

# Advocacy and Policy Resources

## ADVOCACY AND POLICY RESOURCES

### Arizona

- [Arizona Group Prenatal Care Coverage Announcement](#): CHI's announcement on Arizona's Group Prenatal Care Coverage policy (November 2024)
- [Arizona Public Comments for AMPM Policy 410- Maternity Care Services](#): CHI's comments on Arizona's AMPM 410- Maternity Care Services policy (October 2024)

### Maryland

- [Maryland's CenteringPregnancy Policy & Payment Resource](#): A resource offering a short overview of Centering, as well as state-specific billing, coding and documentation information (January 2024)

### Michigan

- [Michigan Group Prenatal Care Coverage Announcement](#): CHI's announcement on Michigan's Group Prenatal Care Coverage policy (October 2024)
- [Michigan Public Comments for Project 2410 – Maternal, Medicaid Coverage for Group Prenatal Care](#): CHI's comments on the Michigan Project 2410- Maternal, Medicaid Coverage for Group Prenatal Care Services policy (August 2024)
- [Michigan HB 4437 & CHI Statement](#): Michigan Governor and Legislature passed HB 4437, which approved \$5 million for one-time CenteringPregnancy to expand current or new CenteringPregnancy sites. Additionally, \$5 million in recurring funds for Medicaid to develop a sustainability pathway for CenteringPregnancy (i.e enhanced reimbursement or MCO contract) (August 2023)

### Missouri

- [Missouri Group Prenatal Care Coverage Announcement](#): CHI's announcement on Missouri's Group Prenatal Care Coverage policy (March 2024)

### New Jersey

- [Expanding Access to Centering](#): In collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Health and three philanthropic foundations, CHI developed and implemented a program to expand patient access to CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting to address racial health disparities in New Jersey (March 2021)
- [P.L. 1968, c.413](#): New Jersey legislature approved implementing enhanced payment programs for CenteringPregnancy. Effective December 2019, NJ Medicaid established providers shall receive an additional payment of \$7.00 for each NJFC Medicaid beneficiary participating in a CenteringPregnancy group visit billed with 99078 TH and an appropriate E/M code (August 2019)

### New Jersey

- [North Carolina Group Prenatal Care Coverage Announcement](#): CHI's announcement on North Carolina's Group Prenatal Care Coverage policy (May 2024)
- [Comment Letter to North Carolina Department of Medicaid](#): CHI's comments to the North Carolina Department of Medicaid on the proposed 1E-5, Obstetrical Services policies to develop additional reimbursement for group prenatal care. (December 2023)
- [Comment letter to North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services on Value-Based Payment Strategy](#): Read CHI's comments to the NC Department of Health and Human Services regarding their value-based payment strategy for standard

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plans and providers in Medicaid Managed Care and alignment of CenteringPregnancy to improve birth outcomes (**February 2020**).

- **Senate Bill 20**: Effective July 1, 2023, the North Carolina legislature directs the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Department of Health Benefits (DHB) to develop an enhanced reimbursement for group prenatal care sessions, and determine the level of patient participation required for a provider to receive these provider payments. Additionally, the bill directs \$2.8 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to implement the Medicaid-related changes outlined (**2023**).

### Ohio

- **[Comment Letter to Ohio Department of Medicaid](#)**: CHI's comments to the Ohio Department of Medicaid's Group Pregnancy Education Coding Updates in support of group prenatal care (**June 2021**).

### Texas

- **[Comment Letter to Texas Health and Human Services Department on Postpartum Depression Strategic Plan](#)**: Read CHI's comments on the Texas Health and Human Services Postpartum Depression Strategic Plan draft and relevant success seen within Centering groups (**July 2020**).

## CHI in the news

**[Coverage of CenteringPregnancy and HealthySteps Services](#)**: The Maryland Department of Health announced that Maryland Medicaid will provide additional reimbursement to recognized practices for CenteringPregnancy and HealthySteps services. (**December 2022**).

**[CenteringPregnancy - Group Prenatal Care](#)**: Listen for the full impact, targeted interviews, research and info about current implementation so you can see if this policy might be right for your state (**September 2019**).

**[CenteringPregnancy - Group Prenatal Care](#)**: Listen to CHI's podcast episode on CenteringPregnancy and address the impact, state implementation strategies, and research supporting centering (**October 2019**).

**[New Jersey Expands Medicaid Program to Include Coverage for CenteringPregnancy® to Improve Maternal Health and Birth Outcomes](#)**: Read more on how the CenteringPregnancy model of group prenatal care is now covered under New Jersey's expanded Medicaid program as a result of recent legislation that includes FQHCs and CHCs (**August 2019**).

## CHI resources

**[Centering Healthcare Bibliography | Annotated Bibliography](#)**: Centering research indicates dramatic improvements in maternal child health outcomes, enhancing the field's goals for cost savings and better health. Stay up-to-date with current Centering research with over 150 published studies and peer-reviewed articles (**June 2023 | December 2022**).

**[Centering Saves Lives & Money](#)**: Learn about how Centering can transform healthcare and save lives and money (**2021**).

**[Payment Models to Support Sustainability of CenteringPregnancy in Federally Qualified Health Centers](#)**: Learn how supporting the implementation of Centering at FQHCs can lead to better health outcomes, higher patient satisfaction, and a reduction in health disparities (**July 2021**).

**[CenteringPregnancy - Medicaid Enhanced Payment for Group Prenatal Care](#)**: Policy development summary from AMCHP on enhanced payment for evidence-based group prenatal care in Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas (**2019**).

**[Aligning Value-Based Payment with the CenteringPregnancy Group Prenatal Care Model:](#)** Strategies to sustain a successful model of prenatal care and how aligning emerging value-based payment models reward providers for better outcomes **(May 2019)**.

**[How CenteringPregnancy Can Support Birth Equity:](#)** An issue brief on CenteringPregnancy's role as one of the models supporting birth equity, that is relationship-centered, holistic in its attention to non-medical aspects of health and wellbeing, provides time and opportunity for empowering group discussion, and creates a supportive environment that fosters trust **(October 2019)**.

**[Testimony to Committee on Health, Council of the District of Columbia:](#)** Written testimony from CHI on supporting the Window Blind Safety Notification Act of 2019 (Bill 23-0322), the Perinatal Health Worker Training Access Act of 2019 (Bill 23-0341), and the Maternal Health Care Improvement and Expansion Act of 2019 (Bill 23-0362) **(December 2019)**.

## Additional Resources

**[Advancing Healthy Births- An Equity Plan for Michigan Families & Communities:](#)** A plan to work towards an equitable Michigan from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services highlighting the importance of expanding access and equitable reimbursement, and expanded birthing care team through group prenatal models such as CenteringPregnancy. **(October 2023)**

**[North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force Annual Report:](#)** This report contains recommendations for laws and state funding for prevention strategies that will save children's lives and support their well-being and safety. One recommendation in the report is to fund group prenatal care visits, funding for broad doula coverage, and funding to increase the maternity provider reimbursement for bundled payments. CenteringPregnancy is highlighted as one of the most studied models of group care. **(February 2023)**

**[Ensuring Healthy Births Through Prenatal Support:](#)** The Center for American Progress (CAP) highlights the importance of providing group prenatal care and support to improve birth outcomes through programs such as, CenteringPregnancy, The JJ Way, and HealthConnect One Community-Based Doula Program. **(January 2020)**

**[Racism Created Inequities in Maternal and Child Health, Even Before Birth:](#)** ZERO TO THREE'S Think Babies™ recommendations for policymakers and practitioners to promote equity and improve maternal and child health. **(May 2021)**

**[Maternal and Child Health Update 2020:](#)** The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices' (NGA Center) Maternal and Child Health Update (MCH Update) survey results from senior state and territorial health officials regarding MCH policy topics. This update includes the importance for group prenatal care models such as CenteringPregnancy. **(2020)**

**[Fostering Social and Emotional Health through Pediatric Primary Care - Common Threads to Transform Everyday Practice and Systems:](#)** Findings from the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) qualitative program analysis on the common practices used by innovative primary care sites implementing a variety of evidence-supported programs such as CenteringPregnancy and CenteringParenting. **(October 2019)**

**[2024 Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap:](#)** This roadmap guides state leaders on the most effective investment to ensure all children thrive from the start including strategies such as [Group Prenatal Care](#) which highlights CenteringPregnancy as the most prominent model of group prenatal care. **(October 2024)**

**[Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Lever Checklist:](#)** Group Prenatal Care: This checklist covers the following policy levers states may consider to help maximize the reach and effectiveness of group prenatal care. **(September 2023)**

Please reach out with questions or comments to [policy@centeringhealthcare.org](mailto:policy@centeringhealthcare.org).