

Unconditional Cash Transfer Programs Expand Across the Country for Pregnant and Parenting People

August 2026

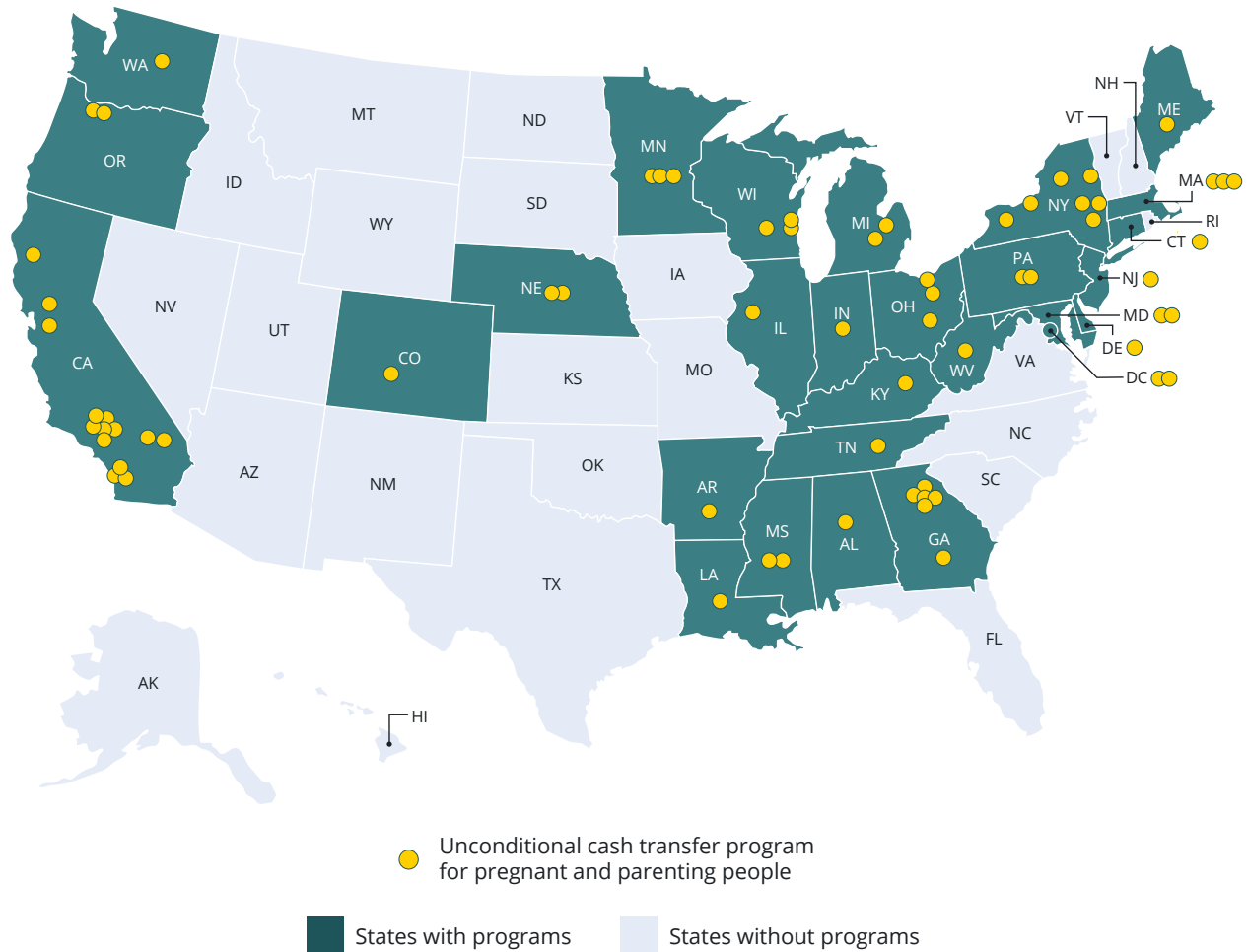
Sofia Espinoza, Melissa Goodman

In February 2025, The Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy (CRHLP) authored a [policy brief](#) highlighting the benefits of unconditional cash transfer programs (UCTs) for pregnant and newly parenting people.¹ UCTs are a no-strings-attached government benefit that provide a defined amount of immediate cash each month at a regular interval. Program participants receive this cash for a specific amount of time and may use it however they choose. These flexible funds are offered at a critical moment for families: many people experience enormous new healthcare and childcare costs in the first few years of their child's life. UCTs aim to alleviate some of this burden while addressing systemic barriers to economic security.

Since publishing our brief, 29 new UCT programs have been established in 6 new states and 11 new cities and counties. There are now UCT programs operating in 19 states throughout the country. The explosion of new programs illustrates the demand for community-based interventions to improve maternal and infant health and wellbeing.

¹ These programs go by different names, such as unconditional cash transfers, unconditional cash, direct cash, and guaranteed income. Throughout this paper, we use the term unconditional cash transfer programs. These programs are distinct from tax credit programs, which are sometimes also referred to as cash transfer programs but operate differently and are based in tax law and policy. We recognize that the phrase “unconditional cash” is frequently used to describe child tax credits. However, in the context of this paper, unconditional cash transfer programs describe non-tax based direct cash payment programs and potentially touch a larger subset of the population than tax credits because many of the programs we refer to reach individuals and families who may not necessarily be paying taxes for a variety of reasons.

Map of operating unconditional cash transfer programs for pregnant and parenting people in United States



List of operating unconditional cash transfer programs for pregnant and parenting people in United States

STATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Alabama	Embrace Mothers	Birmingham
Arkansas	The Bridge Project	Statewide
California	Abundant Birth Project	Alameda County
		Contra Costa County
		Los Angeles County
		Riverside County
	Black Womens' Resilience Project	San Diego
	Born Well	San Diego
	First 5 LA	Los Angeles County
	First 5 San Mateo	San Mateo
	Inland United Way	Riverside County
	Mckinleyville Family Resource Center	Mckinleyville
	Mothers Rising	South Los Angeles
	NJCW LA	Los Angeles County
	RISE: Resources for Income, Shelter and Empowerment	Los Angeles County
	San Diego for Every Child	San Diego
Colorado	Health Beginnings	Denver
Connecticut	The Bridge Project	Statewide
Delaware	Healthy Women, Healthy Babies	Statewide
	Health and Human Services	Statewide
Georgia	GRO Fund/In Her Hands	Atlanta
		Clay-Randolph-Terry County Cluster
		City of College Park
	March of Dimes Pilot	Atlanta
	Freedom Futures	Atlanta
Indiana	The Bridge Project	Statewide
		Statewide
Illinois	New Moms	Chicago
Kentucky	The Bridge Project	Appalachian Region
Louisiana	Baby's First Years	New Orleans
Maine	Project Home	Cumberland, York, and Androscoggin Counties

STATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
Maryland	The Bridge Project	Baltimore, Cherry Hill, Hagerstown
	Cherry Hill Strong	Cherry Hill
Massachusetts	Family Health Project	Manchester and Roxbury
	Preterm Infant Care Study	Boston
	The Bridge Project	Boston
Michigan	RXKids	Kalamazoo Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, Schoolcraft Counties Care County Cities of Pontiac, Hazel Park, and Royal Oak Township Cities of Dearborn, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Melvindale, and River Rouge City of Ypsilanti Roscommon County Gladwin County Cities of Saginaw City, Buena Vista Township, and Bridgeport Township Cities of Benton Harbor City, Niles City, Buchanan City, and Benton Charter Township Lake County Flint
Minnesota	Baby's First Years	Minneapolis/St. Paul
	Birth Justice Collaborative	Minneapolis
	People's Prosperity Pilot	St. Paul
Mississippi	Magnolia Mother's Trust	Jackson
	Preterm Infant Care Study	Statewide
Nebraska	Baby's First Years	Omaha
	The Bridge Project	Douglas County
New Jersey	The Bridge Project	Trenton, Paterson, Camden, Newark, Gloucester, Salem, and Cumberland Counties

STATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
New York	Baby's First Years	New York City
	Birth Allowance for Beginning Year	Statewide
	The Bridge Project	New York City
		Rochester
		Buffalo
	Growing Strong	New York City
	United Way Greater Capital Region	Albany
Ohio	The Bridge Project	Statewide
	Ohio Mothers Trust	Statewide
	RxKids	Cleveland
Oregon	The Bridge Project	Portland
	Multnomah Mother's Trust	Multnomah County
Pennsylvania	Neighbor's Trust	Philadelphia
	Philly Joy Bank	Philadelphia
Tennessee	The Bridge Project	Appalachia, East Tennessee
Washington	Hummingbird	Seattle
Washington D.C.	Mother Up	
	Strong Families, Strong Futures	
West Virginia	The Bridge Project	Statewide
Wisconsin	The Bridge Project	Milwaukee
	Madison Forward Fund	Madison
	Vital Strategies Pilot	Milwaukee

These UCT programs have come together as the [Mother Infant Cash Coalition \(MICC\)](#). MICC brings together practitioners, researchers, and advocates working to advance programs and policies to support pregnant people and babies through unconditional cash. MICC educates the public about UCTs and provides evidence-based research about the benefits of such programs.

As new data emerges and additional programs are rolled out, MICC and CRHLP will continue to chart the programs' progress throughout the country.

ABOUT THE CENTER ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, LAW, AND POLICY (CRHLP)

Reimagining the future of reproductive health, law, and policy in a time of urgent need.

The [UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy](#), a member of MICC, is an independently-funded think tank and research center developing long-term, lasting solutions that advance reproductive justice and address the current national crisis of abortion access. We are lawyers, policy experts, scholars, and researchers who are working to increase access to abortion and contraception, end racial and economic disparities in maternal health outcomes, support people who decide to build families, and dismantle the gender bias that limits reproductive justice.