

What's in the American Rescue Plan Act for Infants, Toddlers, and their Families?

CLASP
The Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Law and Social Policy and ZERO TO THREE

Building Strong Foundations for Families

April 6th, 2021 2-3pm ET



Agenda

- Overview of the *Building Strong Foundations for Families* Framework
- What's in the *American Rescue Plan Act* for Infants, Toddlers and their Families
- State Panel
- Q & A

Building Strong Foundations Framework

Babies Need...

Strong parents

- Parent support services
- Developmentally appropriate child welfare

High-quality child care and early education opportunities

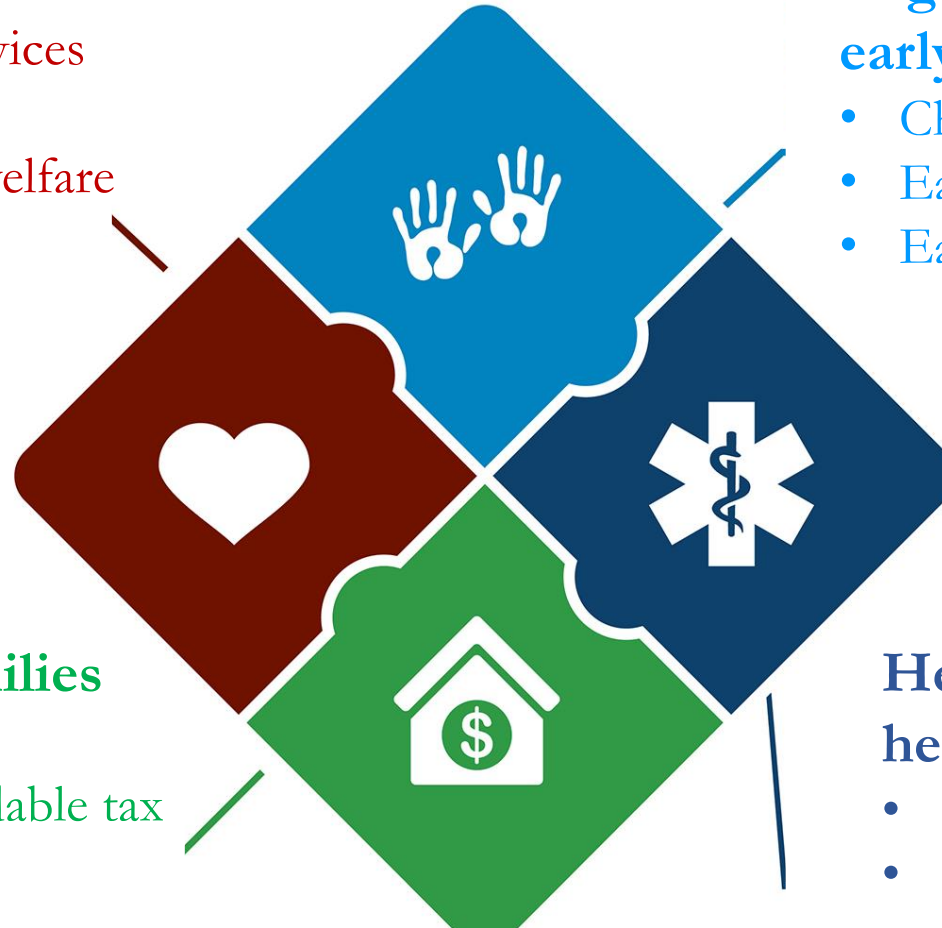
- Child care assistance
- Early Head Start
- Early intervention

Economically stable families

- Education & training
- Cash assistance and refundable tax credits
- Paid leave
- Housing

Healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy parents

- Publicly financed health insurance
- Health care
- Mental health care
- Nutrition support



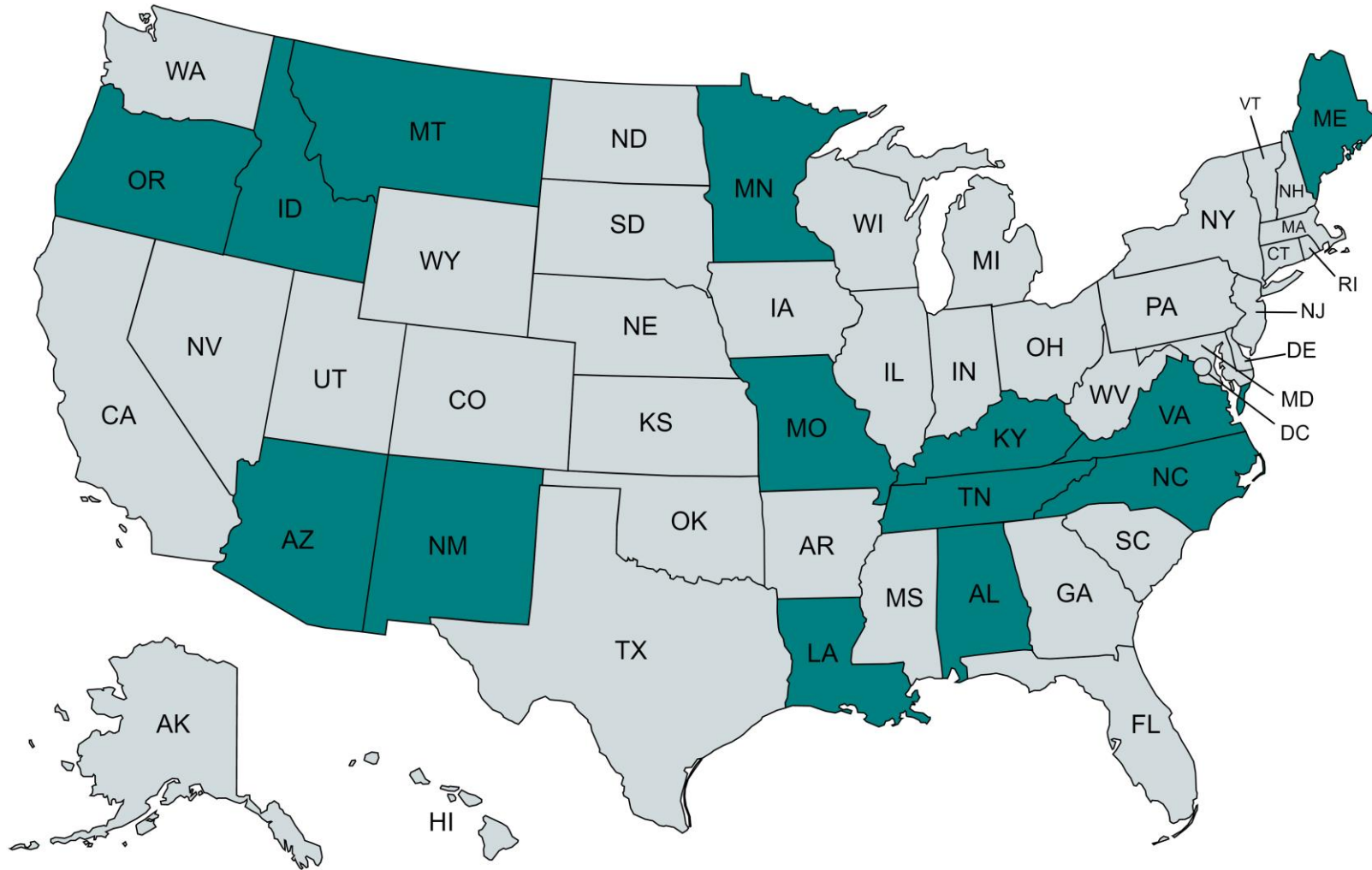
Framework Grounded in Advancing Racial Equity



Rooted in discriminatory policies throughout U.S. history, racial disparities exist across nearly every measure of wellbeing, including health, economic security, and access to early learning experiences.

Strong policies are a tool to disrupt and dismantle institutional racism, promote equity and ensure every child in every family gets a strong start.

Building Strong Foundations for Families in States

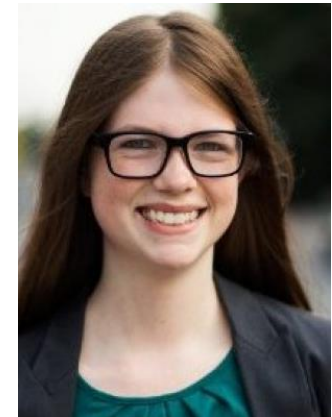


Connects to other state focused efforts, such as:

- ZTT *Think Babies and Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Financing Policy Project*
- CLASP CCDBG Partnership

Opportunities to Support Infants, Toddlers and their Families in the *American Rescue Plan Act*

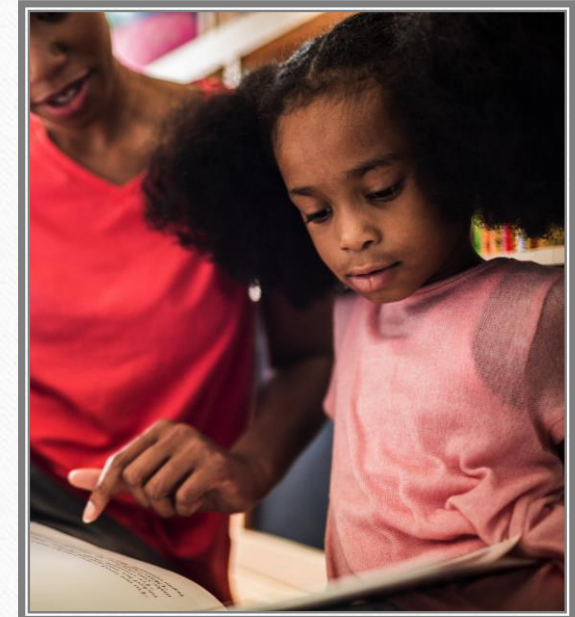
- **Christine Johnson-Staub**, Senior Policy Analyst, CLASP
- **Dr. Lee Johnson III**, Senior Policy Analyst ZERO TO THREE
- **Patty Cole**, Senior Director of Federal Policy, ZERO TO THREE
- **Ashley Burnside**, Policy Analyst, CLASP



High-Quality Child Care and Early Education Opportunities

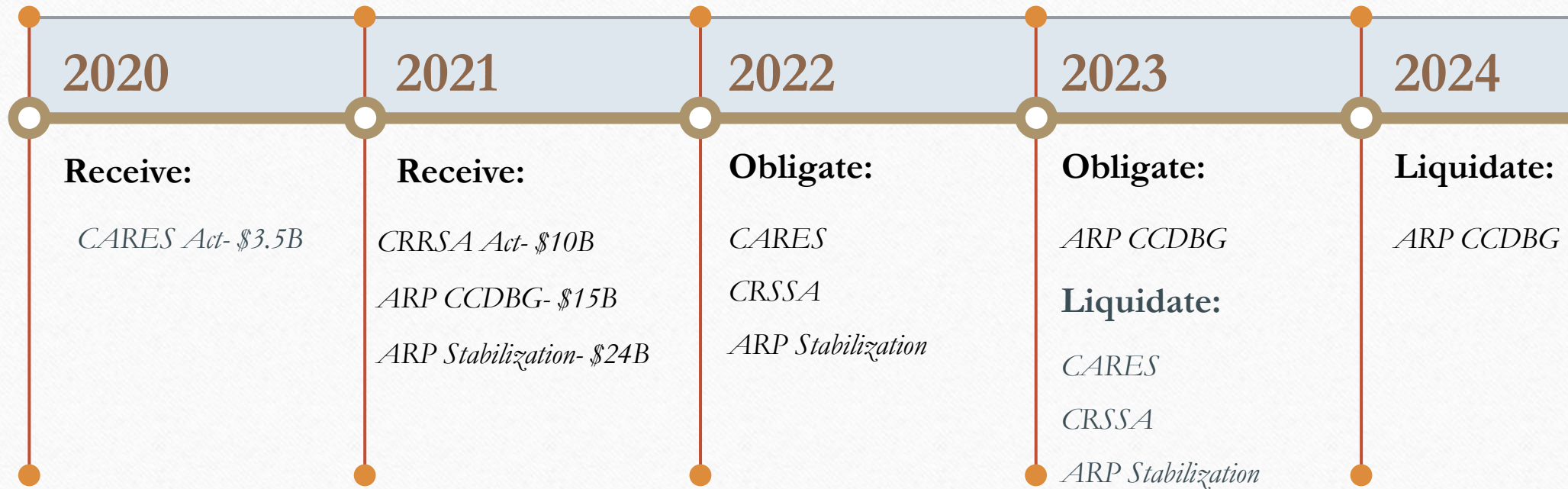
Child Care Relief in the ARPA

- The ARPA provides a total of over \$39B in additional child care relief.
 - \$15b in CCDBG subsidy funding
 - \$24b in sustainability grants
 - \$633m in mandatory CCDBG funding
- \$1 billion for Early Head Start/Head Start
- \$250 million for Part C Early Intervention



Child Care COVID Funding

How long do states have to spend their child care relief funds?



Obligate: State has entered into a legally-binding agreement to spend funds

Liquidate: State has made payments.

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, and Healthy Parents

Healthy Minds: Community Mental Health Services and Block Grant Funding

- **Funding:** \$1.5 billion available through 9/30/2025.
- **Program Purpose:** Grants to carry out a state's mental health plan which include but are not limited to providing comprehensive, community-based mental health services to young children beginning at birth and adults; to monitor progress in implementing a comprehensive, community-based mental health system.
- **Guidance on Use of Funds:** Forthcoming
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:**
 - Use funds to establish/expand infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) services for babies, especially underserved populations (e.g., babies of color; babies living in rural areas).
 - Prioritize coordination of IECMH services within community-based mental health system.

Healthy Minds: Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Funding

- **Funding:** \$1.5 billion available through 9/30/2025.
- **Program Purpose:** Grants to states to plan, implement, and evaluate activities that prevent and treat substance use disorder and promote public health.
- **Guidance on Use of Funds:** Forthcoming
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:**
 - Target Block grant funds to sub-recipients that can provide prevention activities and treatment services for individuals with young children.
 - Use funds to establish/expand programs designed to serve pregnant women and women with dependent children that support mental health, including programs that offer dyadic/two-generational approaches to recovery.

Healthy Minds: National Child Traumatic Stress Network

- **Funding:** \$10 million available until expended.
- **Program Purpose:** To raise the standard of care and increase access to services for children and families who experience or witness traumatic events.
- **Guidance on Use of Funds:** Forthcoming
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:**
 - Engage NCTSN-funded centers to access resources/training to build capacity for IECMH and trauma-informed care in the state
 - Encourage child-serving public and private nonprofits to apply for SAMHSA funds and include a focus on perinatal, infant and early childhood mental health in their activities.

Healthy Minds: Pediatric Mental Health Care Access

- **Funding:** \$80 million available until expended.
- **Program Purpose:** To promote behavioral health integration in pediatric primary care by supporting the development of new or improvement of existing statewide or regional pediatric mental health care telehealth access programs.
- **Guidance on Use of Funds:** Forthcoming
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:**
 - For states without existing Pediatric Mental Health Care Access programs, pursue grant funding to establish programs and build IECMH capacity into program design and budget.
 - In states with existing programs, pursue opportunities to increase early childhood mental health expertise and capacity within the program.

Healthy Parents: Medicaid 12-month Postpartum Coverage Option

- **Option:** Full benefits would be available to women during pregnancy and throughout the 12-month postpartum period, **option available for five years.**
- **Purpose:** To improve maternal and perinatal health outcomes.
- **Guidance on option:** If a state selects this option for Medicaid, it must also provide it under its CHIP program.
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** Submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to take advantage of option.

Healthy Parents: Medicaid Expansion

- **Option:** States that newly expand Medicaid would receive an additional 5%-point increase in their regular Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for 2 years.
- **Purpose:** To aid in insurance coverage and increase the share of Medicaid benefit costs the federal government pays.
- **Guidance on option:** If a state elects to expand Medicaid, the FMAP increase would be in addition to the temporary 6.2 percentage point FMAP increases enacted as part of the *Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)* legislation
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** State eligibility for FMAP assistance requires states to implement certain activities, which include enhancing, expanding and strengthening home and community-based services under the state's Medicaid program—an opportunity to include a focus on perinatal, infant and early childhood mental health in these activities.

Healthy Parents: ACA Improvements

- **Benefit:** Fully subsidized ACA coverage for individuals with income that doesn't exceed 150% of poverty level for 2 years.
- **Purpose:** Make health insurance and health care more accessible and affordable.
- **Guidance on Benefit:** People with lower incomes are expected to pay a smaller-than-normal percentage of their income for the benchmark plan.
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** States now have additional time to encourage the use of the marketplace during this special enrollment period.

Healthy Bodies: Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children

- **Emergency Funding:**
 - \$490 million to boost Cash Value Voucher (fruits and veggies) to \$35/month for 4-month period between date of enactment (3/1/2021) and 9/30/2021
 - \$390 million for program modernization (grants from federal level)
- **Program Purpose:** Supplemental nutrition for women, infants and children
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** Encourage families to use vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables. With a steep drop in WIC enrollment prior to the pandemic, outreach to eligible families should be encouraged to increase participation levels.

Healthy Bodies: Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfers

- **Emergency benefit for children under 6:** Adds a monthly benefit to family SNAP benefits for children missing meals in child care; extended through summer months
- **Program purpose:** To help increase household food security by adding nutritional resources for young children who have missed child care meals because of closures or reduced attendance. All children under 6 are eligible if they live or attended child care in an area where a school or child care facility has closed or reduced hours.
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** States must file a plan for how they will determine benefits, so it is important that they be developed and filed quickly. Some states will add benefits automatically, others may require families to apply. Outreach should help families understand the benefit and how they can access it.
- **Status of state plans for P-EBT:** Available from FRAC [here](#).

Strong Parents

Strong Parents: Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP)

- **Emergency Funding:** \$250 million available through 9/30/2023; formula grant, state match waived
- **Program Purpose:** *Flexible* source of funds for wide-ranging activities to prevent child abuse and support families
- **Guidance on Use of Emergency Funds:** Forthcoming
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** Can respond to a wide variety of needs, such as material needs, outreach to combat social isolation, parenting education and support, and connections to other community services

Strong Parents: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act State Grants

- **Emergency Funding:** \$100 million available through 9/30/2023
- **Program Purpose:** State activities for activities related to prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect
- **Guidance on Use of Emergency Funds:** Forthcoming
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** Address child welfare-related needs during the pandemic, such as technology for case workers and families; mental health consultations; PPE and cleaning supplies.

Family Support: Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

- **Emergency Funding:** \$150 million available through 9/30/2022
- **Program Purpose:** Evidence-based home visiting programs
- **Opportunities for Babies and Families:** ARPA prescribes specific uses, including
 - Virtual home visits, including training on conducting them and technology for families;
 - Hazard pay;
 - Training on emergency preparedness planning for families, including screening for intimate partner violence;
 - Emergency needs such as diaper need, formula and food, handwashing and sanitizing supplies (diaper need must be coordinated with diaper banks where possible);
 - Reimbursing diaper banks meeting diaper need for MIECHV families;
 - Prepaid grocery cards

Economically Stable Families

Economically Stable Families: Housing

- **\$21.6 billion in emergency rental assistance** available through September 30, 2025
- **\$5 billion for housing vouchers** with funds available through September 30, 2030
- **\$5 billion for homelessness assistance** to provide rental assistance and supportive services, develop affordable rental housing, allow non-congregate shelter to be converted into permanent affordable housing
- **\$750 million for tribal housing needs**
- **\$100 million for rural households** living in USDA-financed properties
- **\$10 billion for homeowner assistance** to help homeowners avoid foreclosure through the Homeowner Assistance Fund
- **\$5 billion for utility assistance**
- Critical for states and cities to develop plans; conduct outreach to families, landlords and tenants; and target those most in need with funds.



Child Tax Credit (CTC)

- The ARP dramatically expands the CTC for tax year 2021
- The changes are estimated to reduce child poverty by 45%
- And it would reduce child poverty by 52% for Black children
 - By 45% for Hispanic children
 - By 37% for AAPI children
 - By 61% for Indigenous children



How Does the ARP Change the CTC?

- Increases the CTC benefit families can get to:
 - \$3,600 for families with children under 6 years old (\$300 per month)
 - \$3,000 for children ages 6-17 (\$250/month)
- Makes the CTC fully refundable, so the lowest income families can receive it
- Directs the IRS to start paying the CTC on a periodic basis beginning July 2021, likely based on 2020 tax returns

Who is Eligible for the Expanded CTC?

- 17-year-olds are eligible in 2021
- Children with SSNs, even if their parents file taxes with an ITIN
- Income Limits to Get the Maximum Expanded CTC Benefit:
 - \$112,500 for Heads of Households
 - \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly

Upcoming Priorities

- Encourage lawmakers to make the CTC changes permanent beyond tax year 2021
- Help people file their taxes, especially those with the lowest incomes who previously weren't required to file
- Share stories about how the expanded CTC benefits are helping families meet their expenses

State Panel

- **Moderator: Tiffany Ferrette**, Policy Analyst, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
- **Aisha Ellis**, Program Manager of the Governor's Children's Cabinet, Minnesota Management and Budget Office, Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan
- **Michele Rivest**, Senior Campaign Director, Think Babies NC Alliance/NC Early Education Coalition
- **Jacob Vigil**, Research and Policy Analyst, New Mexico Voices for Children, New Mexico
- **Becca Ullrich**, Coordinator, Early Childhood Policy and Planning, Department of Education, Virginia



Thank You!

On behalf of CLASP and ZERO TO THREE, thank you for joining us today
and thank you for the work you do for children and families!

Please complete a brief evaluation of this webinar
at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YWSBPDH>