

2025 Policy Progress Across 50 States and DC: State Policy Wins in Data Systems

Delaware

Additional \$1.7 million investment for data systems at DOE to create an online professional registry and move child care licensing to electronic/online

State funding: Relatively small increase of state funding

[Link](#)

Colorado

The bill, State Level Data for Colorado Works Program, requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop a standardized process for the state and counties to collect and report data on the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF or Colorado Works), including how funds are spent and the impact of recent policy changes. The bill also requires DHS to develop recommendations for standardized outcome measures and evidence levels for services provided through contracts using TANF funds. Finally, this bill requires the Department of Human Services to submit a report with information related to updating eligibility requirements for basic cash assistance in the TANF program. Better data will enable Colorado to understand how TANF funds are spent, know whether the funds are being maximized to serve eligible families, and identify exemplary uses of TANF funds.

State funding: No change in state funding related to this win

Quantify: Colorado receives a TANF block grant of \$136.1 million per year.

[Link](#)

Minnesota

Minnesota made progress to improve data systems and strengthen state infrastructure by investing in the Social Services Information System, used for Minnesota's child welfare cases. New legislation (HF 2925) provides \$35 million for the upgrade and modernization of the platform to help streamline casework, improve efficiency, reduce administrative burdens, and allow caseworkers to spend more time directly supporting children and families.

Target population: Families and children involved with Child Protection Services, caseworkers, and those making referrals

State funding: No change in state funding related to this win

Nebraska

LB264 is the Cash Funds budget bill. The bill originally swept \$3,250,000 from the Early Childhood Education Endowment Cash Fund, which supports the Sixpence program. The funding was restored. The Nebraska Department of Education's budget request to fund the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) was included too.

Target population: Families and children birth to age three

State funding: No change in state funding related to this win

[Link](#)

Texas

SB 991 defines a chronically absent student as a student who is absent from school for more than 10% of the academic year or a 30-day enrollment period. The bill also requires schools to report the number of chronically absent students and make that data public. By adding chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category and collecting better data, the causes of chronic absenteeism can be addressed.

Target population: This legislation applies to all students PreK-12th grade. In 2022-2023, 18% of elementary students K-5 were chronically absent, with high rates starting in pre-k and kindergarten.

State funding: No change in state funding related to this win

[Link](#)

Texas

Legislators invested \$139 million in General Revenue (\$386 million in All Funds) in strategies to improve the Medicaid and SNAP eligibility system, including overhauling outdated technology and hiring additional staff. The goal is to address a backlog of more than 200,000 unprocessed Medicaid applications for most of 2024 -- parents wait an average of 41 days for a Medicaid eligibility determination, with some waiting more than 160 days.

Target population: Texans eligible for Medicaid or SNAP

State funding: Relatively large increase of state funding

Quantify: \$139 million in General Revenue (\$386 million in All Funds). Approximately four million Texans are enrolled in Medicaid.

[Link](#)

[Blog/Media](#)

This analysis of the year in early childhood state policy advocacy relies on data from a survey of early childhood policy advocates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, conducted May 2025 through December 2025. The survey asked them for highlights from the year, so the results are representative and not comprehensive. Policy "wins" include legislation, funding increases, executive actions, and regulatory changes.

The survey was developed and executed by Dr. Lisa Kerber of Frontera Strategy. Frontera supports advocacy efforts nationwide by providing qualitative and quantitative research services, including needs assessments and environmental scans, program and policy evaluation, statistical analyses, and survey research for associations, foundations, and nonprofit service organizations active in state capitols.

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