



State Support for the First Thousand Days After Birth

State Spotlight: Louisiana

Information current as of December 2025.

1. Care Coordination and Pregnancy Support

1.1 Pregnancy Support

[Louisiana Pregnancy and Baby Care Initiative](#)

This program was created by the passage of SB 278 in 2024 and is housed within the state's Department of Children and Family Services. It replaced the state's Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) Program. The A2A program's \$1 million in contracts with pregnancy help organizations was transferred to this new initiative. In the past the state's A2A program was funded by state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding but the state has yet to identify a funding source for this new version of the program. The program's general contractor allocates funding to life-affirming Pregnancy Help Organizations that are typically pregnancy centers, adoption agencies, maternity homes, or other life-affirming social service agencies. [The program aims](#) to provide pregnancy and parenting support to low-income families whose family income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

The Abortion Alternatives Hotline can be reached at (866)729-1788

Louisiana has also established a maternal wellness center [tax credit](#). This tax credit (5%) is given to those who donate to locations providing mothers with essential services.

1.2 Care Coordination

[Family Resource Center](#)

This government organization assists providers in linking families to resources and services for families with young children.

[Regional Resource Guides](#)

[Regional Resource Guides](#)

Guides for services for children with special healthcare needs in Louisiana. There are nine guides, representing nine regions, and each guide contains service descriptions, eligibility requirements, and contact information.

[Partners for Family Health](#)

This website is managed by the Bureau of Family Health and helps families find family health information, resources, and services in Louisiana.

2. Women's Health

2.1 Prenatal and Postpartum Medical Care

[Healthy Start](#)

This is a federally funded program, run by the state, that helps pregnant women and their families as well as women of reproductive age (11-45) find services that help them raise healthy kids. Services include classes on pregnancy and parenting, transportation assistance for prenatal appointments and doctors' visits, baby items like clothing and food, special services for dads, and referral services. This program is active in the four communities of New Orleans, Jefferson, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette.

[Project SOAR \(Screen Often and Accurately Refer\)](#)

This grant-funded project is led by the Louisiana Department of Health and works with families, healthcare providers, and community organizations to learn about best practices and experiences with developmental screening, caregiver depression screening, and follow-up during well child checkup visits. This is a four-year project that starts with collecting information from the partners listed above. The second step is creating recommendations and strategies for parents and health care providers to address the needs of families in Louisiana. Families that have children under the age of five who have gone to some, or all their child's well-child visits are eligible to participate in this program. Group discussion participants get paid \$50 for up to two hours of participation.

[Reproductive Health Program](#)

This program provides resources and services for individuals related to one's sexual and reproductive health with the goals of reducing maternal and infant mortality, morbidity and teen pregnancy. The program provides STI screenings, contraceptive counseling, access to a variety of contraceptive methods and information on sexual and reproductive health.

2.2 Prenatal and Postpartum Support

[WIC Breastfeeding Resources](#)

Louisiana's Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) offers extra benefits for women who want to breastfeed and access to free and trained Lactation Breastfeeding Consultants.

SB 55 (2024)

This legislation requires hospitals and birthing centers to provide new mothers and their families upon discharge with information on post-birth health complications and the symptoms of such complications.

HB 5 (2023)

This legislation allows the biological mother of a child to receive 50% of documented pregnancy and childbirth related expenses from the child's father.

HB 21 (2023)

This legislation allows public school employees and school bus drivers to have an additional 30 days of sick leave for pregnancy-related illness and medical visits on top of the 90 days public schools in the state already provide them.

SB 135 (2023)

This legislation requires the Louisiana Department of Health's Medicaid program to reimburse licensed midwives and certified nurse midwives for pregnancy and childbirth services at 95% of the amount reimbursed to physicians.

HB 516 (2022)

This legislation requires public high schools to adopt pregnancy and parenting friendly policies regarding attendance, breastfeeding accommodations, and child-care information.

Louisiana's Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Program is funded by a federal block grant (Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, [MIECHV](#)) administered by the Louisiana Bureau of Family Health. Funding supports [two EBHV models](#):

- **Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)** - This program promotes the mother's health during pregnancy, child development, and her personal growth. The program is administered by public health nurses. This model is designed for first-time moms and their children who are low-income. First-time moms must enroll by 28 weeks or less of pregnancy to be [eligible](#). They must also be eligible for one or more of the following at time of sign-up: Medicaid, WIC, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Women may be allowed to enter the program under special circumstances such as when they experience a miscarriage, have surrendered a child for adoption, or have lost custody of a child within 30 days of delivery. Home visits continue until the child turns two. In Louisiana, twelve teams implement NFP. This model exists in all parishes but Caldwell, East Carroll, Jefferson, Madison, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Tensas, Inion, and West Carroll.
- **Parents as Teachers (PAT)** - This [model promotes](#) child development and learning by equipping caregivers with regular home visits, group meetings, health screenings for children, and family resources. This program is run by parent educators. Families are eligible from pregnancy until the child's fifth birthday but at the time of application the

woman must be pregnant or parenting a child less than 36 months of age. [Families must be eligible](#) for one or more of the following at the time of sign-up: Medicaid, WIC, SNAP, TANF, or SSI. The program is focused on children with special health needs; parents with mental health or substance-use issues; first-time or teen parents; immigrant families; and families at risk for child abuse. Eligibility is determined by each PAT affiliate. In Louisiana, six teams implement PAT.

At least one MIECHV model is available in each of Louisiana's 64 parishes.

2.3 General Medical Care for Women

[Louisiana Breast & Cervical Health Program \(LBCHP\)](#)

Through this federally funded program, participants receive no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings and patient navigational services such as help making appointments, getting to appointments (provides gas cards and bus tokens), and translation services. To be [eligible](#) for the LBCHP women must have an income at or below 250% of the FPL and be underinsured or uninsured. To qualify for cervical cancer screenings women must be between 21-64 years of age and for breast cancer screenings (mammograms) women must be between 40-64 years of age. Women can get mammograms at an earlier age if they are experiencing breast cancer symptoms.

[Medicaid](#)

Medicaid in Louisiana provides health coverage to eligible Louisiana residents who meet the income guidelines and are U.S. citizens or have satisfactory immigration status. There are various Medicaid programs in Louisiana for individuals and families, each with its own additional requirements. Below are several groups that are eligible for Louisiana Medicaid:

- [Pregnant women](#) - Pregnant women are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid if they meet certain family size and income limits ([up to 138% of the FPL](#)). In [2022](#), postpartum Medicaid coverage for women was extended from 60 days to 12 months as a result of CMS' subsequent approval of the state's extension request in April 2022. Pregnant women are covered through a program titled "[LaMOMS](#)." In addition to the full array of services that traditional plans cover, this program also covers pregnancy-related services, labor and delivery costs, and postpartum care for twelve months after childbirth. As a result of the passage of [HB 272](#) in March 2023, all Medicaid insurers must provide coverage for maternity benefits that include maternity support services performed by a doula. If a pregnant woman makes too much money to qualify for LaMOMS Medicaid, she may qualify for the state's [LaCHIP Phase IV Prenatal Care/Unborn Option](#) if her [income](#) is at or below 214% of the FPL. Undocumented pregnant women are eligible for this program as well. This option covers prenatal care services from conception until birth.
- [Parents and caretakers/relatives](#) - Parents with children (under the age of 19) living in their homes who also meet resident, citizenship, and income requirements ([up to 24% of the FPL](#)) are eligible for full-coverage Medicaid.
- [Family Planning Services Only](#) - Covered through the program Take Charge Plus, this eligibility group (both males and females) receives coverage for family planning services only.

Examples of covered services include physical exams, birth control supplies, STI testing and treatment, and sterilization. The income limit for this program is [138% of the FPL](#).

- [BCC Medicaid](#) - This Medicaid program provides free breast and cervical cancer treatment to women who were diagnosed with cancer through the state's Breast and Cervical Health Program (see above). Other eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements:
 - o Being under the age of 65.
 - o Not being enrolled in Medicaid through another eligibility category or another type of health insurance.
 - o Meet [income limit](#) of up to 250% of the FPL.
- [Childless adults, ages 19 through 64](#) - This is Louisiana's expansion group which receives full Medicaid coverage if the [income limit](#) (up to 138% of the FPL) is met.
- [Tuberculosis Infected Individuals](#) - Those infected with tuberculosis can have their treatment covered by Medicaid if they have an income at or below 160% of the FPL.

Lastly, those who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid apart from their citizenship status can receive Medicaid coverage for [emergency services only](#).

For more information on disability-specific Medicaid programs, see section 6.1, section 7.2 for child-specific Medicaid programs, section 7.4 for adoption-specific Medicaid programs, and 7.5 for foster care-specific programs.

3. Finances, Work, and Education

3.1 Help Paying Bills

[TANF](#)

Louisiana's federally funded TANF program has five core related programs. These include:

- [Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program](#) - Provides a monthly cash benefit to struggling resident families that have children or are expecting children. The amount is based on the family size. The current benefit for a family of three is \$484.
- [Kinship Care Subsidy Program](#) - Provides cash assistance for needy resident children under 18. To qualify for kinship benefits, children must reside in the home of a qualified custodial relative but cannot live in the same home as their parents. The benefit amount is a monthly flat grant of \$450 per child.
- [Strategies to Empower People](#) - Provides a range of services, including vocational training and GED preparation, aimed at helping welfare recipients become self-sufficient.
- Child Welfare Emergency Assistance Services Initiative: Provides services to children who are removed from their parents by a court and are in foster care. Services include case management and planning.

- [Child Welfare Programs Initiative](#) - Identifies and provides services to needy families where one or more children living in the home are at risk of abuse or neglect. The programs include Child Protection Investigation and Family Services.

It is important to note that Louisiana's stated TANF program goals are to:

- Foster healthy families.
- End dependency on governmental benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
- Prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

3.2 Employment Support

SNAP Employment and Training (E and T) Program

This voluntary program offers opportunities to SNAP recipients to gain job skills and work experience as well as attend job training programs. Louisiana's SNAP program reimburses SNAP providers for work-related expenses given to SNAP participants such as clothing, transportation, childcare, and tools.

HiRE

Help Individuals Reach Employment (HiRE) is the Louisiana Workforce Commission's self-service website where employers and those seeking employment can go to hire or apply for jobs, file for unemployment, find vocational rehabilitation services, and get free federal and state tax filing assistance for lower income filers.

3.3 Education and Training

No applicable and/or known programs.

3.4 Financial Advice or Education

No applicable and/or known programs.

4. Material or Legal Support

4.1 Transportation

Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

Healthy Louisiana Medicaid recipients can get a ride to scheduled medical appointments. This service is available for all Healthy Louisiana members who do not receive transportation services through a managed care plan and have no other means of transportation. This service also covers meals and lodging for appointments that require long-distance travel.

4.2 Food and Nutrition

WIC

The federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is run by the state. It provides qualifying families with nutritious foods that they might not otherwise be able to afford. It also provides breastfeeding and nutrition education and referral services for Medicaid, family planning, food stamps, TANF, LaCHIP, and childhood immunizations. Find the list of WIC approved foods [here](#). Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements:

- Being pregnant or a mom of a child or children under 5
- Being a Louisiana resident
- [Meet income guidelines](#) [Meeting income guidelines](#). (If you are enrolled in Medicaid or receive SNAP or TANF benefits you already meet the income guidelines.)
- The mother or child is at nutritional risk

SNAP

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps to ensure eligible low-income families and individuals receive benefits to supplement a household's monthly food budget and maintain good health and allows them to direct more of their available income toward essential living expenses. Eligibility requirements include meeting all the following requirements:

- Meeting income and resource limits
- Being a Louisiana resident
- Being a U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant
- Work registration: All able-bodied adults, with specific exceptions, must register for work and accept suitable employment. [However](#), 33 parishes are exempted from the newly implemented federal work requirements and program time limits because of the unemployment rate and lack of jobs in the parishes.

Special Nutrition Programs

[School Breakfast Program](#) and [School Lunch Program](#)

These federally funded programs are run by the state and provide needy children with free breakfast and lunches at participating schools. As a result of the passage of HB 282 in 2023, all children who are eligible for these two programs receive free meals, not just reduced-cost meals.

[Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)

This program is for childcare centers as well as adult day care centers. It provides reimbursements for nutritious meals and snacks to eligible children and adults at participating care centers and children in afterschool programs and children residing in emergency shelters.

[Summer Food Service Program \(SFSB\)](#)

This program provides nutritious meals to children who normally receive free or reduced-price meals when schools are in session. SFSP helps children to maintain a nutritious diet. Children have

to eat meals or snacks at schools, parks, and other neighborhood locations. Every child 18 and under can participate in this program. Some states have to-go options as well.

[Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\)](#)

This program became available in Louisiana in the summer of 2024. It is a federally funded and income-based program that gives low-income families a \$120 benefit during the summer to buy food for their children when they are not in school. The benefits can be used in any store that accepts EBT cards. This benefit is available to qualifying families in addition to the summer meal programs listed above. Enrollment in this program is often automatic if the child is already receiving free or reduced-cost meals at their schools through the School Breakfast and Lunch programs. Other groups of children are eligible for this program, including children who are in one of the following groups:

- School-aged children who have been participating in SNAP, TANF, and/or Medicaid for at least one month since July 1, 2024.
- Children whose parents' income meets the state's [limits](#)

[The Emergency Food Assistance Program \(TEFAP\)](#)

TEFAP is a federally funded program that provides states with 100% American grown foods which are allocated to participating food banks, pantries, and soup kitchens. Low-income individuals and families can then go and receive supplemental food boxes from these entities. These supplemental food boxes contain three to five days' worth of food. Monthly income limits apply.

4.3 Clothing, Household Goods, and Baby Supplies

[Louisiana Healthcare Connections and Cribs for Kids](#)

Louisiana's Medicaid managed care organization, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, partners with Cribs for Kids (a national infant safe-sleep education program) to help reduce the risk of infant sleep-related deaths in the state. Louisiana has the second highest infant mortality rate in the nation. This program was launched in 2019 as a pilot program in the northern region of Louisiana (Shreveport and Monroe) and has now expanded statewide. It provides pregnant members of Louisiana Healthcare Connections with a portable crib and educational materials on safe sleeping habits for infants.

4.4 Housing, Shelters, and Maternity Homes

[Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#)

This federally funded program helps households with their home energy expenses if they meet income requirements. It may provide heating and cooling bill payment assistance, crisis bill payment or assistance, and/or heating and cooling equipment repair or replacement assistance.

[The Permanent Supportive Housing Program](#)

This program reintegrates individuals from vulnerable populations into the community by providing them with housing. Vulnerable populations include those exiting institutions, chronically homeless people, those who are vulnerable to homelessness, and individuals with psychiatric disabilities or

chronic health issues. [All waiting lists](#) are open to individuals over 18 with serious mental health illnesses who are: Medicaid-eligible individuals who are currently residing in nursing facilities or have been referred to one. Household incomes must be at or below 50% of the area's median income.

4.5 Legal Support

No applicable and/or known programs.

5. Recovery and Mental Health

5.1 Addiction Recovery

[Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health's Addictive Disorders Services](#)

This resource lists addiction treatment centers and services supported by regional human service districts as well as services covered by Medicaid. Human service districts treat people suffering from addiction to drugs, alcohol or gambling. [Treatment programs include:](#)

- Problem Gambling Treatment.
- Addictive Disorders.
- Withdrawal Management (detox).
- Opiate Treatment programs.
- Outpatient Care (non-intensive and intensive).
- Residential care (co-occurring disorder-mental health and substance use).
- Residential care for pregnant women and women with dependent children. The Office of Behavioral Health partners with the Department of Children and Family Services to provide substance use disorder treatment services for individuals in the Child Welfare and Economic Stability Self Sufficiency systems. Women served are TANF-eligible women with dependent children (up to 12 years old) who are currently using addictive substances or have a history of use and are at risk for relapse. Services include assessment, individual, group, and family counseling, trauma informed services, drug education, relapse prevention, case coordination and a continuum of evidence-based curricula designed to help families become functional and independent again.

[Louisiana Tobacco Quitline](#)

This is a free 24/7 tobacco cessation helpline that helps those seeking to quit using tobacco with Quit Coaches who help interested callers create a plan to quit. To use the Quit Coaches services, one must be a Louisiana resident who is 13 years or older and smokes or uses spit tobacco or be a friend or family member of a tobacco user in Louisiana who wants to help their friend or family member quit.

[Well-Ahead Louisiana](#)

The tobacco cessation program is part of the Well-Ahead Louisiana initiative created by the Louisiana Department of Health. The broader initiative seeks to improve the health and wellness of

Louisiana residents and is the chronic disease prevention and healthcare access arm of the Louisiana Department of Health. [The tobacco cessation and prevention program](#) goes by the best practices identified by the CDC and includes the components of state and community interventions, mass-reach health communications interventions, cessation interventions, and surveillance and evaluation.

5.2 Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Trafficking Recovery

No applicable and/or known programs.

5.3 Mental Health

5.4 Abortion Recovery and Healing

No applicable and/or known programs.

5.5 Miscellaneous

No applicable and/or known programs.

6. Disability Assistance

Families Helping Families

The Bureau of Family Health partners with this organization to give families of children with disabilities extra support. Families Helping Families helps families connect to resources and have peer support and be engaged in necessary educational and training programs.

EarlySteps

This is Louisiana's early intervention program. It provides services to families with infants and toddlers from birth to 3 years old who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay, or who have developmental delays. The services aim to improve the family's ability to increase their child's development. [These services](#) are provided in the child's home and include services like assistive technology, health services, medical services, nutrition services, OT/PT services, etc.

Louisiana Genetics Program

This program provides genetic counseling to families whose unborn child was diagnosed with a genetic abnormality. The program includes screening and definitive diagnostic tests and assistance from social workers, public health nurses and nutritionists.

Disability-Specific Medicaid Programs

Louisiana Medicaid offers Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers to individuals who require full, comprehensive coverage and additional long-term support services that allow disabled individuals to live at home instead of in a long-term care facility. Louisiana HCBS waivers [include](#):

- LA Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) Waiver - Provides adult day health care, home delivered meals, care coordination services, etc. to adults 65 and older and/or individuals with physical disabilities (ages 22-64) who need a nursing facility level of care.
- LA Children's Choice Waiver - For those ages 0-20 who meet an ICF/IID level of care and have autism, intellectual disabilities, or developmental disabilities. Provides services such as aquatic therapy, art therapy, family support services, and horseback riding lessons.
- LA Community Choices Waiver - Provides adult day health care, caregiver support services, medical equipment and devices, home modifications, etc. to those who are 65 and older and those ages 21-64 with physical disabilities that necessitate a nursing facility level of care.
- LA Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) Children's Waiver - For those aged 5-17 with a serious emotional disturbance who need a nursing or hospital facility level of care or those aged 18-20 with mental illness. Provides independent-living skills building, respite services, and parent training services.
- LA New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) - For those three and older with autism, intellectual disabilities, or developmental disabilities who need an ICF/IID level of care. Provides center-based respite services, family support services, skilled nursing services, adult companion care, etc.
- LA Residential Options Waiver (ROW) - For those of any age with autism, intellectual disabilities, or developmental disabilities who need an ICF/IID level of care. Provides respite services, medical equipment, community living supports, dental services, home modifications, transportation, etc.
- LA Supports Waiver - For those 18 and older with autism, intellectual disabilities, or developmental disabilities who need an ICF/IID level of care. Provides respite services, medical equipment, community living supports, dental services, home modifications, transportation, etc.

Another disability-specific Medicaid program covered by the state's Medicaid program is the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act ([TEFRA](#)) program, otherwise known as the Katie Beckett program. This program is for children 18 and younger with disabilities who want to live at home but qualify for institutional placement in a hospital or intermediate care facility. This program provides full Medicaid coverage and additional program-specific services. The [income limit](#) for this program looks at the child's income apart from the parents' income. The program's income limit is three times the current SSI payment rate. There are additional resource limits (under \$2,000 in assets). In some instances, families will pay a monthly premium, and in others, TEFRA will pay for the full cost of the services provided. Some services covered by this program include physical, occupational, and speech therapy as well as outpatient behavioral health counseling and nursing services, etc.

[The Family Opportunity Act Medicaid program](#) provides health coverage to uninsured or underinsured children who have disabilities in families that have too high an income to qualify for regular Medicaid or LaCHIP. Families with an income up to 300% of the FPL are eligible for this program. However, families whose income is above 200% of the FPL must pay a premium for the program's services.

Aged, Blind, and Disabled adults also can receive full Medicaid through the state's Medicaid program. Furthermore, those who are disabled but working can receive full-coverage Medicaid through the state's [Medicaid Purchase Plan](#). Other eligibility requirements include being aged 16 through 64, taking other health insurance if one can get it at no cost, and having less than \$25,000 in assets.

7. Care for Children

7.1 Childcare

Childcare Assistance Program

This program is run by the Louisiana Department of Education and helps low-income families pay for childcare if parents are working or going to school. [Eligibility requirements](#) include meeting all the following requirements:

- The household must need care for a child under the age of 13 or a child with disabilities under the age of 18.
- The householder must be working or attending school or training for a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Being U.S. citizens or eligible aliens, residing in Louisiana, and meeting the income eligibility standards for their household size.

7.2 Children's Health Care

Children's Special Health Services

This program ensures that children and youth who have special health care needs in Louisiana have access to health care services designed to minimize their disabilities and encourage independence. This program is for those under the age of 21 who are diagnosed or suspected of having certain chronic physical illnesses or disabilities. It connects caregivers and families to relevant resources, collaborates with health and social service providers to improve care coordination, and works to create systems of support for children and their families.

Medicaid for Children

Louisiana residents under 19 can qualify for full-coverage Medicaid if they meet citizenship or immigration requirements as well as income guidelines. The incomes of all people (such as a legal parent or stepparent) included in "family size" are counted. More on income limits can be found [here](#).

Louisiana's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment ([EPSDT](#)) benefit provides health coverage for well-child visits and diagnostic screenings for all children enrolled in Medicaid with actual or potential health issues, from birth to age 21. This mandated Medicaid benefit screens children with actual or potential health problems to treat them before they become permanent disabilities. Preventive health services are also available to Medicaid-eligible children under age 21.

LaCHIP and LaCHIP Affordable Plan

If a child's family makes too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid, they may be eligible for Louisiana's CHIP program, which includes LaCHIP or the LaCHIP Affordable Plan. LaCHIP provides full coverage including dental and vision benefits at no cost to the child's family. This program is for children whose family [income](#) is at or below 217% of the FPL. The LaCHIP Affordable Plan offers the same services as the LaCHIP plan except the family pays a \$50 per month premium per eligible child. This program is for children whose family [income](#) is at or below 255% of the FPL.

Louisiana Newborn Screening Program

All infants born in Louisiana hospitals must be tested for genetic disorders, hearing loss, and Critical Congenital Heart Disease. If an infant is diagnosed with any of the above, practitioners quickly refer them for or start treatment depending on the infant's needs. It is important to note that while this program is required, parents pay for these services as a part of the cost to deliver their child.

The Louisiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

This program supports coordinated systems of care that ensure children diagnosed with hearing loss by the state's newborn screening program receive timely services such as screening, diagnosis, and intervention. This program also mandates that every baby born in a Louisiana hospital undergoes a hearing screening before being discharged.

Louisiana Vaccines for Children

This is a federal program run at the state level that provides participating doctors' offices with free vaccines to administer to Louisiana residents under the age of 19 whose families could otherwise not afford to vaccinate their children. Other eligibility requirements include being part of one or more of the following groups:

- Being American Indian or Alaska Native.
- Being Medicaid-eligible.
- Being uninsured
- Being underinsured

7.3 Family and Parenting Education

Partners for Healthy Babies

This is a co-project of the Louisiana Department of Health's Bureau of Family Health and the Louisiana WIC program. It provides information to women and their families through a helpline and website that connect women with necessary resources.

Family Services

These are services provided to families and children in their own homes to address the problems of suspected abuse or neglect. This program specifically focuses on cases where the child is not in immediate danger of serious harm if services are provided to the family and the parents or caretakers demonstrate a desire to change the abuse or neglectful behavior. This program operates

under the philosophy that each child should remain in their own home if possible (if their home can offer him or her safety and meet his or her basic needs) so that foster care placement can be avoided. These services are generally provided to families on a six-month basis.

HB 909 (2022)

This legislation created a continuum of care program within the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. The program was allocated \$2,000,000 to help women develop healthy parenting techniques and increase the economic self-sufficiency of families.

7.4 Adoption

Adoption Subsidy Program

This federally and state funded program provides four different types of subsidies to adoptive parents of children with special needs who were adopted out of foster care, and those who were under 18 when they were adopted. Special needs in this program are children who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Are over the age of five.
- Are of an ethnic background.
- Have a severe medical condition or physical, mental, or emotional disability.
- Are a member of a sibling group that shouldn't be separated.
- Are genetically predisposed to a medical or mental health risk.

There are different eligibility guidelines for adoptions that take place through private adoption agencies.

The different subsidy options include:

- Monthly Maintenance Subsidies: These go towards housing the adopted child, and providing personal necessities, and clothing.
- Special Services Subsidy Payments: These go towards preexisting health-related expenses not covered by other programs or insurance plans.
- Special Board Rates: This is additional financial assistance for when the child requires an additional level of care.
- One Time Adoption Expenses: These go towards adoption-related expenses such as legal fees or the revision of a birth certificate.

Adoption Deduction

In June 2021 Louisiana passed an adoption deduction law with a deduction maximum of \$5,000. It went into effect in 2022.

Medicaid

In Louisiana, children [who are eligible](#) for federal Title IV adoption assistance automatically become eligible for Medicaid (income is not considered). Children who receive benefits from the state's adoption subsidy program (described above) also are eligible for Medicaid in Louisiana.

7.5 Foster, Kinship, and Short-term Care

Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood

This program is federally funded but administered by the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. The program helps those transitioning out of foster care learn skills that allow them to live independently. Independent Living providers help foster youth ages 14-21 make life goals, pursue higher education or employment, open a bank account and learn how to budget, find housing and health insurance, enroll in public assistance programs if needed, etc.

Chafee Educational and Training Voucher (ETV) Program

This federally funded program provides those who are in foster care when they turn 16 and those in the state's kinship-guardianship program with college tuition waivers. Youth can receive up to \$5,000 a year for tuition or other qualified school-related expenses. Other eligibility requirements include:

- Youth must be enrolled in an accredited college or vocational/technical training program and make progress toward completion of their degree.
- ETV funds can be accessed for a maximum of five years until the youth's 26th birthday and the youth must apply annually for the voucher.

Quality Parenting Initiative

In 2017, Louisiana became the first state to adopt this model of strengthening foster families by focusing on quality parenting for all children in the child welfare system. This initiative provides resources and tools to caregivers so they can provide loving, committed, and skilled care to their children.

Family First Louisiana

This is an initiative of the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services that came out of federal legislation (the Family First Prevention Services Act). It seeks to improve the well-being of children in foster care by prioritizing family placements rather than group care and enhancing the quality of care for residential treatment programs. This program allows states to use federal funds to provide prevention services and programs for up to 12 months to the following groups:

- Children at risk for entering or re-entering foster care.
- A child whose family has substance abuse issues.
- Siblings of children in foster care who live at home.
- A child with psychological or behavioral health needs whose parent or caretaker needs additional support.
- Parenting or pregnant minors who are in foster care or recently exited care.
- A child living with a relative or kin caregivers.

Medicaid

All children in the foster care system in Louisiana are [eligible for Medicaid](#). Former foster care children (until the age of 26) are also eligible for Louisiana Medicaid if they were enrolled in Medicaid when they aged out of foster care. Income is not considered for this eligibility group.

7.6 Safe Haven and/or Baby Boxes

Safe Haven Law

Louisiana's Safe Haven law allows for the safe, legal surrender of a baby up to 60 days old by a parent who brings the baby to an emergency designated facility. The emergency designated facility directory can be found [here](#).

Miscellaneous

Choose Life License Plates

The Louisiana Department of Motor Vehicles sells vanity "Choose Life" plates. A portion of the fees collected from the sale of these plates is donated to pro-life pregnancy centers and adoption agencies in the state. The Louisiana Right to life Educational Committee manages the license plate program.

My Community Cares

This is a neighborhood-led, community-focused initiative designed to strengthen families and support communities. It seeks to ensure that every neighborhood in the state has access to services that support healthy and safe families with the main goal of preventing children from entering the foster care system. Families in need are connected with child welfare systems, judges, child advocates, attorneys, etc.

SB 85 (2022)

This legislation allows taxpayers to choose to donate a portion of their state income tax return to Maddie's Footprints. Maddie's Footprints is a nonprofit organization that supports parents who experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth, or death of an infant.

This is a non-exhaustive list of programs, current as of January 2026, intended to make information easily accessible to moms and families. Program details are subject to change. Readers should always consult with the appropriate state agency for the most accurate and recent information. The information in this summary is for educational purposes only. CLI does not take a position on the merits of any specific program.

This document was compiled by Mia Steupert, Elyse Gaitan, and Tessa Cox.