

Helping families meet their children's basic needs

(StatePoint) Greater income allows parents to better meet children's basic needs, and financial stability can reduce parental stress. Advocates say that child tax credits (CTCs) provide one avenue for states to increase family resources and are encouraged by progress being made by Washington, D.C. and states around the country.

Studies show that credits like child tax credits have big benefits for families and are linked to improvements in child and maternal health outcomes as well as reduced hunger and poverty. CTCs, which have bipartisan support, help families cover essentials like food, clothing, childcare and transportation. These

initiatives — in many cases made in response to the expiration of the expanded federal Child Tax Credit in 2021 — aim to ease rising costs and improve economic security. Drawing lessons from the federal program, states are implementing practical solutions to help keep families afloat.

"Tax policy is a powerful tool to support and improve childhood outcomes, community well-being, and state economies," says Amber Wallin, executive director of the State Revenue Alliance. "In fact, refundable tax credits that are focused on families, like a child tax credit, are the most effective public policy for reducing childhood poverty. And by putting money in the pockets

of families who will spend it quickly and locally, child-focused tax credits benefit businesses and the economy too."

Josh McCabe, director of social policy at the Niskanen Center, notes that CTCs are especially effective at boosting family income, and provide an alternative to traditional social assistance programs like Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

"The nation's capital follows several states that created wholly new credits, however, other states have converted existing tax benefits into more modest credits at a lower cost, demonstrating that these programs can help families avoid poverty while



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remaining affordable to state budgets," says McCabe.

To learn more about policies that support babies, toddlers and their

families, visit the National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers website at ncit.org.

States instituting or expanding their own CTCs

are helping fill the gap for parents, allowing more infants, toddlers and families to thrive.

Expanded state leave policies help families thrive, advocates say

(StatePoint) When a child is born or serious illness strikes, workers need time off, but for millions of Americans, it's not that simple.

The United States is one of the only developed countries in the world that does not guarantee paid family and medical leave (PFML), and currently, just 13 states and Washington, D.C. do, covering just a quarter of private-sector workers and a third of people who work for state and local governments. While advocates say that it's time for that to change, they are celebrating recent progress made in certain states.



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In particular, Tennessee recently expanded on its previous six-week paid family leave policy to include workers caring for family

members at the end of their lives, becoming the first southern state to expand its paid family leave policy beyond parental leave.

In Mississippi, a new law grants state government employees up to six weeks of paid parental leave and in Alabama, recently passed legislation provides up to eight weeks of paid leave for state employees and K-12 educators.

"Paid leave is good for families, workplaces and communities," says Robyn Hyden, executive director of Alabama Arise. "Not only is this expanded leave policy helping ensure more Alabama parents can be healthy and provide the care and stability infants, toddlers and their families need to thrive, it provides the added benefit of enabling

the state to better recruit and retain teachers and state employees."

While these advances are noteworthy, they are limited, and there is still much work to be done, say experts at A Better Balance, a national nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting justice in the workplace.

"Paid family and medical leave supports lasting financial security for everyone, including those in low-wage and hourly jobs, and addresses the needs of communities that have long been under-served and under-protected," says Jared Make, vice president of A

Better Balance. "Our goal is to ensure that all workers can care for themselves and the people they love without worrying about how to pay the bills."

To learn more about PFML policies and progress, visit <https://ncit.org/>.

"The expansion of leave policies being made by state governments is encouraging. We will continue our efforts until every worker, regardless of where they live or who they work for, has access to paid family and medical leave," says Lori Fresina of the National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers.

MORE THAN 90 BEAUTIFUL BABIES!

Information for each baby in this publication was submitted by parents or family members via our website at www.sunnysidesun.com prior to Thursday, January 22, 2026. Babies appear in order alphabetically by last name.



Archer Aguilar
August 3, 2025
Sarah & Anthony Aguilar
Prosser Memorial Health



Xitlali Xochitl Luna Aguilar
March 21, 2025
Carmela Isabel & Jason Daniel Aguilar
MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital



Anthony Jayvian Aguirre
July 19, 2025
Anissa Villalobos & Joaquin Aguirre
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Olivia Mia Alcantar
April 17, 2025
Anna C. Gomez & Jose G. Alcantar Jr.
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Alejandro Kaiden Alvarado Baker
January 17, 2025
Elisa Martinez & Riley Baker
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Magdalena Alvarez Graciano
January 27, 2025
Lorena & Juan Alvarez
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Haziel Izael Andrade Molinero
September 6, 2025
Jennifer Molinero Lopez & Efrain Andrade
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Alessandro Isaiah Arceo
October 4, 2025
Brianna Reina & Isidro Arceo
Prosser Memorial Health



Milan André Arciga
May 15, 2025
Cecilia Arciga & Saul Campuzano
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Willow Sage Arteaga
August 8, 2025
Rosa E. Navarro & Ivan G. Arteaga
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Noah Adam Arzaga
September 19, 2025
Estrellita Montoya & Daniel Arzaga
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Greyson Baze
November 29, 2025
Anaya Baze
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Etta Noelle Beltran
February 15, 2025
Enevaeh Beltran & Fermin Martinez IV
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Amelia Mae Benitez
November 25, 2025
Marlene Castilleja & Adrian Benitez
Pullman Regional Hospital



Levi Alexander Benjert
October 9, 2025
Madi & Alex Benjert
Prosser Memorial Health



Jade Rose Bernardino
December 27, 2025
Janelle & Jose Bernardino
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Ariya Blackburn
May 12, 2025
Grayce & Gage Blackburn
Prosser Memorial Hospital



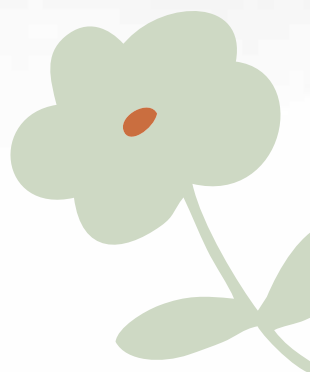
Banks Isaac Bonny
December 22, 2025
Katelyn & Jefferson "Ike" Bonny
MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital



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Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Imaani Cervantes
May 3, 2025
Maria Cervantes
Prosser Memorial Health



Neriayah Amiri Chavez
October 25, 2025
Monelle & Carlos Chavez
Kadlec Neonatal Intensive Care Unit



Isabella Alicia Concha Vidales
March 19, 2025
Jessica Alicia Vidales
& Jose De Jesus Concha Lopez
Prosser Memorial Hospital



River James Cuddy
September 13, 2025
Megan & James Cuddy
Kadlec Regional Medical Center



Julieta Isabella Diaz Benitez
September 11, 2025
Sandra Benitez
& Dionicio Diaz Alvarez
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Trace Riley Dibbert
August 13, 2025
Bailey & Jake Dibbert
Prosser Memorial Health



Anayeli Dominguez
April 8, 2025
Rosa & Rigoberto Dominguez
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Konen John Driesen
October 13, 2025
Kinsey & Rick Driesen
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Gustavo Thiago Elizarraras
August 6, 2025
Rocio Morales & Gustavo Elizarraras
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Camila Ariana Escareno
August 4, 2025
Jasmin & Roger Escareño
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Andres Espinoza
May 12, 2025
Maritza Espinoza
Prosser Memorial Health



Isabella Escobedo-Salazar and Julieta Escobedo-Salazar
March 11, 2025
Fabiola Escobedo-Salazar
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Audel Niño Estrada
September 13, 2025
Jenelle & Eduardo Estrada
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Sydney Alexis Fairbairn
August 29, 2025
Ashley & Henry Fairbairn
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Paisley Fitzpatrick
December 31, 2025
Amanda Bridger & Jason Fitzpatrick II
Kadlec Regional Medical Center



Kh'marree Brissa Flores Cruz
November 15, 2025
Alani Cruz
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Kamm J. Flores
August 13, 2025
McKenzie M. Rios & Luis C. Flores
Prosser Memorial Hospital



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October 3, 2025
Alexis Cadengo & Benjamin Garcia
Prosser Memorial Health



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July 21, 2025
Juliyah Negrete & Jose Garcia
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Messiah Valente Garcia
July 15, 2025
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& Carlos Alfredo Garcia
Prosser Memorial Health



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July 15, 2025
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& Joel Granados
Prosser Memorial Hospital



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March 14, 2025
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January 22, 2025
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November 4, 2025
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& Joshua Israel Hill
Trios Health Southridge Hospital



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October 22, 2025
Autumn Cadengo & Ricardo Isquierdo
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Cain Raul Jasso IV
March 24, 2025
Maricruz Sanchez
& Elijah R. Jasso III
Kadlec Regional Medical Center



Azaiah Jones
August 6, 2025
Tamara Jones & Sairel Corona
Prosser Memorial Health



Mina Ranee Jowers
September 26, 2025
Meredith Meeker & Dalton Jowers
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Xiomara Romina Lara Rivas
June 17, 2025
Martha Lara Rivas & Nehemias Lara
Prosser Memorial Health



Matias Alfredo Lara-Gomez
December 13, 2025
Viviana J. Gomez & Joshua Z. Lara
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Amelio Adonis Leyva
December 17, 2025
Samantha Alvarez & Luis Leyva
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Alena Vanessa Loera
March 9, 2025
Danisa Alvarado & Alfredo Loera III
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Millie Anna Lucatero
August 20, 2025
Marlena Saldaña & Josue Lucatero
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Eden Demi Maldonado
December 25, 2025
Selena Mariah Martinez
& Daniel Maldonado Jr.
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Iliani Hope Martinez
March 13, 2025
Alma Martinez
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Frankie Rae McDonald
July 9, 2025
Ashley Nicole & Daniel John
McDonald
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Daleyza Cielo Mendoza
August 14, 2025
Stephanie Vega & Eduardo Mendoza
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Kaleia Arabella Mendoza
March 25, 2025
Sarahi Medina & Manuel Mendoza
Prosser Memorial Health



Alexianna Rosetta Mondaca
August 25, 2025
Kayla Rose & Jose Antonio Mondaca
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Roman Anthony
October 15, 2025
Rae Moses & Michael Lucas
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Reina Faith Nichols-Hernandez
February 5, 2025
Rachel Nichols & Roman Hernandez
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Harlynn Kye Ohler
February 10, 2025
Kaylee Wheeler & Wyatt Ohler
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Adalyne Elena Ortiz
March 9, 2025
Haley & Kevin Ortiz
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Elissa Christine Parrill
December 10, 2025
Dustie & Joshua Parrill
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Damien Pelayo
January 2, 2025
Aysha Cienfuegos
& Alexander Pelayo
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Azalea Perez
August 22, 2025
Gabriela Alvarez & Robert Perez
Prosser Memorial Hospital

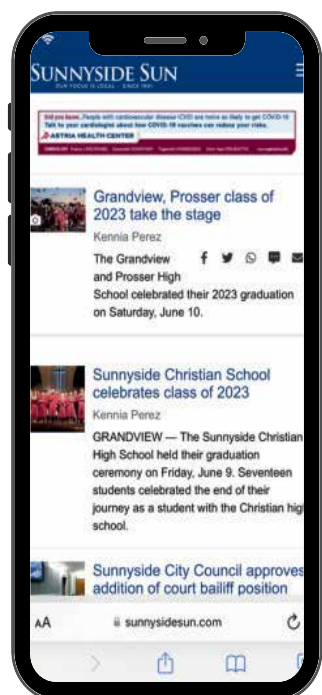


Rhodes Prieto
February 3, 2025
Karen & Franke Prieto
Prosser Memorial Health



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February 3, 2025
Kassandra Juarez & Gabriel Rivera
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September 6, 2025
Shania & Nicolas Rocha
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



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May 29, 2025
Cierah & Jason Rollinger
Kadlec Regional Medical Center



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June 28, 2025
Yasmin & Sigifredo Roman
Prosser Memorial Hospital



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September 12, 2025
Jessica & Macario Romero III
Prosser Memorial Hospital



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Nayell Suarez & Adalberto Ruiz Jr.
Trios Health



Mateo Ishmael Ruiz
April 14, 2025
Rogelia & Brandon Juan Ruiz
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Lucia Elisa Sanchez
October 29, 2025
Florita & Luis James Sanchez
Kadlec Regional Medical Center



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December 12, 2025
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& Kennedy Sarmiento
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Sebastian Solorzano Lopez
May 2, 2025
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Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Aria Eloisa Soto
June 28, 2025
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June 13, 2025
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August 17, 2025
Danielle Sanchez & Alexander Uth
Valley Medical Center, Renton



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July 2, 2025
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Kadlec Regional Medical Center



Amber Lee Vazquez Herrera
June 7, 2025
Jennavicia Herrera & Diego Vazquez
Astria Sunnyside Hospital



Ismael Isaiah Velazquez
May 21, 2025
Maria & Eduardo Velazquez
Prosser Memorial Health



Liam Villarreal
April 23, 2025
Malissa & Isaiah Villarreal
Prosser Memorial Health



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December 2, 2025
Emily Renee Wilkins
& Elijah Jonathan Ward
Prosser Memorial Hospital



Braelyn West
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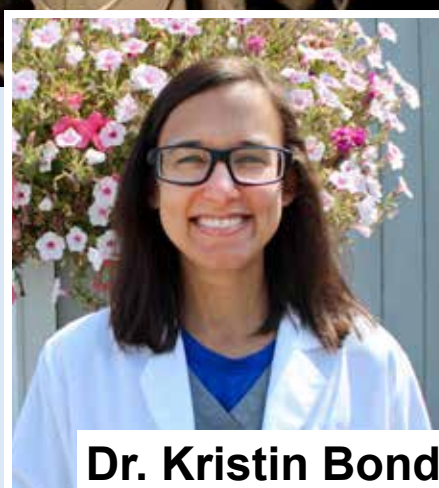
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