

Counties for Kids



National
Collaborative
for Infants
& Toddlers

www.countiesforkids.org



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of COUNTIES
NACo.
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Resources

The National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers

THE ABCs OF PRENATAL-TO-THREE FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

The daily decisions that counties make not only shape community conditions but often set a trajectory for success for their youngest residents. When infants are born healthy into safe and nurturing environments with parents who are well-supported, a whole community can benefit from improved social, economic and health outcomes. County officials play a key role in helping young children to grow, learn and thrive – and to prioritize and promote the programs and policies necessary to support healthy development. If your county is just starting out or looking to expand upon existing efforts, this resource, “The ABCs of Prenatal-to-Three for County Officials,” offers policymakers a range of ideas for prioritizing investments that set young children on a path to success. While there is no set process for advancing a prenatal-to-three agenda, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Research Foundation (NACoRF) has learned from counties across the nation about some of the ways that counties are getting started. No matter where you are in your journey, NACoRF can support you by providing relevant information and connecting you to best practices and local leaders who have made meaningful progress.


QUESTIONS FOR COUNTY LEADERS TO CONSIDER

- **Is there strong leadership for infants and toddlers in your county?** One way county boards can demonstrate bipartisan community support for their youngest residents is through a public statement of support.
- **Does your county have an active early childhood stakeholder group?** Connecting to or convening a diverse stakeholder team can build broad-based community support and cultivate champions for young children. Counties may establish a new or identify an existing group that is committed to shared vision and developing a strategic plan of action for children from prenatal to age three. To further support their cross-sector stakeholder group, counties may explore opportunities for establishing a dedicated early childhood system coordinator to strategically drive initiatives in the community.
- **Does your county have a vision for improving outcomes for children that includes infants and toddlers?** Oftentimes, planning for school readiness begins at preschool or even earlier. County leaders can work with the early childhood stakeholder group to develop a shared vision and help to support the full continuum of a child’s development by facilitating the integration of prenatal-to-three stakeholders and priorities within broader conversations around school readiness.

Prenatal-to-Three County Leader Toolkit



Counties Getting Started: A Prenatal-to-Three Guidebook



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I am a **Counties for Kids** champion.

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Counties invest \$63 billion annually in federal, state and local funds in **vital services for children and families.**

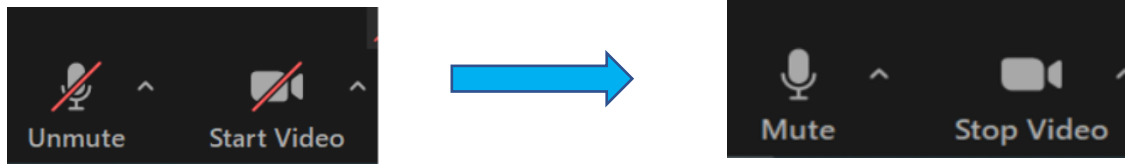
Source: NACo Analysis

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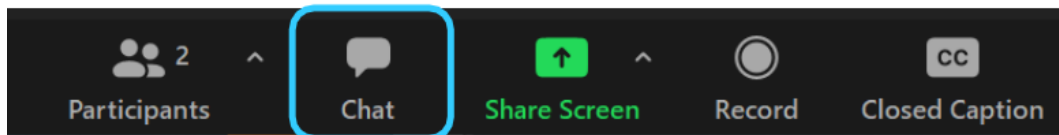


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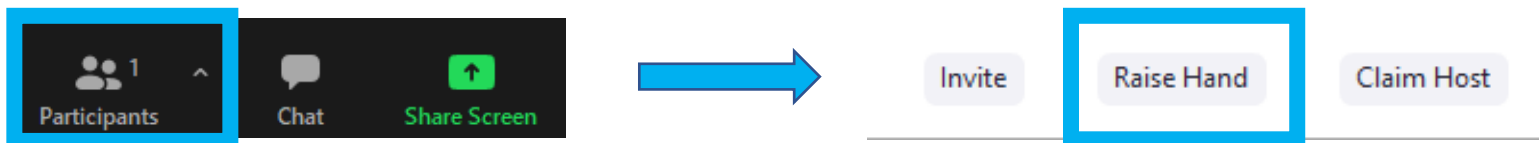
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To raise/lower your hand:



Agenda

Urban PN-3 Peer Learning Network: Creating Public-Private Partnerships with Local Foundations on Prenatal-to-Three

- Welcome
- County Speaker – Allegheny County, Pa.
- Questions & Interactive Discussion
- Conclusion



המרכז
ללימודים
היהודיים



Urban PN-3 Peer Learning Network: Creating Public-Private Partnerships on Prenatal -to-Three

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Trying Together

Trying Together supports high-quality care and education for young children by providing advocacy, community resources, and professional growth opportunities for the needs and rights of children, their families, and the individuals who interact with them.



Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Family and Community Supports

Allegheny County is committed to strengthening the well-being of children and families by providing access to quality human services (including support with basic needs, parenting and home visiting programming, child care and early learning, early intervention) through a 2-Generational approach.



Allegheny County Children & Families

- 1.2M residents
- 51.6 female
- 5% under the age of 5; 19.3% over the age of 65
- 13.4% Black or African American; 4.2% Asian; 2.3% Hispanic; 79.9% White
- \$61K Median Household income

PN-3 Programs in Allegheny County

Allegheny County Family Centers

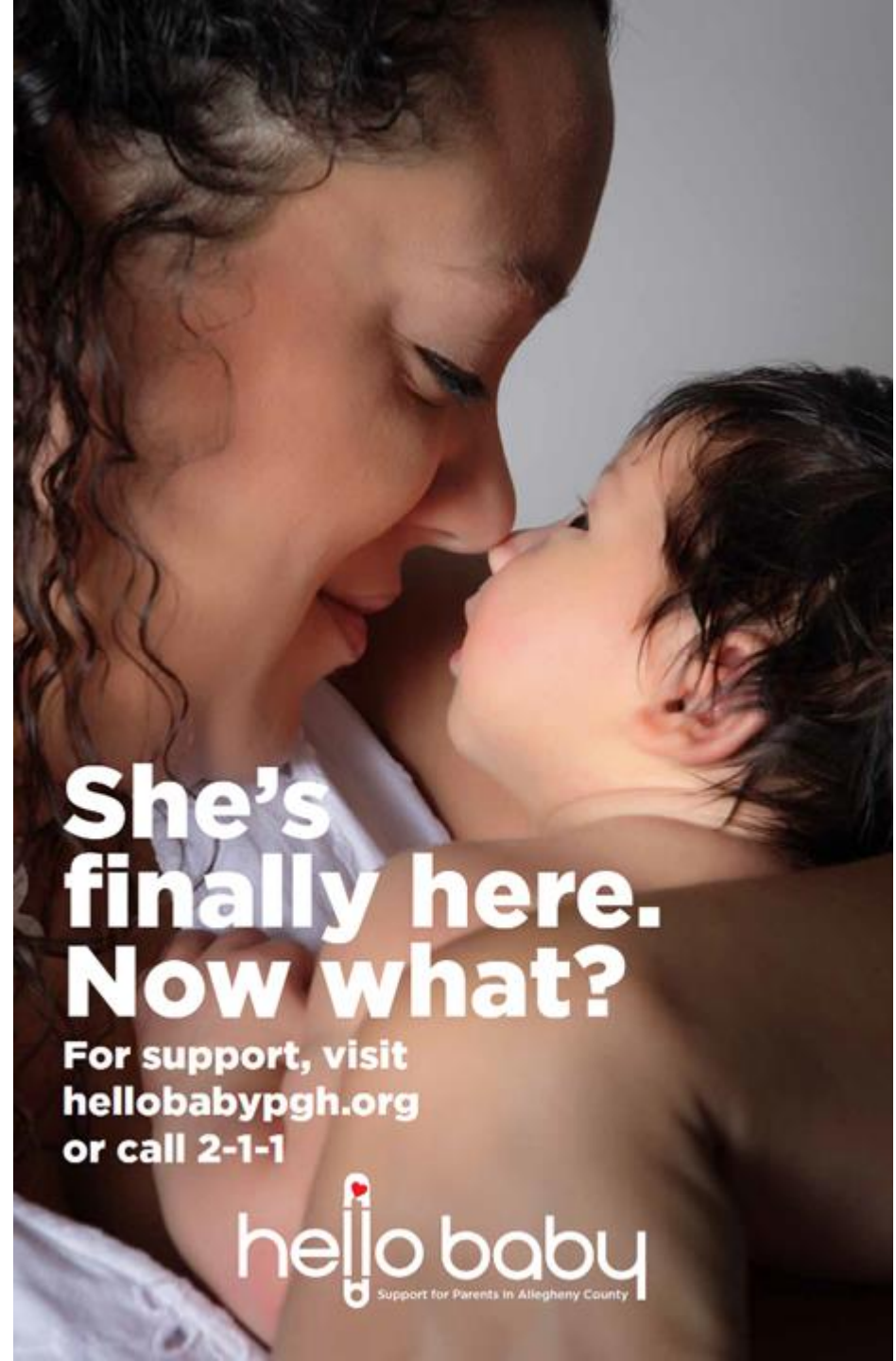


At the Family Centers of Allegheny County, parents meet other parents, kids learn and play and families get the support they need.



Hello Baby was created to ensure that every family in Allegheny County feels supported and connected as they adjust to life with a new baby.

<https://hellobabypgh.org/>



**She's
finally here.
Now what?**

For support, visit
hellobabypgh.org
or call 2-1-1



PN-3 Programs & Advocacy: Increasing Child Care Quality

- EHS-Child Care Partnership
- Infant/Toddler Apprenticeship & CDA credentialing
- Increasing Access to High Quality Care
- Start Strong PA

Historical Challenges & Current Opportunities

- **Coordination across systems**
- **Lack of access to quality (29% of children under 3 in high quality)**
- **Lack of investment in children and families as a share of federal budget**
- + **Resource rich comparatively**
- + **Collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit settings**
- + **Coordination across services**

Public-Private Partnerships

- **Foundation rich**
- **Strong relationship between city and county government and foundation community**
- **Foundation funding complements government investments**

Our Kids. Our Commitment.

- **Allegheny County Children's Fund Initiative**
- **Launched May 2018; qualify question on November 2018 ballot**
- **Voter referendum to establish sustainable public revenue**
- **.25 millage rate increase to property tax generating about \$18M/year for children**
- **Private and community foundations provided financial support for the effort.**
- **Lost 51.8 to 48.2**

Thank you.



Discussion Questions

- How have you or your county made the case for PN-3 as a key issue in your community?
- Do you have similar efforts with private partners who are collaborating on your PN-3 strategic or policy making efforts?
- How are you leveraging private partners or local funders to help fill equity gaps and target the unique needs of families in our community? How have foundations supported your equity work?
- Have you been able to use private funding to help finance your PN-3 systems and services?
- Have you been able to leverage philanthropic dollars to increase local investments for your county's PN-3 services, collective impact or systems building efforts?
- What role have local foundations played during COVID-19?
- What is your county doing to support young children with the American Rescue Plan funds?



CONTACT US

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Thank you!



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