



CONVERGENCE

Collaborative on Supports for Working Families 2023-2024

CALL TO ACTION: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We span the ideological and political spectrum and come from very different professional domains and life experiences. We have spoken against each other's positions in publications, media, and Congressional testimony. We disagree on many things, but we agree that working families with young children in America deserve to flourish.

As part of the [Convergence Collaborative on Supports for Working Families](#), we gathered monthly during a year of historically high polarization and partisanship. To our knowledge, we are the most ideologically diverse group to address family policy that has convened in recent decades. And not a moment too soon.

The issues facing families with young children in our country are numerous and well-known. Fewer people are opting into parenthood. Those who are, are not optimistic. We are spending a smaller and smaller share on children, while increasing the debt burden on future generations. Parents want different arrangements for care and work than what they can access or afford.

Our work was not about restating these challenges. It was about coming together to find common ground solutions. We listened to each other, learned from one another, and built a cross-partisan agenda to support low-to-moderate income families with young children.

Our 2024 report, "[In This Together](#)," begins with our unique framework for family flourishing that encompasses economic security, healthy relationships, resilience in the face of challenges, and agency and choice to live your life and raise your children. To support family flourishing, we want to change the story around parenthood in America, rethink cash support for families, ensure more high-quality care options for children in the home and outside of it, and support parents with new children.

We believe that everyone has a part to play in supporting families.

Our Call to Action
FOR STATE AND
LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
is to:

Create coordinated structures that move children to the forefront of state-level and community-level initiatives

Make existing child-related benefits more user-friendly for parents

Create more flexibility within existing programs

Encourage continued experimentation of state and community benefits for parents and children

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