



## **Think Babies™ NC Alliance Receives \$1 Million Grant from Pritzker Children's Initiative**

November 2020 – The Think Babies™ NC Alliance has received a \$1 million grant from the Pritzker Children's Initiative to support North Carolina's infants and toddlers. This funding represents a continued investment by the Pritzker Children's Initiative in the Think Babies™ NC Alliance's efforts to strengthen its statewide work to support babies and their families.

Think Babies™ NC seeks to build public awareness and policymaker support for what North Carolina's youngest children and their families need to thrive: healthy beginnings, supported families and quality early care and learning experiences. Its mission is to bring a prenatal-to-three focus to improving policies, programs, and funding through a cross-sector, collaborative network of early childhood leaders at the local and state level.

The grant from the Pritzker Children's Initiative will fund both new and ongoing work across the state for babies and their families, including:

- Expanding the supply of high-quality, affordable infant-toddler child care and improving the quality of infant-toddler child care environments
- Developing a family-centered, coordinated, and comprehensive statewide home visiting and parenting education system

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on many of the support systems for North Carolina's youngest children and families, and has exacerbated the existing challenges and inequities faced by far too many. Particularly in light of this ongoing crisis, the funding from Pritzker Children's Initiative will be invaluable in supporting equitable policies, programs, and funding to make sure that all babies – regardless of race, family income, or zip code – will get a healthy start and develop to their full potential in safe and nurturing families, schools, and communities.

The NC Early Education Coalition serves as the backbone organization for the Think Babies™ NC Alliance, which was founded in 2018 with funding from the Pritzker Children's Initiative as well as the ZERO TO THREE national Think Babies™ campaign and is also funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. For more information about Think Babies™ NC, please visit:

[www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org/think-babies-nc](http://www.NCEarlyEducationCoalition.org/think-babies-nc).