

# 2022 Legislative Agenda

We work alongside organizational partners, lobbyists, and community members to advance birth equity and health justice at the local, state, and federal levels. Each year, we prioritize legislation crucial to reducing racial disparities in peripartum and infant health outcomes and improving state support for families with young children.

## Maternal Health

**SB 5702 - [Donor Breast Milk Coverage](#):** Requires health insurance plans to cover donor breast milk for babies whose birth parent is physically or medically unable to produce breast milk or participate in chestfeeding.

**SB 5765 - [Expand Types of Birth Control Prescribed by Licensed Midwives](#):** Authorizes LM's to prescribe contraceptives for their post-partum clients, as well as treat common conditions of healthy pregnancy.

**Invest in Perinatal Support Washington's Parent Support Warm Line:** Expands access for underserved expectant and new parents to mental health services through peer-to-peer engagement and increased public awareness. (request for inclusion in state budget, no bill needed)

## Infant Mental Health, Early Childhood & Early Learning

### Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):

1. **Remove Time Limit:** Increases benefit access by removing the 60-month time limit for child-only cases where the household has an ineligible parent. (request for state budget, no bill needed, \$424,000)
2. **[HB 1755 Extend Time Limits](#)** during periods of high unemployment.
3. **[HB 1947](#)/[SB 5838](#)** Provides a diaper subsidy for those on TANF.

### Early Childhood Assistance & Education Program (ECEAP):

1. **Maintain an enhanced rate for providers:** Fund a per-slot, quality support rate for Early Childhood Education and Assistance program providers (including perinatal health workers in definition). This will help continue child and family assessments, research-based curriculum, and professional development – all items that a grant previously funded. (request for state budget, no bill needed, \$1.3 million)
2. **Minimize learning loss among our youngest learners:** Fund nearly nine weeks of ECEAP during summer 2022. Our youngest learners (3-4 years) lost learning opportunities because of the COVID-19 pandemic and correcting this will take time to overcome. Summer ECEAP will help address this learning loss, reduce isolation and maintain connections to children and families (request for state budget, no bill needed, \$5.9 million)

**Home Visiting:** Ensure the budget includes adequate spending authority for the Home Visiting Services Account, including non-MIECHV programs, as well as a provision directing an equity analysis for the home visiting system. (request for state budget, no bill needed, \$1.5 million)

# About Open Arms

Open Arms Perinatal Services provides community-based support during pregnancy, birth, and early parenting. We are the leading non-profit providing doula services specifically for families facing poverty in Washington State, serving over 400 families every year.

## Equitable Access to Care

**HB 1881 - [Create Credential for Birth Doulas](#):** Continue to lead advocacy efforts to create public reimbursement for community-based doula work. The next step is to create a Department of Health professional credential to allow doulas to best serve families with disproportionately poor birth outcomes.

**SB 5894 - [Community Health Workers for Relational Health](#):** Fund non-licensed team members – health navigators or community health workers – to help families and providers address social determinants of health and ensure children and youth receive the most timely and appropriate care.

## Justice

**HB 1725 -** Concerning the creation of an endangered missing person advisory designation for missing Indigenous persons.

**HB 1571 -** Concerning protections and services for Indigenous persons who are missing, murdered or survivors of human trafficking.