Home Visiting/MIECHV, Healthy Start, ECCS, WIC/TANF/DV Programs, Workforce Development/Training, Depts Of Employment, Tribal Governments, Philanthropy and Foundations, Community Foundations and Local Grantmakers, Community Organizations, Family	▪ Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing ▪ Shared Purpose and Collective Responsibility ▪ Compassion and Shared Humanity




POLICY OPPORTUNITY	POTENTIAL PARTNERS	VALUES ADVANCED
Adopt family preservation as a core organizational principle ORGANIZATIONAL FAMILY STABILITY AND PRESERVATION	Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health And Sud Treatment Providers, Clinicians/General Providers, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, Professional Associations, PQCs, Behavioral Health Divisions, Family and Child Services, IECMH programs, Home Visiting/MIECHV, Healthy Start, Title V MCH & CYSHCN Programs, Tribal Governments, Community Organizations, Community Health Clinics (FQHCs), Advocacy Groups, Family, Academia, Public Health Associations	- Compassion and Shared Humanity - Lifelong Recovery and Family Wellbeing
Establish timely review and appeal processes for family separation decisions ORGANIZATIONAL LEGAL AND POLICY REFORM	Judicial and Law Enforcement, Family Treatment Courts, Policymakers, Family And Child Services, Licensing And Regulatory Bodies, Advocacy Groups, Legal Advocacy Partners (Embedded Within Social Services/Legal Systems), Behavioral Health Divisions, Healthcare Organizations, Behavioral Health Providers, Clinicians/General Providers, Medicaid Agencies, Public Health Associations, State Data and Surveillance Systems, MMRCs/Fetal & Infant Mortality Reviews, Title V MCH & CYSHCN Programs, Regulatory Agencies, Think Tanks, Academia, News Media, Health Communications	- Transparency and Accountability - Compassion and Shared Humanity