

# 2021 HEALTHY FAMILIES PRIORITIES

The Healthy Families Coalition is a statewide group of community stakeholders, advocacy organizations, and provider networks that collaborate on the following shared policy priorities. It is convened by Missouri Family Health Council, Inc.

A strong family means a stronger Missouri

## 1. Increasing Access to Family Planning

Family planning allows people to space and size their families and leads to [healthier babies, parents, and families](#). We support:

- Expanding access to the Women's Health Services Program by fully funding the program, streamlining the application process, and removing provider restrictions
- Covering 13-month dispensing of contraception ([SB 472](#))

## 2. Improving Infant and Maternal Health

Missouri is [in need of change](#) at all levels to improve infant and maternal health, including at the community and individual level. We support:

- Medicaid coverage for community health workers and doulas at an equitable rate
- Full postpartum Medicaid coverage for up to one year

## 3. Reducing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

Rates of STIs are increasing nationally and Missouri is a [priority state](#) to reduce HIV transmission. We support:

- Pharmacist prescribing of HIV pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (also known as PrEP/PEP) ([HB 370](#), [SB 79](#))
- Establishing a statewide syringe access program ([HB 650](#), [SB 64](#))

## 4. Removing Barriers to Care

Missouri ranks [48th nationally](#) in overall health system performance, including access and affordability of care. We support:

- Efficient implementation of Medicaid expansion
- Full practice authority for advance practice registered nurses and removing burdens that limit provision of care ([HB 84](#), [HB 768](#), [SB 193](#), [SB 293](#))

## 5. Strengthening Family Security

Especially [during a pandemic](#), policies that support parents and secure basic needs lead to healthier children. We support:

- Paid and unpaid family leave
- Hygiene equity, including diapers and menstrual products ([HB 406](#))
- Increasing tax incentives for adoption and foster care ([HB 429](#), [HB 430](#), [HB 327](#))

For questions or additional information, please contact Mandy Hagseth at [mhagseth@mfhc.org](mailto:mhagseth@mfhc.org) or 573-636-4060 Ext. 20.