

## **The Pandemic Suspended and Expelled Everyone— What Can States Do About It?**

National Issues > State Action  
July 2021 Webinar

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Policy & Advocacy**

- The Basics of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) [Brief](#)
- Think Babies [IECMH Advocacy Website](#)
- How to Talk about Early Childhood Mental Health [Brief](#) and [Infographic](#)
- IECMH Consultation (IECMHC) [Brief](#)<sup>1</sup>
- National Center for Children in Poverty Supporting Youth Children’s Mental Health [Website](#) and [PRISM Project Website](#)
- [IECMH Policy Webinar Series](#)

#### **Financing**

- ZERO TO THREE IECMH Financing Policy Project [Website](#)
- Exploring State Strategies for Financing IECMH Assessment Diagnosis and Treatment [Report](#)
- Project LAUNCH [briefing document](#)

#### **Workforce**

- IECMH Consultation Competencies [Brief](#)
- IECMH Clinical Workforce Solutions Pathways [Map](#)

#### **Equity**

- Center of Excellence for IECMHC [Equity Website](#) and [Equity Toolkit](#)
- Equity in IECMHC [Webinar Series](#)
- SAMHSA Equity in IECMHC [Website](#)

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<sup>1</sup> **Definition:** IECMHC is a multilevel preventive intervention to improve children’s social, emotional, and behavioral health and development. A mental health professional partners with an early childhood professional or program staff to infuse activities and interactions that promote healthy social and emotional development, prevent the development of problem behaviors, and intervene to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviors. (Perry & Kaufmann, 2009), Source: <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/1952-infant-and-early-childhood-mental-health-consultation-a-briefing-paper>.

**Other National Resources**

- SAMHSA Center of Excellence for IECMH Consultation [Website](#)
- The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning [Website](#)

**Practice and Policy Solutions**

1. Raise awareness and build public will.
2. Ensure cross-agency involvement in planning and leading IECMH systems.
3. Allow Medicaid reimbursement/payment for IECMH services.
4. Support implementation of Mental Health Consultation.
5. Provide professional development and training for early childhood (EC) and mental health workforces.

**State Highlights<sup>2</sup>**

State	Program & Policy Changes	Financing
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	<p><b>IECMH CONSULTATION IMPLEMENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Alabama Department of Mental Health was awarded a Project LAUNCH grant in 2014 and identified IECMH gaps in the state.</li> <li>• IECMH consultation was piloted then replicated across the state.</li> <li>• A full-time IECMH coordinator position was created at the state level (funded by the Departments of Early Childhood Education and Mental Health).</li> <li>• An association, First 5 Alabama, was launched to build workforce capacity for professionals working with infants, young children, and their families.</li> <li>• Coaches and infant/toddler specialists provide support to child care centers and Head Start classrooms.</li> <li>• Licensed professionals can enroll in Medicaid with less restrictive supervision requirements. Working towards creating a Medicaid reimbursement code for professionals with IECMH endorsement.</li> </ul>	<p>Federal dollars through Project LAUNCH grant</p> <p>Foundation grant</p> <p>Federal CCDBG</p> <p>Medicaid funding</p>

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<sup>2</sup> The state highlights are a summary of selected states from the ZERO TO THREE [IECMH state vignettes series](#).

Colorado

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PRIMARY CARE INTEGRATION**

- In 2018, the Colorado Medicaid program shifted to an accountable model that integrated physical and behavioral health.
- Colorado also received a State Innovation Model (SIM) grant that also supported the move towards integrate behavioral and primary care services.
- The SIM project provided EC advocates, providers, philanthropic organizations, and other stakeholders the opportunity to voice the need for behavioral health services for young children and families, screening for young children, and maternal depression screening.
- The SIM project provided technical assistance to primary, pediatric, and community mental health clinics to integrate behavioral health into their practice.
- Concurrently, the Early Childhood Leadership Commission endorsed a [mental health strategic plan](#) that names the development of a long-term sustainable funding source for EC mental health as a priority.

Federal dollars through SIM grant

Minnesota

**MULTI-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

- Minnesota was an Assuring Better Child Health Development (ABCD) grantee in the 2000s.
- The Mental Health Authority received the grant, with support from the Medicaid office.
- With the ABCD grant, the state advanced research, practice, and policy on the EC system of care, including mental health screening and treatment.
- Eventually Part C joined the partnership resulting in changes to the eligibility criteria.
- State leaders raised awareness with pediatric providers and policymakers on the importance of behavioral health screenings, in addition to assessing physical development.
- A diverse public-private collaborative, Minnesota Mental health Action Group, was formed to develop a set of policy recommendations.

Foundation grant

Medicaid funding

- The state built workforce capacity through community provider training, offering an Infant Mental Health certificate, and developing regional centers of best practice.

[New  
Mexico](#)

**STATE INVESTMENT IN IECMH AND WORKFORCE**

State general  
revenue

- The Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) led efforts to raise awareness about IECMH.
- They developed a statewide IECMH agenda with subcommittees focused on promotion; prevention; assessment, diagnosis, and treatment; regulations and reimbursement; and finance.
- Subcommittees had cross-agency representation.
- CYFD prioritized infants and young children in the strategic planning process.
- CYFD established an infant mental health unit with a \$1 million investment of state dollars.
- The state partnered with the University of New Mexico to provide professional development and training.